

THREE THINGS: THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE THING

My schedule is a mess today, as messy as my sleep last night. I don't think I've lost as much sleep about COVID-19 in the last handful of months as I have since Friday about these Russian bounties on troops.

Because I'm out of sorts from lack of sleep I don't have a lot organized to share here in three discrete subjects. It's ultimately all one thing: *Donald J. Trump needs to be removed from office for abuse of power and dereliction of duty.*

The Washington Post's article published Sunday evening made it very clear numerous people knew about the bounties and that nothing had been done about them:

Russian bounties offered to Taliban-linked militants to kill coalition forces in Afghanistan are believed to have resulted in the deaths of several U.S. service members, according to intelligence gleaned from **U.S. military interrogations** of captured militants in recent months.

Several people familiar with the matter said it was unclear exactly how many Americans or coalition troops from other countries may have been killed or targeted under the program. U.S. forces in Afghanistan suffered a total of 10 deaths from hostile gunfire or improvised bombs in 2018, and 16 in 2019. Two have been killed this year. In each of those years, several service members were also killed by what are known as "green on blue" hostile incidents by Afghan security forces who are sometimes believed to have been infiltrated by the Taliban.

Multiple interrogations. Multiple people familiar.

Zero action taken.

And along with multiple U.S. service members dead, an unknown number of allies' troops, contractors, and civilians killed.

If Trump genuinely believed in getting out of Afghanistan through an effective peace agreement, this is its opposite even with a partial American force draw down. It's how a country becomes even more destabilized and how its violence will spill over and follow U.S. and coalition partners home.

Trump had no problem with Putin stabbing him in the back because it was Putin, and he never has anything negative to say about Putin.

A little after midnight The New York Times published another article, this time expanding the period of time Trump should have known about Russia's bounties to February 2019, along with the period of time in which Trump took zero action.

Three U.S. service members were killed in a blast last April, attributed to Taliban motivated by the Russian bounties.

Trump was notified at least once in a Presidential Daily Briefing in ample time to do something.

The excuses offered by the White House have been little more than variants of "The dog ate my homework."

All bullshit.

The response has been just as stupid and ugly – offering Congressional Republicans a briefing first, allowing them to coordinate a response to cover the White House's wretchedness.

But here's the rub: nothing Trump, his evil minions in the White House, his useless family, his political party can do will explain away the lack of interest in protecting national

security.

Because while the intelligence about the Russian bounties lay around collecting dust, at the very same goddamned time, Trump and his minions were busy working on developing a quid pro quo aimed at Ukraine.

Trump spent more time focused on using the power of the executive office to shake down Ukraine, harassing faithful federal employees like former ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, in order to get himself re-elected to the job he refuses to do.

He put more effort into a couple of phone calls to Ukraine's president.

More effort into halting shipments of arms to Ukraine.

More effort bitching about a whistleblower.

And zero effort into addressing his buddy Putin's bounties on U.S. troops.

Donald J. Trump is a threat to this nation because he cannot and will not do anything to protect this country unless it's about him.

More than 130,000 Americans have now died because of this immutable truth: 3000 Puerto Rican Americans, an untold number of American troops, and at least 128,000 COVID-19 victims are dead because Trump is absolutely useless for anything but golf and grifting from taxpayers.

He is unfit for the office of the presidency.

He must be removed from office.

~ ~ ~

But Trump is not the only failure. Every GOP senator who voted not to convict him this January is responsible for this debacle. American blood is on their hands having enabled Trump's continuing incompetence and malignance because they were worried about him tweeting mean things at them.

They should be worried about their asses meeting

the wrath of the American public.

We can start by demanding better of the GOP senators who we will be forced to live with for another two to four years. Find out where they stand on Trump's failure to protect the troops.

And if one of the following senators up for re-election is your senator, vote them out of office. Vote for a Democrat to replace the two open seats because no matter who wins the White House, we need a veto-proof majority in the Senate to fix this mess.

| Senator | First Name | Party | State |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Ernst | Joni | R | IA |
| Perdue | David | R | GA |
| Sasse | Ben | R | NE |
| Cotton | Tom | R | AR |
| Daines | Steve | R | MT |
| Rounds | Mike | R | SD |
| Cornyn | John | R | TX |
| Enzi | Mike | R | WY |
| Inhofe | James | R | OK |
| Cassidy | Bill | R | LA |
| McConnell | Mitch | R | KY |
| Risch | Jim | R | ID |
| Sullivan | Dan | R | AK |
| Tillis | Thom | R | NC |
| Gardner | Cory | R | CO |
| Graham | Lindsey | R | SC |
| Capito | Shelley Moore | R | WV |
| Collins | Susan | R | ME |
| Hyde-Smith (1) | Cindy | R | MS |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|----|
| McSally (2) | Martha | R | AZ |
| Loeffler (3) | Kelly Lynn | R | GA |
| Roberts (4) | Pat | R | KS |
| Alexander (5) | Lamar | R | TN |

(1) Appointed to fill Thad Cochran's seat,
expected to run in 2020

(2) Appointed to fill John McCain's seat,
running in 2020

(3) Appointed to fill Johnny Isakson's seat,
running in 2020

(4) Retiring in 2020. Seat open.

(5) Retiring in 2020. Seat open.