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

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.

QUESTIONS?
Get answers to the most commonly asked questions concerning whistleblowing at: www.dodig.mil/Programs/Whistleblower

Learn more about the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman: Whistleblowerprotectionombudsman@dodig.mil

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