

22 March 2022

**MEMORANDUM FOR HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE,
HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE,
SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH,
SENATOR GARY PETERS,
SENATOR MARK WARNER,
REPRESENTATIVE ELAINE LURIA,
REPRESENTATIVE ADAM SCHIFF,
REPRESENTATIVE JACKIE SPEIER,
DIA DIRECTOR LTG SCOTT BERRIER**

FROM: Ryan Sweazey, Lt Col, USAF (retired), President, Walk the Talk Foundation

SUBJECT: Toxicity in the Defense Attaché Service (DAS) and the Resultant Threat to National Security, Addendum 1

Dear esteemed members of Congress and leadership of the Defense Intelligence Agency,

In July 2021, I submitted to you the report “Toxicity in the Defense Attaché Service (DAS) and the Resultant Threat to National Security” which was a collation of 31 witness statements from current and former DAS members citing allegations of violations of 10 USC 1034, E.O. 12333, the Privacy Act, abuses of authority, fraud/waste/abuse and other violations of instructions and regulations. Since the submission of that report, an additional 34 witnesses have come forward to provide statements regarding further violations of law and regulations in addition to bearing witness to a swath of unethical practices occurring in the DAS. In sum, I have gathered a total of 65 witness statements and documents citing 158 allegations of wrongdoing.

Beyond the numerous allegations cited, it is important to highlight four key trends which arose during the authoring of this report:

1. There were a significant number of DIA members who did not go on record due to the widespread fear of retribution within the Agency,
2. A large proportion of the respondents came forward because of their lack of faith in DIA’s so-called avenues of redress (Inspector General, Service representatives, chain of command),
3. The Defense Intelligence Agency has, over the course of the past year, shown itself to be reluctant to effect substantive leadership and cultural change whilst outright refusing to acknowledge the pain and suffering of its members who were victims of abuses within the DAS,

4. The military leadership of DIA has forfeit control of the Defense Attaché Service, the self-touted “crown jewel” of the DoD’s intelligence community, relinquishing power instead to the hands of a toxic civilian cabal who has operated with impunity for years.

Given the appreciable amount of testimony from multiple witnesses along with DIA’s continued pattern of behavior to ignore and/or attempt to discredit victims and whistleblowers, it is clear that the Agency, when left to its own devices, has and will continue to fail to stunt the cancer which festers in its leadership ranks, hence my continued pursuit of independent inquiries into the conduct of DAS leadership and DIA’s office of Inspector General.

To follow, are seven pages containing line-by-line summaries of the 158 allegations collected from 65 witness statements / survey inputs taken from current and former DAS members over the course of the past 27 months.

In total, witnesses cited:

- 53 allegations of hostile acts in the workplace,
- 28 allegations of discrimination,
- 13 allegations of reprisal, either threatened or carried out,
- 9 allegations of fraud/waste/abuse,
- 9 allegations of intentional circumvention/subversion of the chain of command,
- 8 allegations of violations of Intelligence Oversight directives,
- 8 allegations of violations of the Privacy Act,
- 8 allegations of abuses of authority,
- 6 allegations of dereliction of duty,
- 6 allegations of misconduct within the office of the DIA Inspector General,
- 5 allegations of negligence / gross mismanagement,
- 3 allegations of sexual harassment,
- 1 allegation of obstruction of justice,
- 1 allegation of endangerment of lives.

The demographics of the respondents follows below. It is again worth noting here, given the fear of retribution within the Agency married with the fact that personnel reported issues of wrongdoing to me, a private citizen, at increased personal and professional risk, that the actual number of witnesses and victims within the organization is likely significantly higher.

Rank

Officer - 18

Warrant Officer - 4

Noncommissioned Officer - 3

Government Civilian (GS) - 40

Respondent service demographics (continued)

Service

DIA – 40
Air Force - 9
Marine Corps – 4
Navy - 7
Army – 5

Sex

Male - 21
Female - 6
Could not be ascertained due to anonymity - 38

Thank you for your continued engagement in this critical matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Sweazey', is positioned above the typed name.

Ryan Sweazey, Lt Col, USAF (retired)
Founder and President, Walk the Talk Foundation
www.walkthetalkfoundation.org

Attachment

1. List of allegations

cc:

Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs - Policy and Programs Directorate,
Army Counterintelligence, Human Intelligence, Security and Disclosure Directorate,
Navy Director, Counterintelligence, Human Intelligence, Attaché Affairs, Foreign Materiel and
Sensitive Activities,
Marine Corps Director of Intelligence