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DOES GENERAL MATTIS HAVE TROUBLE WITH PRESIDENTS?

By Steve Bakke  December 25, 2018



There was agony and gnashing of teeth when General Mattis was forced out as Defense Secretary. The misery was shared by many, especially on the left and in the mainstream media. He's characterized as a warrior and one of the last sources of wisdom and stability in Trump's cabinet.

Have we forgotten that Obama also fired General Mattis? That was in 2013 when the General was relieved of his Command of the important Central Command. There were many unkind things being said about the General's leadership.

That was part of the Obama "purge" of military leadership. In his first five years, Obama cleansed the military of 197 military officers suspected of being opposed to his defense policy changes. That was unprecedented. Note also that Obama had four Defense Secretaries. After all those military firings and changes at the cabinet level, there was no talk of chaos in Obama's presidency.

Having all of that in mind, I still wish Mattis would have stayed on as Defense Secretary. I'd want him on my team, but I'm not President Trump. Considering the fact that Mattis was much more of a hawk than either Obama or Trump, it's no surprise that either "firing" occurred.