

# The Delray Democrat

## **Putin's Bounty: Trump Proves (AGAIN!) He Is the Biggest Threat to US National Security<sup>1</sup>**

*Rob Resnick*

President Trump is complicit in the Russian bounty paid to the Taliban for killing Americans. He either knew about it and chose to do nothing, which is the more likely scenario, or he willfully chose not to read or discuss the issue, thus trying to hide from it. Either is detestable and further evidence of his gross unfitness to serve. As a proud veteran, I served under four presidents. Despite policy differences, there was never one time where we needed to be concerned about any prior president truly caring about the military or condoning our enemies killing us. Trump is a clear aberration who has no place as Commander-in-Chief.

Here is what we know:

1. Russia paid money (bounty) to the Taliban for killing Americans in Afghanistan.
2. President Trump received this information from intelligence officials in February/March of 2020. There is also credible evidence that he was briefed on the bounties in March 2019.
3. U.S. intelligence agencies found this information credible. They shared it with our allies who also had troops in danger. The National Security Council convened to discuss it and develop options and responses.
4. The administration failed to perform its Constitutional and statutory duties, refusing to brief specific Congressional leaders, known as the "Gang of Eight," until after the story broke.

When the story did break, Trump lied about not being given the information. It defies all logic that intelligence officials would have withheld such serious information. He called it a hoax and fake news (his favorite line when he is caught and lies).

The daily intelligence brief is critical. Every former president read the daily brief and received the verbal briefings that followed it. Trump is unwilling (unable?) to read and understand even the "dumbed down" versions of these briefs. He often just ignores it, but he does not get to benefit from his willful ignorance of such a critical issue. He was derelict in this most solemn of duties. Throughout his term, Trump has insisted on remaining ignorant of crucial policies, geopolitical reality, and other essential areas. The only hoax is his presidency.

If the information had been withheld from Trump (which is highly unlikely) the only reason would have been because intelligence officials believed they could not trust Trump with the information.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, August 2020, p. 6.

Throughout his term, Trump has inappropriately shared classified information, including with our adversaries like Russia, thus seriously endangering our intelligence and military personnel.

Trump has previously responded to information concerning Russia in an incomprehensibly incendiary manner because of his ridiculous affection for (or fear of) Putin. Using the old cliché, he truly blames the messenger for providing him facts he does not like or that prove inconvenient.

Ever since taking office (even during the campaign), Trump has actively denigrated and dismantled the intelligence community. He has silenced and sidelined them, replacing desperately needed dedicated, talented career professionals with inexperienced, incapable political hacks. He routinely chose to believe our enemies, even when they lacked all credibility, and he openly attacked our own career professionals for just doing their job. It is despicable and incredibly dangerous. We saw this with all the impropriety and serious questions surrounding the Helsinki Summit, where Trump failed miserably in every way. Incompetent, uninformed, inept, and now disloyal to our own nation. This was his plan – discredit the intelligence community with the American people so they will hesitate to believe the truth in favor of Trump's dishonesty.

Disclosing this latest Russian atrocity, whether in March 2019 or 2020, would clearly have thwarted Trump's desire to re-admit Russia into the G-7 (making it the G-8). He already faced stiff opposition, and this would have made it impossible. The good news is now we the people know about Trump's treachery to the nation. There is absolutely no excuse not to condemn Putin and take action against Russia. So, let us see what Trump does. Do not hold your breath, it has been over a month and he has refused to act or say one word

Trump betrayed the trust and confidence owed to service members and families. Despite any disagreement over policy, never before in our history has a president so violated his obligation as commander-in-chief. He knew about the Russian bounty issue and he did not care. He kept it a secret and did nothing about it. He put his desired personal relationship with Putin above the needs of our own military. When the issue became public, he lied. He continued to refuse to condemn our adversary and their atrocity. He continued to disregard the safety of American personnel. Russia is paying terrorists to kill Americans and our president does not care! Is there a better example of disloyalty to the nation? This must be the final straw. Trump has proven himself to be incompetent, uninformed, and wholly unqualified to serve as President. Now add blatant disloyalty to our military and the nation. Trump himself is the biggest threat to our national security.