

The DoD Times (Redacted)



When Silence Is Valued More Than Duty – A Chilling Effect

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Did You Know: In May 2022, a mere two months after the U.S. Congress received [65 witness statements](#) alleging 158 wrongdoings within the Defense Intelligence Agency Defense Attaché Service (DIA DAS), the then Director of DIA, LTG (Retired) Scott Berrier, briefed the likely hundreds of Army personnel supporting the DIA that “I don’t think that that’s a DAS issue writ large” or a “DIA issue.” Further, he told the Army Soldiers that the person who brought the [DIA DAS abuses](#) to light was just an “Air Force” officer stationed at a “far-flung platform” who “didn’t get the evaluation he wanted ... didn’t get the assignment he wanted, he retired, and now he’s agitated about DIA and toxicity at DIA.”

Here are some potential implications of this fact:

1. LTG (Ret) Berrier taught the Soldiers and every Agency colleague that the Soldier’s talked with after the brief that they should expect [reprisal](#) and public [retaliation \(para 3.3\)](#) from even the Agency’s most senior leader if they exercise their right to make a [protected communication](#) to the U.S. Congress.
2. LTG (Ret) Berrier taught that the value the Agency places on silence is more powerful than the value it places on addressing issues that negatively affect its own people, such as [the 53 allegations of hostile acts in the workplace and 28 allegations of discrimination](#).
3. LTG (Ret) Berrier taught that Agency leadership, up to and including the Director himself, would not assume responsibility for any issues in the organization.
4. LTG (Ret) Berrier taught that nothing in the Agency was going to change, despite Congressional level visibility of the issues surrounding DIA’s toxic leadership.

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5. LTG (Ret) Berrier taught that the professional reputation and character of a former Agency officer and senior military officer, even one who had used [all known avenues of redress](#) to correct identified organizational problems, is irrelevant, so it is best to stay silent.

A question to ask yourself is if Congress can and should do more to stop this type of insidious and subversive leadership that [Congress already knows](#) exists within the DIA. We must do better.

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.