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Department of Defense

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 7050.1
January 4, 1999
Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

IG, DoD

SUBJECT: Defense Hotline Program

References: (a) DoD Directive 7050.1, subject as above, March 20, 1987 (hereby canceled)
(b) DoD Directive 5106.1, "Inspector General of the Department of Defense," March 14, 1983
(c) DoD 5400.11-R, "Department of Defense Privacy Program," August 1983
(d) DoD 8910.1-M, DoD Procedures for Management of Information Requirements, June 30, 1998

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a) to streamline its content and clarify Defense Hotline Program responsibilities.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG, DoD), the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Defense Agencies including nonappropriated fund activities, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

2.2. All DoD personnel.

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3. DEFINITION

Throughout this Directive, the word "inquiry" shall be used when referring to audits, investigations, inspections, or any other type of examination used to ascertain the facts related to a hotline allegation.

4. POLICY

It is DoD policy:

4.1. To support readiness and promote efficiency, economy and effectiveness in DoD programs and operations through the prevention and detection of fraud, waste and mismanagement.

4.2. To encourage DoD personnel to report suspected fraud, waste, and mismanagement without fear of reprisal.

4.3. That the IG, DoD, provide leadership and coordination, as set forth in reference (b), to ensure the proper receipt and evaluation of allegations of fraud, waste, and mismanagement and that appropriate actions are taken as a result of any inquiries.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Inspector General of the Department of Defense, as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all matters relating to the detection and prevention of fraud, waste and mismanagement, shall:

5.1.1. Operate the Defense Hotline Program and direct its implementation in the DoD Components, ensuring that inquiries resulting from allegations are conducted in accordance with applicable laws, DoD regulations and policies.

5.1.2. Conduct periodic Quality Assurance Reviews of DoD Component implementation of the Defense and the DoD Component Hotline Programs.

5.1.3. Issue implementing instructions that specify quality standards for the Defense and the DoD Component Hotline Programs; procedures to ensure appropriate evaluation and action on all allegations of fraud, waste, and mismanagement; and methods to ensure appropriate protection of the identity of sources requesting anonymity or confidentiality.

5.1.4. Maintain an active Defense Hotline Program publicity campaign, using local newspapers, official notices, posters, telephone directories, and other media.

Implement marketing programs to encourage employees to identify and report fraud, waste, and mismanagement in DoD programs and operations.

5.1.5. Establish procedures necessary to ensure that the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of Defense Hotline case file information are consistent with the requirements of reference (c).

5.2. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

5.2.1. Establish policies to ensure that the Defense Hotline Program is fully effective within their organization and designate a Defense Hotline Component Coordinator to report the results of inquiries conducted by the DoD Component in response to Defense Hotline referrals.

5.2.2. Establish the DoD Component Hotline Programs as they deem appropriate and ensure that these programs adhere to the policies and standards established by the IG, DoD.

5.2.3. Ensure the DoD Component accountability by taking appropriate corrective action in response to substantiated allegations of fraud, waste, and mismanagement.

6. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

6.1. The DoD Components should comply with the reporting requirements of the IG, DoD, implementing instructions.

6.2. Inquiries to identify fraud, waste, and mismanagement in DoD programs and operations resulting from Defense Hotline referrals are exempt from licensing in accordance with subparagraph 5.4.7. of DoD 8910.1-M (reference d)).

6.3. The Defense Hotline can be reached at the following telephone numbers: (toll-free) 1-800-424-9098, (commercial) 703-604-8569, or DSN 664-8569. Mailed correspondence should be addressed to the Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1900 or e-mail addressed to hotline@dodig.osd.mil. The Defense Hotline also can be accessed at the IG, DoD, web site at www.dodig.osd.mil/hotline.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense