



Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 8:11 AM
To: NRO-All [REL TO]
Subject: OS&CI - Did You Know: Your Protections (and Limits) Under the Whistleblower's Act --- UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
=====

Office of Security and Counterintelligence
DID YOU KNOW
Security Awareness Resource December 2017



Subject: Your Protections (and Limits!) Under the Whistleblower's Act

The recent Intelligence Community (IC)-wide requirement for unauthorized disclosures training highlighted the serious risk such disclosures can pose to national security and the responsibility of all National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) personnel to protect classified and sensitive information. However, the ability of personnel to call attention to fraud, waste, and abuse remains an important means of ensuring government accountability and transparency. Government employees and contractors who wish to make disclosures on such activities – known as Whistleblowers – have a valid and legally-protected avenue for reporting this type of information while maintaining the integrity of valuable classified and sensitive information.

In 2012, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive-19 (PPD-19), "Protecting Whistleblowers with Access to Classified Information." Under PPD-19, Whistleblowers with access to classified information receive protections against reprisal for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and illegality. Part A of PPD-19 includes protections for U.S. Government (USG) employees against unlawful personnel actions, while Part B deals with revocation of clearances and includes both USG employees and contractors. These provisions created new protections for all Executive Branch employees and contractors eligible for access to classified information to engage in whistleblowing while also ensuring that classified information remains safeguarded.

The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) issued Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 120 in 2014 to implement the provisions of PPD-19 with respect to the IC. The National Security Act, as amended, (2014) prohibits retaliatory revocation of security clearances and access determinations from being used as reprisal against Federal employees and contractors who make lawful protected disclosures.

Situations that can be reported as a protected disclosure may include a violation of any law, rule, or regulation; gross mismanagement; a gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; and/or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. In order to receive the protections covered under ICD 120, individuals must ensure the person they are disclosing to "counts" as an authorized person.

The following persons are authorized to receive protected disclosures from a Whistleblower:

- Your supervisor, his/her supervisor, and so on up the management chain, all the way to the NRO Director;
- NRO's Office of Inspector General (OIG), via phone, email, or in person (anonymous reporting is also available);
- Other officials designated to receive Protected Disclosures, depending on the nature of the allegation, such as: NRO's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Management (OEEO&DM), Office of General Counsel (OGC), your Intelligence Oversight (IO) officer, NRO's Office of Civil Liberties and Privacy (OCLP), or ODNI's Office of Civil Liberties, Privacy, and Transparency (CLPT);
- The Director of National Intelligence (DNI);
- The IG for the Intelligence Community (IC IG); and
- A congressional intelligence committee or member of a congressional intelligence committee consistent with specific reporting procedures and accessible through the OIG.

Rules and laws define the work we do, so if you are not familiar with the ones that govern the IC, you can easily mistake a policy disagreement for wrongdoing. This is why it is critical to take your concerns to those who can help you determine what steps, if any, to take when you believe your information may warrant reporting. Contact the NRO OIG via their Hotline at [redacted] OIG HOTLINK via NROnet; "Ask (b)(3) the IG" Drop Boxes, or personally in [redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3)



=====
 Classification: UNCLASSIFIED