

DOD IG Statement on GAO Report “Whistleblower Protection: Actions Needed to Improve DOD’s Military Whistleblower Reprisal Program”

The DoD Inspector General has recognized the need for enhanced efforts regarding military whistleblower reprisal and has already taken proactive action. The DoD IG is committed to ensure that military whistleblowers receive full protection. The recently issued GAO report provides constructive recommendations that parallel efforts already underway to strengthen the program for military whistleblower reprisal investigations.

The robust program being implemented by the DoD IG has established an aggressive path forward. The DoD IG is creating the model whistleblower protection program in the federal government. Efforts taken include the creation of an office dedicated to Whistleblowing and Transparency – the first such office in the federal government. To that end, the DoD IG has more than doubled the resources dedicated to whistleblower protection.

Significant measures are being taken to improve transparency and data integrity relating to whistleblower case management systems. Efforts include documenting in detail both corrective actions taken to remedy reprisal and disciplinary actions taken against those responsible for substantiated reprisals.

We note the acknowledgement by GAO that the actions already underway by the DoD IG are designed to: “provide the department and Congress with enhanced visibility over the status of military whistleblower reprisal investigations”; “improve DOD’s means of ensuring that DOD is meeting its own standards for completing quality investigations”; and “enhance oversight of the outcomes of the military whistleblower reprisal program.”