From: Jacoby, VADM Lowell E.
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2005 1:29 PM
Subject: Message to the Workforce - DH Strategic Support Teams

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

TERMS: NONE

There has been quite a bit of media coverage this week of a DIA initiative to stand up Strategic Support Teams within DH. An initial news report about this activity contained numerous inaccuracies.

I think it is important that you know the background on this program and be reassured that actions related to it have been completely above board.

Based upon lessons learned from OEF and OIF, we recognized that DIA needed to improve HUMINT support to combatant commanders by standing-up teams of pre-identified, rapidly deployable professionals including case officers, strategic debriefers, interrogators, subject matter experts and support personnel. Having such teams available would eliminate the disruption to on-going HUMINT collection activities and minimize the negative impact of such deployments that we've been experiencing.

We developed a concept initially known as the HUMINT Augmentation Teams (HATs) and included it in our FY05 budget request. The concept was fully coordinated with the DOD and DCI staffs and the teams will operate under existing legal authorities and in accordance with existing DCI policies with full Congressional oversight.

In discussions with Congressional staffers during the budget process, we changed the name of the HATs to Strategic Support Teams to more properly reflect their mission. Funding for the SSTs is included in our FY05 budget that was approved by Congress. Stand-up of the teams is underway.

We are not developing a special operations force within DIA. We are a combat support agency whose mission is to provide intelligence to military commanders, planners and policy makers. As the SSTs become operational, we will increase our ability to provide support to commanders in the field.

Innuendos and disparaging remarks by sources of the article that don't know our mission should be ignored. We can't have our attention diverted from our focus on all-source operations. LEJ

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