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# Trump administration revokes security clearances of 37 current and former government officials

The Trump administration says it's revoking the security clearances of 37 current and former national security officials. It's the latest act of retribution...



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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it was revoking the security clearances of 37 current and former national security officials in [the latest act of retribution \(https://apnews.com/article/trump-retribution-columbia-paul-weiss-law-firms-40c8cbafaa3592a6b2cc5858770d3731\)](https://apnews.com/article/trump-retribution-columbia-paul-weiss-law-firms-40c8cbafaa3592a6b2cc5858770d3731), targeting public servants from the federal government's intelligence community.

A memo from Director of National Intelligence [Tulsi Gabbard \(https://apnews.com/hub/tulsi-gabbard\)](https://apnews.com/hub/tulsi-gabbard) accuses the singled-out individuals of having engaged in the "politicization or weaponization of intelligence" to advance personal or partisan goals, failing to safeguard classified information, failing to "adhere to professional analytic tradecraft standards" and other unspecified "detrimental" conduct.

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The action is part of a broader Trump administration campaign to wield the levers of government against perceived adversaries, and reflects the president's continued distrust of career intelligence officials he has long seen as working against his interests. The revocation of clearances has emerged as a go-to tactic for the administration, a strategy critics say risks chilling dissenting voices from an intelligence community accustomed to drawing on a range of viewpoints before formulating an assessment.

"These are unlawful and unconstitutional decisions that deviate from well-settled, decades-old laws and policies that sought to protect against just this type of action," Mark Zaid, a national security lawyer whose own clearance was revoked by the Trump administration, said in a statement.

He called it hypocritical for the administration to "claim these individuals politicized or weaponized intelligence."

Gabbard on Tuesday sought to defend the move, which she said had been directed by Trump.

"Being entrusted with a security clearance is a privilege, not a right," she wrote on X. "Those in the Intelligence Community who betray their oath to the Constitution and put their own interests ahead of the American people have broken the sacred trust they promised to uphold."

The security clearance suspension comes amid a broader effort by Gabbard and other Trump administration officials to revisit the intelligence community assessment published in 2017 on Russian election interference, including by [declassifying a series of years-old documents](https://apnews.com/article/gabbard-trump-russia-investigation-2bba6373255a37f96fb7cbfa92156b2c) (<https://apnews.com/article/gabbard-trump-russia-investigation-2bba6373255a37f96fb7cbfa92156b2c>) meant to cast doubt on the legitimacy of its findings.

Multiple government investigations have reached the same conclusion that Russia interfered in the 2016 election in sweeping fashion, including through a [hack-and-leak operation of Democratic emails](https://apnews.com/article/1ddb174446a34785becd670275fedcbf) (<https://apnews.com/article/1ddb174446a34785becd670275fedcbf>) and a social media campaign aimed at sowing discord and swaying public opinion.

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But Trump has long resisted the assessment that Russian President Vladimir Putin interfered in his favor, and his [Justice Department has authorized a grand jury investigation](https://apnews.com/article/justice-department-russia-trump-bondi-gabbard-55bd00e15fe18da1533b623c3ca9b9bbb) (<https://apnews.com/article/justice-department-russia-trump-bondi-gabbard-55bd00e15fe18da1533b623c3ca9b9bbb>) that could bring fresh scrutiny to Obama-era officials.

Security clearances are important not only for current government workers but also former ones whose private-sector jobs require them to retain access to sensitive information. Stripping clearances from such employees could make it hard for them to do their jobs, though it's unclear how many of the former officials still have or require one.

On his first day of office, Trump said he would [revoke the security clearances of the more than four dozen former intelligence officials](#)

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