

Civilian Rein On DIA Set By Pentagon

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Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Ellsworth yesterday announced an organizational reshuffling intended to increase civilian control over the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Ellsworth said he was acting partially in reaction to criticism of Pentagon intelligence operations by the House and Senate intelligence committees.

As outlined by Ellsworth at a Pentagon news conference, the changes will include:

- Appointment of an inspector general for intelligence to ensure that there are no intelligence abuses within the military.
- Giving the assistant secretary of defense for intelligence direct control over military intelligence activities, including the DIA, which has been criticized for failure to predict the 1973 Middle East War and developments in Angola.
- Placing the head of the DIA under civilian authority. In the past that official reported only to the military Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Ellsworth said the new inspector general will have an independent status and will be responsible for preventing any such abuses. The Pentagon previously had announced cutbacks in the size of the DIA, now down to about 4,000 military and civilian intelligence specialists. Ellsworth said those reductions would continue.

Ellsworth said none of the newly created posts has been filled, and he could provide no estimate when they would be.