

The DoD Times (Redacted)



When a Conflict of Interest is So Obvious and Yet We Do Nothing... For Years...

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Did You Know: The Commander of the Army Element which supports the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) relies on lawyers working for the DIA for all "legal reviews, ethics opinions" and advice.

Here are some potential implications of this fact:

1. Army personnel assigned to support the DIA lack the legal protections and are not afforded the required regulatory processes unique to the United States Army.
2. Army Element Commanders, wittingly or unwittingly, bias their decisions towards the "good of the DIA" instead of the "good of the Army," likely to the detriment of both the Army and the Army personnel supporting the DIA.
3. Army personnel, including the Commander, do not have a clear understanding of which organization (Army or DIA) has jurisdiction over problems (IG, EEO/EO, Sexual Harassment, etc.) brought to either Army or DIA leadership by Army personnel.
4. Given this lack of clarity, Army personnel who do raise an issue (EEO/EO, IG, etc.) risk being repeatedly re-victimized as either their Army or DIA leadership team fumbles around in the dark for weeks/months at a time trying to figure out who will "take the lead" on investigating/not investigating a complaint. This is especially true if the issue concerns a DIA civilian or DIA process.
5. If an investigation does occur and especially if the complaint concerns a DIA civilian or a DIA process, Army personnel may or may not (likely not) be afforded the protections required for complainants as

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outlined in Army Regulation 600-20 (Army Command Policy) given the DIA lawyers will likely advise the Army commander to follow DIA policies instead of Army regulations.

6. The "Law of the Potomac" (4 [stars] Beats 3, 3 Beats 2, 2 Beats 1, 1 Beats All Others) will **always** influence the disposition of Army Element command decisions, likely to the detriment of both the Army and Army personnel. (The Army commander is an O6 while the DIA Director is a 3-star.)

A question to ask yourself is why U.S. Army senior leaders are comfortable leaving their subordinates vulnerable to the [legally acknowledged](#) and [well publicized](#) toxic leadership culture found in the DIA.

If you feel that you have been a victim of this "Did You Know" highlight, feel free to reach out privately, or share your story in the comments.

[Army Description of 27A, Staff Judge Advocate.](#)