



## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

April 9, 2025

Ref: DODOIG-2025-000761

**SENT VIA EMAIL TO: shelbystartz@outlook.com**

Mr. Sherman Startz  
550 Lebo Boulevard, 34  
Bremerton, WA 98310

Dear Mr. Startz:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records pertaining to case 20230213-083550. We received your request on March 19, 2025, and assigned it case number DODOIG-2025-000761. By email dated March 31, 2025, you agreed to scope out your complaint submission and any records you submitted with your complaint.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The Administrative Investigations Component and the Department of Defense Hotline conducted searches and located records responsive to your request. In order to provide you with the greatest possible access to the responsive records, your request was processed under both the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a) and the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552). However, we have determined that the records responsive to your request are exempt from the access provisions of the Privacy Act. See 32 C.F.R. Part 310. For this reason, we have processed your request under the FOIA.

Upon review, we determined that the enclosed 19 pages are appropriate for release in part pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions:

- (b)(5), which pertains to certain inter-and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege. The purpose for withholding such recommendations is to encourage the free and candid exchange of opinions and advice during the decision-making process. In applying the foreseeable harm standard, we determined that disclosure of this information is likely to diminish the candor of agency deliberations in the future;
- (b)(6), which pertains to information, the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and

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- (b)(7)(C), which pertains to records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Our review included consideration of the foreseeable harm standard, as stated in DoDM 5400.07. Under this standard, the content of a particular record should be reviewed and a determination made as to whether the DoD Component reasonably foresees that disclosing it, given its age, content, and character, would harm an interest protected by an applicable exemption.

If you consider this an adverse determination, you may submit an appeal. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 days of the date of this letter, clearly identify the determination that you would like to appeal, and reference to the FOIA case number above. Send your appeal via mail to the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: FOIA Appellate Authority, Suite 10B24, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-1500, via email to [foiaappeals@dodig.mil](mailto:foiaappeals@dodig.mil), or via facsimile to 571-372-7498. However, please note that FOIA appeals can only examine adverse determinations concerning the FOIA process. For more information on appellate matters and administrative appeal procedures, please refer to 32 C.F.R. Sec. 286.9(e) and 286.11(a).

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at [FOIApublicLiaison@dodig.mil](mailto:FOIApublicLiaison@dodig.mil), or by calling 703-604-9785, for any further assistance with your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road—OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. However, OGIS does not have the authority to mediate requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974 (request to access one's own records).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Larry Kirkland at 703-604-9775 or via email at [foiarequests@dodig.mil](mailto:foiarequests@dodig.mil).

Sincerely,



Searle Slutzkin  
Division Chief  
FOIA, Privacy and Civil Liberties Office

Enclosure(s):  
As stated

## Life Cycle Closure Report

Contact Data			
Contact Number:	Contact-20230210-211789	Triage Date:	2/11/2023
Origin:	Internet	Triaged By:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Office of Receipt:	Hotline	Days from Contact Received to Triage Date:	1
Investigator:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Priority:	Priority 2
Processed into Complaint:	20230213-083550	Days from Contact Received to Complaint Creation:	
Contact Status:	Inactive	Restricted?	No
Days to Contact Closure:	3	Contact Closure Date:	2/13/2023

Complaint Data			
Complaint #:	20230213-083550	Status:	Closed
Open Date:	2/13/2023	Investigator:	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Priority:	Priority 2	Complaint Workflow Status:	Complaint Closed
Days Complaint Open:	83	Days from Complaint Creation to Most Recent Case Creation:	0
Most Recent HL Complaint Event:		Non-Processing Reason:	
Consent Information			
Consent Received:	Yes	Date Consent Requested:	
Date Consent Received:		Days from Consent Requested to Consent Received:	

Controlled by: DoD OIG  
Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline  
CUI Category: PRIOG//INV//WHOTL  
Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON  
POC: 1-800-424-9098

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<b>Days from Contact Received to Consent Requested:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to Consent Received:</b>	
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Consent Received:</b>			
<b>Additional Information</b>			
<b>Date Additional Info Requested:</b>		<b>Date Additional Info Received:</b>	
<b>Days from Additional Info Requested to Info Received:</b>		<b>Days from Complaint Created to Additional Info Requested:</b>	
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Additional Info Received:</b>			

<b>Case Data</b>			
<b>Case #:</b>	20230213-083550-CASE-03	<b>Case Status:</b>	Closed
<b>Open Date:</b>	5/5/2023	<b>Consent Override:</b>	No
<b>Office of Receipt Investigator:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<b>Office of Receipt Supervisor:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2	<b>Inquiry Status:</b>	Referred
<b>Inquiry Type:</b>	Intake	<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Creation:</b>	81
<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Creation:</b>	84	<b>Days Open:</b>	2
<b>Referral Information</b>			
<b>Referral Date:</b>	5/7/2023	<b>Referral Type:</b>	Info
<b>Referred to Agency:</b>	Army	<b>Referred to Sub Agency:</b>	CID
<b>Accept/Decline:</b>		<b>Referred to Sub-Activity:</b>	
<b>Suspense Date:</b>		<b>Accept/Decline Date:</b>	
<b>Workdays from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	61	<b>Days from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	86

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<b>Days from Case Creation to Initial Case Referral:</b>	2	<b>Special Handling:</b>	No
<b>Quality Control Review (QCR)</b>			
<b>QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>	
<b>QCR Approval Date:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to QCR Approval:</b>	
<b>Total Workdays in QCR:</b>		<b>Workdays from QCR Approval to Case Referral:</b>	
<b>Days from Contact Received to QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Cumulative Workdays in QCR:</b>	
<b>Office of Approval - Inquiry Results Review</b>			
<b>Days from Initial Referral to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>First Inquiry Results Received Date:</b>	
<b>First Review Date:</b>		<b>Workdays from First Inquiry Results Received to First Review:</b>	
<b>Most Recent Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Most Recent Review:</b>	
<b>Total Days in Review:</b>		<b>Any Deficient:</b>	No
<b>MOD Date:</b>		<b>Final Review:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Referral to Final Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>	
<b>Case Closure</b>			
<b>Date Closed:</b>	5/7/2023	<b>Closed By:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<b>Result Code:</b>	NA - No Action Required	<b>Corrective Action:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Case Referral to Case Closed:</b>	0	<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Closed:</b>	86
<b>Days from First Inquiry Results Received to Case Closed:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to Case Closure:</b>	2
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Closed:</b>	83		

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<b>Case #:</b>	20230213-083550-CASE-04	<b>Case Status:</b>	Closed
<b>Open Date:</b>	5/5/2023	<b>Consent Override:</b>	No
<b>Office of Receipt Investigator:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<b>Office of Receipt Supervisor:</b>	
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2	<b>Inquiry Status:</b>	Non-Referred
<b>Inquiry Type:</b>		<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Creation:</b>	81
<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Creation:</b>	84	<b>Days Open:</b>	0
<b>Referral Information</b>			
<b>Referral Date:</b>		<b>Referral Type:</b>	
<b>Referred to Agency:</b>		<b>Referred to Sub Agency:</b>	
<b>Accept/Decline:</b>		<b>Referred to Sub-Activity:</b>	
<b>Suspense Date:</b>		<b>Accept/Decline Date:</b>	
<b>Workdays from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	
<b>Days from Case Creation to Initial Case Referral:</b>		<b>Special Handling:</b>	No
<b>Quality Control Review (QCR)</b>			
<b>QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>	
<b>QCR Approval Date:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to QCR Approval:</b>	
<b>Total Workdays in QCR:</b>		<b>Workdays from QCR Approval to Case Referral:</b>	
<b>Days from Contact Received to QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Cumulative Workdays in QCR:</b>	
<b>Office of Approval - Inquiry Results Review</b>			
<b>Days from Initial Referral to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>First Inquiry Results Received Date:</b>	

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<b>First Review Date:</b>		<b>Workdays from First Inquiry Results Received to First Review:</b>	
<b>Most Recent Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Most Recent Review:</b>	
<b>Total Days in Review:</b>		<b>Any Deficient:</b>	No
<b>MOD Date:</b>		<b>Final Review:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Referral to Final Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>	
<b>Case Closure</b>			
<b>Date Closed:</b>	5/5/2023	<b>Closed By:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<b>Result Code:</b>	NA - No Action Required	<b>Corrective Action:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Case Referral to Case Closed:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Closed:</b>	84
<b>Days from First Inquiry Results Received to Case Closed:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to Case Closure:</b>	0
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Closed:</b>	81		
<b>Case #:</b>	20230213-083550-CASE-05	<b>Case Status:</b>	Closed
<b>Open Date:</b>	5/5/2023	<b>Consent Override:</b>	No
<b>Office of Receipt Investigator:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<b>Office of Receipt Supervisor:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 3	<b>Inquiry Status:</b>	Referred
<b>Inquiry Type:</b>	Intake	<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Creation:</b>	81
<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Creation:</b>	84	<b>Days Open:</b>	2
<b>Referral Information</b>			
<b>Referral Date:</b>	5/7/2023	<b>Referral Type:</b>	Info
<b>Referred to Agency:</b>	Army	<b>Referred to Sub Agency:</b>	Army IG
<b>Accept/Decline:</b>		<b>Referred to Sub-Activity:</b>	

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<b>Suspense Date:</b>		<b>Accept/Decline Date:</b>	
<b>Workdays from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	61	<b>Days from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	86
<b>Days from Case Creation to Initial Case Referral:</b>	2	<b>Special Handling:</b>	No
<b>Quality Control Review (QCR)</b>			
<b>QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>	
<b>QCR Approval Date:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to QCR Approval:</b>	
<b>Total Workdays in QCR:</b>		<b>Workdays from QCR Approval to Case Referral:</b>	
<b>Days from Contact Received to QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Cumulative Workdays in QCR:</b>	
<b>Office of Approval - Inquiry Results Review</b>			
<b>Days from Initial Referral to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>First Inquiry Results Received Date:</b>	
<b>First Review Date:</b>		<b>Workdays from First Inquiry Results Received to First Review:</b>	
<b>Most Recent Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Most Recent Review:</b>	
<b>Total Days in Review:</b>		<b>Any Deficient:</b>	No
<b>MOD Date:</b>		<b>Final Review:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Referral to Final Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>	
<b>Case Closure</b>			
<b>Date Closed:</b>	5/7/2023	<b>Closed By:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<b>Result Code:</b>	NA - No Action Required	<b>Corrective Action:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Case Referral to Case Closed:</b>	0	<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Closed:</b>	86

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<b>Days from First Inquiry Results Received to Case Closed:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to Case Closure:</b>	2
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Closed:</b>	83		
<b>Case #:</b>	20230213-083550-CASE-01	<b>Case Status:</b>	Closed
<b>Open Date:</b>	2/13/2023	<b>Consent Override:</b>	No
<b>Office of Receipt Investigator:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<b>Office of Receipt Supervisor:</b>	
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2	<b>Inquiry Status:</b>	Referred
<b>Inquiry Type:</b>	Investigation	<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Creation:</b>	0
<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Creation:</b>	3	<b>Days Open:</b>	81
<b>Referral Information</b>			
<b>Referral Date:</b>	2/13/2023	<b>Referral Type:</b>	Action
<b>Referred to Agency:</b>	DoD OIG	<b>Referred to Sub Agency:</b>	INV-DCIS
<b>Accept/Decline:</b>		<b>Referred to Sub-Activity:</b>	
<b>Suspense Date:</b>	2/22/2023	<b>Accept/Decline Date:</b>	
<b>Workdays from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	1	<b>Days from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	3
<b>Days from Case Creation to Initial Case Referral:</b>	0	<b>Special Handling:</b>	No
<b>Quality Control Review (QCR)</b>			
<b>QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>	
<b>QCR Approval Date:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to QCR Approval:</b>	
<b>Total Workdays in QCR:</b>		<b>Workdays from QCR Approval to Case Referral:</b>	
<b>Days from Contact Received to QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Cumulative Workdays in QCR:</b>	

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**Office of Approval - Inquiry Results Review**

<b>Days from Initial Referral to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>First Inquiry Results Received Date:</b>	
<b>First Review Date:</b>		<b>Workdays from First Inquiry Results Received to First Review:</b>	
<b>Most Recent Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Most Recent Review:</b>	
<b>Total Days in Review:</b>		<b>Any Deficient:</b>	No
<b>MOD Date:</b>		<b>Final Review:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Referral to Final Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>	

**Case Closure**

<b>Date Closed:</b>	5/5/2023	<b>Closed By:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
<b>Result Code:</b>	RF - Refer to Other Agency	<b>Corrective Action:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Case Referral to Case Closed:</b>	81	<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Closed:</b>	84
<b>Days from First Inquiry Results Received to Case Closed:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to Case Closure:</b>	81
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Closed:</b>	81		

<b>Case #:</b>	20230213-083550-CASE-02	<b>Case Status:</b>	Closed
<b>Open Date:</b>	2/13/2023	<b>Consent Override:</b>	No
<b>Office of Receipt Investigator:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<b>Office of Receipt Supervisor:</b>	
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2	<b>Inquiry Status:</b>	Inquiry Complete
<b>Inquiry Type:</b>	Intake	<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Creation:</b>	0
<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Creation:</b>	3	<b>Days Open:</b>	3

**Referral Information**

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<b>Referral Date:</b>	2/13/2023	<b>Referral Type:</b>	Action
<b>Referred to Agency:</b>	DoD OIG	<b>Referred to Sub Agency:</b>	AI-WRI
<b>Accept/Decline:</b>	Decline	<b>Referred to Sub-Activity:</b>	
<b>Suspense Date:</b>	4/13/2023	<b>Accept/Decline Date:</b>	2/16/2023
<b>Workdays from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	1	<b>Days from Contact Received to Initial Case Referral:</b>	3
<b>Days from Case Creation to Initial Case Referral:</b>	0	<b>Special Handling:</b>	No
<b>Quality Control Review (QCR)</b>			
<b>QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>	
<b>QCR Approval Date:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to QCR Approval:</b>	
<b>Total Workdays in QCR:</b>		<b>Workdays from QCR Approval to Case Referral:</b>	
<b>Days from Contact Received to QCR Approval:</b>		<b>Cumulative Workdays in QCR:</b>	
<b>Office of Approval - Inquiry Results Review</b>			
<b>Days from Initial Referral to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>First Inquiry Results Received Date:</b>	
<b>First Review Date:</b>		<b>Workdays from First Inquiry Results Received to First Review:</b>	
<b>Most Recent Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Most Recent Review:</b>	
<b>Total Days in Review:</b>		<b>Any Deficient:</b>	No
<b>MOD Date:</b>		<b>Final Review:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Referral to Final Inquiry Results Received:</b>		<b>Days from Contact Received to First Inquiry Results Received:</b>	
<b>Case Closure</b>			
<b>Date Closed:</b>	2/16/2023	<b>Closed By:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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<b>Result Code:</b>	ED - Evaluated and Declined	<b>Corrective Action:</b>	No
<b>Days from Initial Case Referral to Case Closed:</b>	3	<b>Days from Contact Received to Case Closed:</b>	6
<b>Days from First Inquiry Results Received to Case Closed:</b>		<b>Days from Case Creation to Case Closure:</b>	3
<b>Days from Complaint Created to Case Closed:</b>	3		

<b>Complaint Closure</b>			
<b>Days Awaiting Review:</b>		<b>Closed Date:</b>	5/7/2023
<b>Closed By:</b>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<b>Days from Contact Received to Complaint Closed:</b>	86

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**Complaint Description**

Complainant reported [REDACTED]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED] Complainant alleged [REDACTED]

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [OIG DoD](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [OIG DoD](#)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [OIG DoD](#); [List INV-03IB](#)  
**Subject:** CUI/LEI- Notice of Declination – Hotline Case Referral No. 20230213-083550-CASE-01  
**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 7:25:50 PM

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DCIS will DECLINE this referral.

DCIS UID: 2023001219

Reason: The complaint appears to be better suited for investigation by another agency/component for their review and evaluation.

Recommendation: Army CID. WRI should continue with review & evaluation.

If criminality is uncovered, this matter should be re-submitted to DCIS for re-evaluation.

DCIS RAC/PM INCLUDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NO ACTION IS REQUIRED.

DCIS RAC/PM: DCIS Seattle RAC

Respectfully - DCIS Investigative Business Operations Division

(b) (6),  
(b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Defense Criminal Investigative Service

INV Business Operations - 03IB

PH(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

BB(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@dodig.mil

## DOD CASE REFERRAL

1. FROM	2. TO	3. PRIORITY	4. CASE NO.
<b>Agency:</b> DoD OIG	<b>Agency:</b> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority 1 - Emergency	20230213-083550-CASE-03
<b>Sub-Agency:</b> Hotline	<b>Sub-Agency:</b> CID	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority 1	<b>5. REFERRAL DATE</b>
	<b>Sub-Activity:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority 2	5/7/2023
		<input type="checkbox"/> Priority 3	<b>6. SUSPENSE DATE</b>
			N/A

## 7. INDEPENDENCE

In all matters relating to investigative work, the investigative organization must be free, both in fact and appearance, from impairments to independence; must be organizationally independent; and must maintain an independent attitude. This standard places upon agencies; audit, inspection, and investigative organizations; and individuals assigned to conduct inquiries the responsibility for maintaining independence, so that findings, judgments, conclusions, and recommendations will be impartial and will be viewed as impartial by knowledgeable third parties. **If your organization's independence is impaired, in fact or appearance, take no investigative actions and contact the DoD Point of Contact for this Referral (Item 11 below) immediately.**

## 8. REFERRAL

	a. <b>ACTION REFERRAL.</b> The attached complaint is referred to your Component for ACTION. Conduct an inquiry and provide this office a DoD Hotline Completion Report by the suspense date in Item 6 above. If more time is needed, submit a written extension request to the DoD Hotline Point of Contact for this Referral (Item 11 below) before the suspense date stating the reason for the delay and the anticipated completion date.
X	b. <b>INFORMATION REFERRAL.</b> The attached complaint or disagreement is referred to your Component for INFORMATION. The DoD Component Hotline Coordinator is required to examine the referral to determine if an inquiry is warranted; however, a DoD Hotline Completion Report is not required unless your Component conducts an inquiry resulting in substantiated allegations.
	c. <b>EVALUATE and recommend an appropriate course for the attached complaint.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Case accepted for Action <input type="checkbox"/> Refer this matter to the following organization(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Other. (Explain in 8d.)
	d. <b>OTHER remarks:</b>

## 9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	a. <b>SUPPLEMENT.</b> Supplement to previous referral under this case number.
	b. <b>IDENTITY OF THE SOURCE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous source. <input type="checkbox"/> The source did not consent to the disclosure of his or her identity. If you need the source's help during an investigation, contact the DoD Point of Contact for this Referral (Item 11 below).
X	c. <b>RETALIATION COMPLAINT.</b> This case is not being sent to you for the retaliation matter. For questions about the retaliation matter, contact the Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations Directorate.
	d. <b>DOD SENIOR OFFICIALS.</b> This case is <b>NOT</b> being sent to you for the senior official matter. In the event you develop a credible allegation of senior official misconduct, you must notify DoD OIG Directorate for Investigation of Senior Officials, IAW DoDD 5505.06.

Controlled by: DoD OIG

Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline

CUI Category: PRIIG//INV//WHSTL

Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON

POC: 1-800-424-9098

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**10. REFERRAL REMARKS (Use Referral Remarks Continuation Sheet if needed)**

Allegations of (b) (5) in the attached document are referred to your component for information and action deemed appropriate. Carefully review the document for allegations warranting investigation. An HCR must be submitted for substantiated allegations that result from an information case referral. Questions pertaining to the information that has been referred should be directed via your assigned Hotline Coordinator at your DoD Component.

Case-01 DCIS/closed  
 Case-02 WRI/closed  
 Case-03 CID/info  
 Case-04 non ref/error  
 Case-05 DAIG/info

**11. DOD HOTLINE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS REFERRAL**

a. NAME	b. TELEPHONE	c. E-MAIL ADDRESS
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@dodig.mil

Controlled by: DoD OIG

Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline

CUI Category: PRIIG//INV//WHSTL

Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON

POC: 1-800-424-9098

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## DOD CASE REFERRAL

1. FROM	2. TO	3. PRIORITY	4. CASE NO.
<b>Agency:</b> DoD OIG	<b>Agency:</b> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority 1 - Emergency	20230213-083550-CASE-05
<b>Sub-Agency:</b> Hotline	<b>Sub-Agency:</b> Army IG	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority 1	<b>5. REFERRAL DATE</b>
	<b>Sub-Activity:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority 2	5/7/2023
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority 3	<b>6. SUSPENSE DATE</b>
			N/A

## 7. INDEPENDENCE

In all matters relating to investigative work, the investigative organization must be free, both in fact and appearance, from impairments to independence; must be organizationally independent; and must maintain an independent attitude. This standard places upon agencies; audit, inspection, and investigative organizations; and individuals assigned to conduct inquiries the responsibility for maintaining independence, so that findings, judgments, conclusions, and recommendations will be impartial and will be viewed as impartial by knowledgeable third parties. **If your organization's independence is impaired, in fact or appearance, take no investigative actions and contact the DoD Point of Contact for this Referral (Item 11 below) immediately.**

## 8. REFERRAL

	a. <b>ACTION REFERRAL.</b> The attached complaint is referred to your Component for ACTION. Conduct an inquiry and provide this office a DoD Hotline Completion Report by the suspense date in Item 6 above. If more time is needed, submit a written extension request to the DoD Hotline Point of Contact for this Referral (Item 11 below) before the suspense date stating the reason for the delay and the anticipated completion date.
X	b. <b>INFORMATION REFERRAL.</b> The attached complaint or disagreement is referred to your Component for INFORMATION. The DoD Component Hotline Coordinator is required to examine the referral to determine if an inquiry is warranted; however, a DoD Hotline Completion Report is not required unless your Component conducts an inquiry resulting in substantiated allegations.
	c. <b>EVALUATE and recommend an appropriate course for the attached complaint.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Case accepted for Action <input type="checkbox"/> Refer this matter to the following organization(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Other. (Explain in 8d.)
	d. <b>OTHER remarks:</b>

## 9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	a. <b>SUPPLEMENT.</b> Supplement to previous referral under this case number.
	b. <b>IDENTITY OF THE SOURCE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous source. <input type="checkbox"/> The source did not consent to the disclosure of his or her identity. If you need the source's help during an investigation, contact the DoD Point of Contact for this Referral (Item 11 below).
X	c. <b>RETALIATION COMPLAINT.</b> This case is not being sent to you for the retaliation matter. For questions about the retaliation matter, contact the Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations Directorate.
	d. <b>DOD SENIOR OFFICIALS.</b> This case is <b>NOT</b> being sent to you for the senior official matter. In the event you develop a credible allegation of senior official misconduct, you must notify DoD OIG Directorate for Investigation of Senior Officials, IAW DoDD 5505.06.

Controlled by: DoD OIG

Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline

CUI Category: PRIIG//INV//WHSTL

Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON

POC: 1-800-424-9098

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**10. REFERRAL REMARKS (Use Referral Remarks Continuation Sheet if needed)**

Allegations of (b) (5) in the attached document are referred to your component for information and action deemed appropriate. Carefully review the document for allegations warranting investigation. An HCR must be submitted for substantiated allegations that result from an information case referral. Questions pertaining to the information that has been referred should be directed via your assigned Hotline Coordinator at your DoD Component.

Case-01 DCIS/closed  
 Case-02 WRI/closed  
 Case-03 CID/info  
 Case-04 non ref/error

**11. DOD HOTLINE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS REFERRAL**

a. NAME	b. TELEPHONE	c. E-MAIL ADDRESS
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@dodig.mil

Controlled by: DoD OIG

Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline

CUI Category: PRIIG//INV//WHSTL

Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON

POC: 1-800-424-9098

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FROM: dodignorereply@dcatse.mil  
TO: shelbystartz@outlook.com;  
SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Hotline Complaint: 20230213-083550/Closed  
DATE: 05/07/2023 16:07:27

---

**DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED.**

Dear Mr. Startz:

This is to notify you that the DoD Hotline closed complaint (20230213-083550).

The DoD Hotline is not authorized to release case information or documents. You may file a Freedom of Information Act request with the Department of the Army Inspector General, Army Criminal Investigative Division, and the DoD Office of Inspector General to obtain case records which are authorized for public release by that organization. Additional information is available at:  
<https://www.foia.gov/>.

Sincerely,

The DoD Hotline Team

Controlled by: DoD OIG  
Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline  
CUI Category: PRIIG//INV//WHSTL  
Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON  
POC: 1-800-424-9098

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FROM: dodignorereply@dcatse.mil  
TO: shelbystartz@outlook.com;  
SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Hotline Complaint: 20230213-083550/Closed/202302101638277021\_retaliation\_webform  
DATE: 03/19/2025 12:57:04

---

**DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED.**

**CLOSURE LETTER**

Dear Mr. Startz:

This is to notify you that we closed the complaint you filed with the DoD Hotline.

Please note, the complaint number in our system does not match the acknowledgement letter, unique identifier ID number you received if you submitted your complaint via our website. If you submitted supplemental (additional) complaints regarding the same matter, they were supplemented to this singular complaint. This closure letter serves as the singular notice closing the matter.

All cases regarding your complaint to the DoD Hotline have been closed under complaint number (20230213-083550). The DoD Hotline is not authorized to release case information or documents. You may file a Freedom of Information Act request with the Army Inspector General, Army Criminal Investigative Division, and the DoD Office of Inspector General to obtain case records which are authorized for public release by that organization. Additional information is available at <https://www.foia.gov/>.

Controlled by: DoD OIG,  
Controlled by: Administrative Investigations, DoD Hotline  
CUI Category: PRIIG//INV//WHSTL  
Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON  
POC: 1-800-424-9098

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CUI

DoD Hotline

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CUI