

# DoD WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN

THE DOD WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN IS AVAILABLE TO ALL DOD PERSONNEL

## *The DoD Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman:*

- Educates agency employees about prohibitions on retaliation for protected disclosures;
- Educates agency employees who have made or are contemplating making a protected disclosure about the rights and remedies against retaliation for protected disclosures.

The ombudsman **cannot** act as a legal representative, agent, or advocate of a whistleblower.

### WHAT IS WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION?

In the Department of Defense, it is laws enacted to protect military servicemembers and employees who "blow the whistle" and then experience a personnel or other adverse action because their employers knew or suspected they blew the whistle. How?

- Employee makes a protected communication or disclosure;
- Employer knows about it or suspects it;
- Employer takes an unfavorable personnel action, withholds a favorable personnel action, or under some statutes, takes other reprisal action or threatens to take or withhold a personnel action;
- Evidence establishes that the reprisal action would not have been taken, withheld, or threatened if the protected communication or disclosure had not been made.

### WHO IS PROTECTED?

- Military servicemembers
- Non-appropriated fund civilian employees
- Employees of defense contractors and subcontractors
- Appropriated-fund civilian employees, including members of the intelligence community



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## QUESTIONS?

Get answers to the most commonly asked questions concerning whistleblowing at:  
[www.dodig.mil/Programs/Whistleblower](http://www.dodig.mil/Programs/Whistleblower)

Learn more about the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman:  
[Whistleblowerprotectionombudsman@dodig.mil](mailto:Whistleblowerprotectionombudsman@dodig.mil)

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