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TODAY: Whistleblower Appreciation Day 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Acting Inspector General Diana Shaw and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Whistleblower Appreciation Day and acknowledge the important role that whistleblowers play in promoting accountability, good governance, and the rule of law. The date was selected because on July 30, 1778, members of the Continental Congress unanimously enacted the first whistleblower legislation in the United States. The whistleblowers that prompted that legislation were 10 American sailors who had raised concerns that a high-ranking Commodore was mistreating prisoners of war. These sailors risked charges of treason for taking on one of the Navy's most powerful officers.

Throughout history, Congress has continuously expanded legal protections for whistleblowers. Nevertheless, even today, whistleblowers risk their careers, their reputations, and sometimes their personal safety, demonstrating tremendous courage by bringing forth information about wrongdoing. We recognize and commend them for their bravery and their contributions. Many of OIG's audits, evaluations, and investigations have been initiated because of information brought to OIG by whistleblowers. For example, the recent report on the [report on the misuse of Department resources](#) began because a whistleblower filed a complaint with OIG's hotline.

Whistleblower protections extend to Foreign and Civil Service employees, as well as employees of Department contractors, grantees, subcontractors, and subgrantees, and personal services contractors. The Department safeguards these protections through provisions in the Foreign Affairs Manual, which prohibit supervisors and other Department officials from retaliating against an employee for the disclosure of wrongdoing.

If you would like more information about how to appropriately disclose wrongdoing or the protections that exist for whistleblowers, [OIG resources](#) are available on its website, including how to contact OIG's Whistleblower Protection Coordinator, who is available to provide information about whistleblower rights and remedies.

Thank you for joining us in recognizing the important role of whistleblowers.

Sincerely,

Brian P. McKeon

Deputy Secretary of State
for Management and Resources

Diana R. Shaw

Acting Inspector General