

Whistleblower Protections

What is a Whistleblower?

- A whistleblower is someone who makes a good faith report of information to an authorized recipient regarding violations of law, rule or regulation, waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, serious security incidents, or other criminal or administrative misconduct
- Authorized recipients include an Inspector General, a member of Congress, a court or grand jury, any person or organization designated by law to receive such communications

Are Whistleblowers Protected From Reprisals?

- Congress enacted various laws to protect whistleblowers from reprisal. Whistleblower reprisal occurs when an individual or entity takes or fails to take, or threatens to take or fail to take a personnel action, or withholds a favorable personnel action against a whistleblower in retaliation for making protected communications or disclosures
- The DoD Office of Inspector General regularly investigates allegations of whistleblower reprisal made by:
 - members of the Armed Forces
 - civilian appropriated fund employees of the DoD
 - members of the DoD intelligence community and all DoD employees with access to classified information
 - employees of DoD contractors, subcontractors, grantees, sub grantees, and personal service contractors; and
 - non-appropriated fund instrumentality (NAFI) employees who are paid from non-appropriated funds generated by Military Service clubs, bowling centers, golf courses, and other activities

How Do I File a Whistleblower or Whistleblower Reprisal Complaint?

- For help with filing your specific complaint, refer to <https://www.dodig.mil/Components/Administrative-Investigations/DoD-Hotline/>