

John Brennan's Security Clearance

by Gary Fouse



As would be predicted, the media and the left are full of outrage over President Trump's lifting of former CIA Director John Brennan's security clearance. According to the CNN's of the world, it's all because Brennan has spoken out publicly against Trump. The fact is, however, that there is ample justification for taking away his security clearance.

First of all, a security clearance is a privilege not a right. Brennan is no longer automatically entitled to a clearance now that he has left government service. In fact, when I was a DEA agent stationed in Milan, Italy in the 1980s, I was granted a special access clearance in 1985 when I became the agent in charge of the office. After a (further) background investigation, I was given the clearance so that the CIA could share information with me. Once I left that position, I reverted back to my lesser clearance. Today, as a retired

citizen, I have no clearance.

In practice, many people like Brennan are allowed to maintain their clearances so that new officials can consult with them if necessary or in the case they are appointed to a new government position. It is not automatic, however. While the CIA can renew the security clearance of its former directors every five years, it is contingent upon them conducting themselves responsibly as if they were still employed by the CIA. Brennan fails that test miserably. CIA directors, while they can have their political opinions and vote as they wish (He voted for longtime Communist Party USA chief Gus Hall for president in 1976 while in college.) they are supposed to be apolitical and non-partisan in the performance of their duties. Brennan was and is a political animal.

So what has Brennan done to merit having his clearance removed? Keep in mind that with all the hullabaloo over Russian meddling in the 2016 election, it all took place under President Obama's watch. In addition, it all took place under Brennan's watch.

But more importantly, Brennan used his office to advance his political ideology, which favored candidate Hillary Clinton over Trump. He abused his position to allow our national intelligence apparatus to be weaponized against Trump. It was Brennan who released details of the infamous Russian dossier to former Democrat Senator Harry Reid. There is also the