



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

29 October 2021

**MEMORANDUM FOR SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH,
SENATOR GARY PETERS,
REPRESENTATIVE SEAN CASTEN,
REPRESENTATIVE RASHIDA TLAIB,
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE,
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE,
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

SUBJECT: Request for Independent Inquiry into Existing Threats to National Security within the Defense Intelligence Agency

Dear esteemed members of Congress,

I want to thank you for your engagement thus far in assisting in rectifying the systemic dysfunction within the Defense Attaché Service. In July of 2021, I submitted the report to you entitled “Toxicity in the Defense Attaché Service (DAS)”. In it, I outlined several major systemic issues within the organization that pose a threat to national security brought about by a toxic culture stemming from a civilian cabal that has taken over the DAS. The cabal oftentimes abused their authority to rule the organization via coercion and fear, all while [REDACTED] complicity refused to engage, despite having been made aware of the wrongdoings time and time again. In the months that followed, I engaged on these issues with the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the DIA Office of the Inspector General (DIA/IG), the respective Services’ chiefs of attachés, and legal counsel.

Today, I present to you a summation of the wrongdoings that I have witnessed or that were reported to me by over 30 other DAS members over the course of the past two years. It is because of the serious and time-sensitive nature of these wrongdoings and the established precedent of the Agency’s unwillingness/inability to correct systemic issues within itself that I urgently request Congress carry out an independent inquiry into the following wrongdoings within DIA that pose a threat to national security to include:

Violations of E.O. 12333 / Questionable Intelligence Activities (QIAs) – For years, leaders within the DAS directed / coerced personnel within the organization to collect and report on attaché activities, using government resources to do so,

Violations of the Privacy Act – The collection and reporting of attaché activities also violated multiple clauses of the Privacy Act,

Violations of 10 USC 1034 – Multiple personnel within the DAS were victims of reprisal after having raised issues of wrongdoing to their DIA chain of command,

Failure of DIA/IG to carry out fair, equitable and timely investigations – It was reported that the DIA/IG had at one point at least 17 open cases within just one geographic division, several open for over a year; one reported case having been open since February of 2020,

Abuse of authority – DAS leaders capriciously and arbitrarily targeted and punished members by recalling them to DIA, intentionally isolating them and their families, canceling follow-on assignments, returning them to service early and other vindictive activities. Some character assassinations were premeditated and, in some cases, Geographic Division chiefs even bragged about them to peers and subordinates. At the same time, [REDACTED] was complicit in that he was, for years, aware of the nefarious activities and refused to intervene,

Fraud/Waste/Abuse – DAS leaders wasted government money when utilizing personnel/resources to execute their surreptitious collection activities and/or other abuses of authority,

Violations of UCMJ – Defense Attachés were derelict in their duties by professing a mantra of “no one ever got sent home for not writing.” This was in direct violation of the Defense Attaché mandate. Furthermore, [REDACTED] was culpable of obstruction of justice [REDACTED]

Maltreatment of officers and enlisted assigned to DIA – Multiple personnel reported instances of verbal abuse, race/gender discrimination and medical discrimination,

Lack of protection/advocacy from the Services – Military members assigned to the DAS were subject to the aforementioned abuses within the organization partially due to the fact that the individual Services did not provide those members adequate protections.

The rampant dysfunction within DIA highlighted by these wrongdoings, and the precedent established that the Agency is incapable of timely, fair and equitable self-correction, poses a threat to national security because of the resultant significant mission degradation, as well as the secondary effect of needlessly squandering the talent of the high-demand-low-density asset of the Attaché. I am therefore urgently requesting you to begin your independent inquiry into this matter as soon as practical.

Thank you for your engagement in this matter.

Respectfully,



Lt Col Ryan Sweazey, USAF
Flight Operations Division
Air Combat Command