



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
HEADQUARTERS
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March 7, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR DLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

SUBJECT: Ethical Conduct in DLA

As our Nation's Logistics Combat Support Agency, we are responsible for delivering agile, adaptive, and resilient logistics support across the continuum of conflict. With this important responsibility comes the requirement that we always do the right thing when performing our duties. As stewards of public funds, we must earn the trust of the American people by holding ourselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

As government employees, our grounding starts with the 14 Principles of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees, first issued as Executive Order 12674 in 1989 by President George H. W. Bush and later codified in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.101(b).

We all have a duty to maintain fiscal responsibility and be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. As we make purchases for our customers, for example, we must conduct careful and thorough analysis, while remaining fair, impartial, and transparent. We must be aware of ethical boundaries while on travel, receiving gifts, or engaging in political activities. To combat fraud within the agency, we must report questionable ethical behavior so that it can be properly investigated.

When facing an ethical decision that is unclear, consider whether an action is legal. Beyond legality, consider how it will be perceived. Just because you *can* do something doesn't mean you *should*. Bottom line, always be sure your actions are in the best interests of the agency. If you have any questions or doubts, consult your legal counsel.

Upholding the highest ethical standards is crucial to maintaining DLA's reputation for integrity, trust, and responsible stewardship of public funds. I charge DLA senior leaders with setting the "Tone from the Top." I encourage leaders to familiarize themselves and their teams with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982 and the Department's requirements under OMB Circular A-123.

I am proud to serve with each of you, as together we pursue the highest standards of ethical behavior in our workplace. Stay focused on your mission and be steadfast in your pursuit of excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark T. Simerly", is positioned above the printed name.

Mark T. Simerly
LTG, USA
Director