



Defense Intelligence Agency

...at a glance

Who we are

The Defense Intelligence Agency was established October 1, 1961, and designated a combat support agency in 1986.

DIA is a major producer and manager of foreign military intelligence for the Department of Defense and a principal member of the United States Intelligence Community.

The Director of DIA is a three-star military officer who serves as the principal advisor on substantive intelligence matters to the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

DIA has a workforce of about 12,000, and is staffed with highly skilled civilian and military personnel.

Agency headquarters are at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia; however, DIA personnel are located throughout the world. Major U.S. locations include the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center at Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland; and the Missile and Space Intelligence Center at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama.

What we do

DIA's mission is to provide timely, objective, all-source military intelligence to policy makers, war fighters, and force planners to meet a variety of challenges across the spectrum of conflict.

The information collected and analyzed by DIA's intelligence professionals is disseminated to a wide range of customers—senior U.S. Government national security and defense officials, Members of Congress, Combatant Commanders, weapon systems planners and developers, and U.S. forces stationed around the world.

DIA employs extensive analytical expertise in a number of areas such as: foreign military and paramilitary forces, capabilities, and intentions; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; international terrorism; international narcotics trafficking; information operations; and defense-related foreign political, economic, industrial, geographic, and medical and health issues.

A major component of the Agency, the Defense HUMINT Service, operates around the world to obtain critical pieces of the intelligence puzzle often not available from technical collection means.

DIA also manages the Defense Attaché System, which has military attachés assigned to more than 135 embassies overseas. These attachés are an integral part of the U.S. diplomatic presence abroad.

To support Department of Defense efforts in the global war on terrorism, DIA has established and operates the Joint Intelligence Task Force for Combating Terrorism (JITF-CT), which consolidates national-level all-source terrorism-related intelligence.

DIA serves as executive agent for the U.S. Intelligence Community's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Analytic Cell. This unit provides actionable, national-level intelligence support to locate missing, isolated, evading, or captured U.S. military and U.S. government personnel.

DIA directs and manages Department of Defense intelligence collection requirements for the various intelligence collection disciplines such as human intelligence (HUMINT), measurement and signature intelligence (MASINT), imagery intelligence (IMINT), and signals intelligence (SIGINT).

DIA provides centralized management for all national and Department of Defense activities related to MASINT, which is technically derived information that measures, detects, tracks, and identifies unique characteristics of fixed and dynamic targets.

The National Defense Intelligence College (NDIC), a principal component of the Agency, is a fully accredited educational institution authorized by congress to award a Master of Science of Strategic Intelligence degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in intelligence. The College is attended by students from throughout the government to satisfy the growing need for trained intelligence professionals to help safeguard the nation's interest.

Our Vision

Integration of highly skilled intelligence professionals with leading edge technology to discover information and create knowledge that provides warning, identifies opportunities, and delivers overwhelming advantage to our warfighters, defense planners, and defense and national security policymakers.