



POLITICS

Trump says he's ending Biden's classified intelligence briefings in payback move



1 of 2 | President Donald Trump, from left, gestures as he walks with first lady Melania Trump to send off former President Joe Biden and Jill Biden to board a Marine helicopter en route to Joint Base Andrews after the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

BY [DARLENE SUPERVILLE](#)

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PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — [President Donald Trump](#) said Friday that he's revoking former President [Joe Biden's](#) access to government secrets and ending the daily intelligence briefings he's receiving in payback for Biden [doing the same](#) to him in 2021.

Trump announced his decision in a post on his social media platform shortly after he arrived at his Mar-a-Lago home and private club in Palm Beach for the weekend.

"There is no need for Joe Biden to continue receiving access to classified information. Therefore, we are immediately revoking Joe Biden's Security Clearances, and stopping his daily Intelligence Briefings," [Trump wrote](#). "He set this precedent in 2021, when he instructed the Intelligence Community (IC) to stop the 45th President of the United States (ME!) from accessing details on National Security, a courtesy provided to former Presidents."

The move is the latest in a vengeance tour of Washington that Trump promised during his campaign. He has previously revoked security clearances from more than four dozen former intelligence officials who signed a 2020 letter saying that the [Hunter Biden laptop saga](#) bore the hallmarks of a "Russian information operation." He's also [revoked security details](#) assigned to protect former government officials who have criticized him, including his own former secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, who [faces threats from Iran](#), and former infectious disease expert [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#).

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Biden didn't immediately comment on the move.

Biden ended Trump's intelligence briefings after Trump helped spur efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election and incited the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. At the time, Biden [said Trump's "erratic" behavior](#) should prevent him from getting the intel briefings.

Asked in an interview with CBS News what he feared if Trump continued to receive the briefings, Biden said he did not want to "speculate out loud" but made clear he did not want Trump to continue having access to such information.

"I just think that there is no need for him to have the intelligence briefings," Biden said. "What value is giving him an intelligence briefing? What impact does he have at all, other than the fact he might slip and say something?"

In 2022, federal agents searched Trump's Florida home and seized boxes of classified records. He was indicted on dozens of felony counts accusing him of [illegally hoarding classified records](#) and obstructing FBI efforts to get them back. He pleaded not guilty and denied wrongdoing. A judge dismissed the charges, ruling the special counsel who brought them was illegally appointed, and the Justice Department gave up appeals after Trump was elected in November.

In a related matter, Trump dismissed Colleen Shogan as the archivist of the United States, White House aide Sergio Gor posted on X Friday night.

Trump had said in early January that he would replace the head of the National Archives and Records Administration. The government agency drew his anger after it informed the Justice Department about issues with Trump's handling of classified documents. Shogan, the first woman in the post, wasn't the archivist of the United States at the time the issue emerged.

In his post on Biden, Trump cited the special counsel report last year into his handling of classified documents, saying, "The Hur Report revealed that Biden suffers from 'poor memory' and, even in his 'prime,' could not be trusted with sensitive information."

He ended his post by saying, "I will always protect our National Security — JOE, YOU'RE FIRED. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

Special counsel Robert Hur investigated Biden's handling of classified information and found that criminal charges were [not warranted](#) but delivered a bitingly critical assessment of his handling of sensitive government records. The report [described](#) Biden's memory as "hazy," "fuzzy," "faulty," "poor" and having "significant limitations." It said Biden could not recall defining milestones in his own life such as when his son Beau died or when he served as vice president.

Trump has the right to end the briefings for Biden because it is a sitting president's decision on whether a past president should continue to have access to classified information.

Steven Cheung, the president's communications director, shared Trump's post on the X social media platform and said, "Hit the road Jack and don't you come back no more!"



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