

# **EXHIBIT 137**

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**National Security**  
By Nick Miroff



## and Security official, who clashed with White House over immigration policy, to step

Nick Miroff

Reporter covering immigration enforcement, drug trafficking and the Department of Homeland Security

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Elaine Duke, the second-highest-ranking official at the Department of Homeland Security, announced Friday that she will step down after serving less than a

A longtime Homeland Security official who ran the agency as acting secretary for more than four months last year, Duke, now deputy secretary, is a well-regard  
sidelined after Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen took over in December and given a portfolio described as “embarrassingly light,” according to people familiar with th

In a brief statement, Nielsen said Duke would “retire from government service in April,” having “selflessly served the federal government for three decades.”

Duke worked as a top-ranking DHS official under President George W. Bush, and was recruited back to the agency by then-Secretary John F. Kelly. Duke was

When Kelly moved to the White House to be chief of staff a few months later, Duke became acting DHS secretary. She filled the top role for more than four mo

“She ended up taking over for Kelly during a tumultuous time at DHS — with three hurricanes, and having to navigate complicated waters on immigration,” sa

Norton called her departure “a real loss for our country.”

After Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Duke was [heavily criticized](#) for saying the government’s response should be viewed as “a good news story.” Wh

But Duke’s standing in the administration tumbled in November when she [refused to expel](#) some 57,000 Hondurans living in the United States for nearly two

The White House wanted Duke to cancel the Hondurans’ TPS permits, and Kelly called Duke to pressure her, officials said at the time. The episode upset Duke  
Duke denying it.

“Upon confirmation of Kirstjen Nielsen as the next Secretary of Homeland Security, I look forward to continuing our important work as the Deputy Secretary  
contrary are untrue.”

Duke is the second high-ranking DHS official to step down in recent weeks. James D. Nealon left his job as assistant secretary for international engagement in  
to Honduras, had reportedly also clashed with the White House over immigration policy.



**Nick Miroff**

Nick Miroff covers immigration enforcement, drug trafficking and the Department of Homeland Security on The Washington Post's National Security desk. He was a Po

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