



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR COMBAT COMMAND  
LANGLEY AFB, VA**

10 December 2021

**MEMORANDUM FOR SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH,  
SENATOR GARY PETERS,  
REPRESENTATIVE SEAN CASTEN**

**FROM: Lt Col Ryan Sweazey, Flight Operations Division, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA**

**SUBJECT: A Call to Reform the Department of Defense Inspector General System**

Dear Senator Peters, Senator Duckworth, Representative Casten, and esteemed members of the HSGAC,

Thank you all for your engagement thus far on pursuing meaningful systemic change in our Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). A review of the elements that played a role in the ongoing DIA matter reveals that a major contributing factor was the inefficacy of the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG) and subordinate Defense Intelligence Agency Inspector General (DIA/IG).

The DoDIG system has, without hyperbole, consistently failed in its role to protect military members from reprisal and restriction and the cases of DIA members [REDACTED] and I are just a few exhibits thereof. As an exemplar of the DoDIG's inability to oversee and/or conduct reprisal investigations with due diligence, I have attached my rebuttal to the DIA/IG's report of investigation; a report in which the IG brazenly picked and chose speculation and even conjecture of future events whilst dismissing facts, documentation and witness testimony, all with the sole aim of protecting itself and its Agency in exonerating culprits of multiple reprisals, abuse of authority and fraud/waste/abuse.

The nexus of the failure within the DoDIG system is that when a military member is a victim of reprisal, it sets that person on a divergent professional path that is, under the current construct, virtually unrecoverable, because:

1. Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations are too burdensome, both in time and effort required,
2. The verbiage of 10 USC 1034 is too narrowly defined,
3. The Armed Services offer zero advocacy or counsel for Whistleblowers,

4. Personnel assigned to positions in IG billets are inadequately trained/equipped to carry out their duties, and,

5. IGs within the DoD cannot exercise true independence since they are nearly always subordinate to the commander of the organization they oversee.

The end result is that perpetrators are not held accountable and, more importantly, no substantive recompense is afforded to victims. Even in the rare circumstances in which a reprisal allegation is substantiated, the amount of time required for that substantiation (in many cases, *years* after the reprisal), married with the divergent path a reprisal sets a military member on, means that no meaningful recompense can be offered. Simply put: there is no way to unwind the clock after a reprisal; the career damage is irreparable.

The secondary effects are that future would-be perpetrators are not deterred from committing reprisals and, more disconcerting yet, military members have all but completely lost faith in a system that alleges to exist to protect them.

It is my hope that you will continue to pursue meaningful change to the Department of Defense Inspector General system that so desperately needs it.

Thank you for your engagement in this matter.

Respectfully,



Lt Col Ryan Sweazey, USAF  
Air Combat Command Flight Operations

Attachments:

1. Response to DIA/IG ROI 5 December 2021
2. Notification of Results of Investigation, Case 2021-000004-OI