



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on February 22, 2026

Armed Man Shot and Killed at Mar-a-Lago. AP: He Came From a Family of Trump Supporters.

Secret Service agents and a Palm Beach County, Florida, deputy shot and killed a young man who breached the secure perimeter of President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in what appears to be a third assassination attempt on his life. Trump was not in Florida.

Dead at the scene early this morning, [The Associated Press reported](#), was Austin Tucker Martin, 21, of Cameron, Moore County, North Carolina. He carried a shotgun and a canister of gasoline.

The FBI is investigating.

The apparent third try to kill Trump follows the second unsuccessful attempt, which occurred at Trump's National Golf in Palm Beach in September 2024. Before that, Trump was nearly murdered during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, in July 2024.



AP Images

Sheriff's vehicle at Mar-a-Lago following shooting on Feb. 22, 2026



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***** The man who attempted to breach Mar-a-Lago with a gun and gas canister has been identified as 21-year-old Austin Tucker Martin of Cameron, North Carolina. Authorities say his family had reported him missing on Saturday.



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***** BREAKING: An armed man was shot and killed by U.S. Secret Service agents and Palm Beach County deputies after breaching the secure perimeter at Mar-a-Lago early this morning.



UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

On February 22, around 1:30 a.m., a male in his early 20s was shot by U.S. Secret Service agents and a deputy from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) following an unauthorized entry into the secure perimeter at Mar-a-Lago.

The individual, whose identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, was pronounced deceased. The individual was observed by the north gate of the Mar-a-Lago property carrying what appeared to be a shotgun and a fuel can.

U.S. Secret Service agents and a PBSO deputy confronted the individual and shots were fired by law enforcement during the encounter. No U.S. Secret Service or PBSO personnel were injured. There were no Secret Service protectees present at the location at the time of the incident.

The incident, including the individual's background, actions, potential motive, and the use of force, is under investigation by the FBI, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. In accordance with agency policy, the involved Secret Service agents will be placed on routine administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

10:15 AM · Feb 22, 2026



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Failed Attempt

At a news conference today, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw offered a terse description of the shooting.

At about 1:30 a.m., Martin “made his way into the inner perimeter of Mar-a-Lago,” Bradshaw said:

A deputy and two Secret Service agents on the detail went to that area to investigate. They confronted a white male that was carrying a gas can and a shotgun. He was ordered to drop those two pieces of equipment ... at which time he put down the gas can [and] raised the shotgun to a shooting position. ... The deputy and the two Secret Service agents fired their weapons and neutralized the threat. He is deceased at the scene.

An FBI agent at the presser urged anyone on nearby property who has camera footage to contact the bureau, and a Secret Service agent reiterated Bradshaw’s account.

Bradshaw said Martin wasn’t known to law enforcement as of the press conference.

The image is a screenshot of a tweet from the account PBSO (@PBCountySheriff). The tweet text reads: "Press Conference: The Secret Service, FBI, and PBSO discuss overnight investigation at Mar-a-Lago." Below the text is a video player with a large blue play button in the center. The video player has a "Watch on X" button in the top right corner. Below the video player, the tweet is timestamped "8:06 AM · Feb 22, 2026". At the bottom of the tweet, there are three interaction options: a heart icon with the number "37", a speech bubble icon with the word "Reply", and a link icon with the text "Copy link to post". Below these options is a button that says "Read 5 replies".

“Martin was reported missing by family members in North Carolina,” [WRAL in Raleigh reported](#), citing Moore County officials. They told the station that “the FBI was at Martin’s home in Carthage on Sunday



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afternoon.”

Secret Service spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said Martin “drove through the north gate of Mar-a-Lago after 1 a.m. as another vehicle was exiting and was confronted by Secret Service agents,” WRAL reported:

Investigators believe the suspect left North Carolina and headed south, picking up a shotgun along the way, Guglielmi said.

The FBI, [chief Kash Patel said](#), “is dedicating all necessary resources” to the probe.

Family Supports Trump

“On Sunday afternoon, vehicles blocked the entrance to a property listed in public records as an address for Martin at the end of a private road in Cameron, North Carolina,” AP reported. The news agency spoke to Braeden Fields, Martin’s 19-year-old cousin. Expressing “disbelief,” Fields said Martin was from a family of Trump backers. And Martin was afraid of guns.

“He’s a good kid,” said Fields, who grew up with Martin.

“I wouldn’t believe he would do something like this. It’s mind-blowing,” [he told AP](#):

He said Martin worked at a local golf course and would send money from each paycheck to charity.

“He wouldn’t even hurt an ant. He doesn’t even know how to use a gun,” Fields said.

He said his cousin didn’t discuss politics.

“We are big Trump supporters, all of us. Everybody,” Fields said, but his cousin was “real quiet, never really talked about anything.”

Previous Attempts

In September, a [federal jury convicted](#) Ryan Wesley Routh of attempting to assassinate Trump on September 15, 2024, at the Trump International Golf Club in Palm Beach. Ryan waited for 12 hours to ambush the president, but a Secret Service agent spotted the would-be assassin and fired on him. Routh fled but was easily caught.

On February 4 this year, [Routh landed](#) in prison for life plus seven years.



U.S. Department of Justice

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Jury Convicts Man of Attempted Assassination of @POTUS Donald J. Trump and Assault of a Federal Law Enforcement Officer

“This verdict sends a clear message. An attempt to assassinate a presidential candidate is an attack on our Republic and on the rights of every citizen,” said [Show more](#)



“This verdict sends a clear message. An attempt to assassinate a presidential candidate is an attack on our Republic and on the rights of every citizen. **The Department of Justice will relentlessly pursue those who try to silence political voices,** and no enemy, foreign or domestic, will ever silence the will of the American people. I want to thank and congratulate the trial team and our law enforcement partners for their outstanding work and dedication in bringing this case to justice.”

11:50 AM · Sep 23, 2025



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That second attempt on Trump's life after his near-assassination in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13 — two months before Routh tried to murder the president — was yet another strike against the Secret Service.

Then-Acting Director Ronald Rowe told reporters that the agency did not sweep the perimeter of the golf course because Trump wasn't scheduled to play.

That raises the question of how Routh knew Trump would be at the course that day.

More Embarrassment for Secret Service

But the security lapse at Mar-a-Lago wasn't as embarrassing as the near-assassination of Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024. Thomas Matthew Crooks nearly killed Trump with a rifle shot that nicked the then-candidate's right ear. That crime forced the resignation of agency director Kimberly Cheatle, a "diversity, equity, and inclusion" hire thanks to being a gal pal of former first lady Jill Biden.

[Cheatle laughably claimed](#) that agents were not stationed on the rooftop from which Crooks shot Trump because it was too steep and therefore dangerous. As well, the [agency had denied](#) Trump more protection despite multiple requests.

[Cheatle's top priority](#) in her job was making women 30 percent of new agents by 2030, the so-called 30x30 program — a dangerous idea given the poor performance of women agents when Crooks nearly murdered Trump.

Another embarrassment for the agency was [an agent's nursing](#) her infant at a Trump campaign event. And months before the first assassination attempt, another agent [went berserk](#) and attacked fellow agents at Joint Base Andrews.

Last month, the [agency put](#) a far-left agent, Tomas Escotto, on administrative leave after he revealed secrets about Vice President J.D. Vance's protective detail, its schedule, and how the vice president travels.

Escotto did not become a citizen until 2018.



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