



**DEIDRA A. LEITE**  
*Illuminate, LLC*

Ms. Deidra Leite is a former Senior Executive with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Intelligence Community (IC) with 26 years of U.S. Government service culminating in a career of national security expertise, global operations risk management, and organizational leadership. A champion of career development, she led with contagious enthusiasm and a passion for helping others identify and reach their goals as a certified coach and expert in interpersonal communications in the IC. Renown expert in providing strategic vision, guidance, planning, personnel and program management while exhibiting accountability for results, adaptive interpersonal skills to creatively address and manage conflict, and strategic thinking that has resulted in some of the most high-performing teams in the U.S. Government.

Ms. Leite began her career at DIA in 1998 as an intelligence analyst in the Africa Division following the terrorist attacks in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. The first DIA female civilian to deploy with the 13<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East area of responsibility, Ms. Leite provided national-level intelligence liaison and analysis to the Commanders of the USS Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group and the Operation DETERMINED RESPONSE Combined Joint Task Force following the USS Cole attack in Yemen in 2000.

She was a first responder to the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon, stood watch in a burning Pentagon to ensure continuity of operations, and received the DIA Achievement Medal for her actions on that day. She created the Iraq Deck of Cards and prepared U.S. Central Command for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. She served our military in two war zones, Iraq and Afghanistan, and is the recipient of three National Meritorious Unit Citations, the DIA Civilian Expeditionary Medal, the Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award, and the Brigadier General Ellis HUMINT Award for IC Integration and Collaboration.

Ms. Leite served in leadership positions across DIA's Directorate of Operations, Directorate for Analysis and Production, and across the IC in multiple joint duty assignments. She was selected to represent the DIA in the establishment of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center, which is now the National Counter-terrorism Center. Ms. Leite expertly represented DIA with senior Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) policymakers as a senior executive briefer, and established a nascent collection and reporting capability on a joint duty assignment at the Department of Treasury in 2013. She laid the foundations for the DDS by negotiating with leaders of Military Services, Combatant Commands and Congress for the office establishment in 2015. Champion of career development for over 20 years in the government sector, and awarded the Defense Intelligence Agency's Woman of Influence of the 2022 for diversity and inclusion.

A graduate of the Naval War College and National Intelligence University, Ms. Leite holds two Masters degrees in National Security Studies and Strategic Intelligence, and a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs is from Kennesaw State University. She and her husband Antonio have two adult children, Natasha and Robert who live in the Tampa, Florida area.