


From: Ryan Sweazey [REDACTED] 
Subject: Cultural Issues in the Defense Attaché Service
Date: May 17, 2021 at 6:56 AM
To: scott.berrier2@dodiis.mil
Cc: Sean Casten [REDACTED]



LTG Berrier,

Sir, my name is Lt Col Ryan Sweazey and I am writing to you today to request your intervention in addressing systemic cultural issues in the Defense Attaché Service (DAS); issues which I believe are being obfuscated at lower levels and that require your attention. I served as the [REDACTED] from 2017 to 2020 during which time I was the victim of reprisal, having been removed from consideration for a follow-on attaché assignment after I raised significant concerns to the chain of command regarding gross mismanagement and dereliction of duty. In response to that reprisal, I filed a Congressional IG complaint via Senator Duckworth (D-IL) which initiated an investigation surrounding multiple allegations against several members within the Defense Attaché Service. That, as well as other investigations of a similar nature, are currently ongoing.

Beyond the individual-centric concerns I raised to my Congressmen, I have also requested intervention on what I, and many other DAS colleagues, believe to be a toxic culture within the DAS. I submit to you that the DAS:

- Places importance on subjugation of its talented officer and enlisted corps, at times prioritizing that over mission accomplishment,
- Does not reward, and occasionally condemns, proactivity and aggressiveness,
- Has an inadequate number of systemized processes in-place for consistent feedback and/or self-improvement,
- Promulgates a fear-based leadership model which stifles talent and initiative, and
- Has, in the past, directed and/or incentivized individuals to circumvent and subvert the chain of command in order to propagate that fear-based approach.

I believe these are themes which will surface as you read the forthcoming DIA/IG's reports of investigation, regardless of their substantiation of the allegations in question.

Attached, you will find the most recent correspondence I sent to Representative Casten (D-IL), who I have cc'd in this email, requesting an inquiry into the aforementioned cultural issues whose detrimental mission impacts pose a threat to national security. Also attached is the End of Tour report I sent to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on 23 September 2020 reporting to them issues of a similar nature as well as advising them of the ongoing IG complaints. I received no responses from that report.

Sir, I'd like to highlight to you that during the past two years, I, as well as other DAS colleagues, exhausted every possible avenue of redress through our DAS chains of command in order to confront these threats which, in turn, jeopardize the tenuous advantage we hold over competitor nations. Unfortunately, time and time again, our DAS leadership failed us and, in several instances, took active measures to punish whistleblowers such as me. For these reasons, we were left with the only remaining avenue of recourse being Congressional IG complaints. I'd also like to emphasize that we are pursuing these initiatives because we remain dedicated to the mission of the DAS and believe in its incredible potential. In that vein, we stand ready to continue to assist you in your endeavors to improve the Agency.

Thank you in advance for your support. I hope that our initiatives will be the catalyst for much-needed change within our Defense Attaché Service.

Very respectfully,
Lt Col Ryan Sweazey, USAF
[REDACTED]



Casten
Casew...zey.pdf



End of Tour
Report...zey.pdf