

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Gene Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
United States Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

I am writing to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a review of whistleblower reprisal investigations conducted by the Defense Department's Office of Inspector General (DOD IG). Specifically, I request that GAO examine the DOD IG's oversight of whistleblower retaliation investigations conducted by the inspectors general of the military services. I request that this review include the following:

- (1) A matrix for all military cases reviewed in 2013, showing processing times for each phase of the investigation from start to finish;
- (2) The number of cases received in 2013;
- (3) The number of cases closed in 2013, the length of time for disposition, and the rate of substantiation;
- (4) The number of cases that were not fully investigated in 2013 and were ultimately dismissed and mean closing times for those cases and range of time for shortest to longest to dismiss;
- (5) The DOD IG's processes for ensuring that its oversight of whistleblower retaliation investigations is independent and thorough, including guidance and training provided to investigators; and
- (6) The DOD IG's processes for ensuring the independence of investigators conducting oversight, including procedures to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.

I also request that the review include a close examination of a representative sample of cases closed and dismissed in 2013 to determine whether the DOD IG's review complied with regulations, policies, and best practices related to the oversight of whistleblower retaliation investigations.

Please have your staff contact Margaret Daum with Senator McCaskill's staff at (202) 224-7155 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to [Kelsey\\_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
Ron Johnson, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs