

## Whistleblower comments OSC File DI-15-4560

The fact that this USMS OPR investigation and subsequent report reveal sufficient IT metadata or security logs were not available to determine who had accessed the information and when is astonishing. Security folder permissions are among the most basic security settings in the IT industry both private and government alike. The USMS and DOJ spend tens of millions of tax payer dollars on IT and related security yet in this case cannot even tell who has accessed sensitive information. While the absence of this data may not allow for evidence to pursue a criminal investigation, responsible personnel and managing officials should be held accountable for their negligent gross mismanagement. There is no mention of any accountability or disciplinary actions in the report.

The report does not address any notification or planned notification of compromised individuals. Unsecured documents related to EEO, employee performance, fitness evaluations or other sensitive information that may have been used prejudicially against individuals in the past without their knowledge in Merit Promotion, Internal Affairs investigations, EEO or grievance cases. This type of information was also discovered in OSC File No. D1-14-1514 just a year prior to this investigation. Every individual whose information was compromised should be provided formal notification including details of what information was compromised. Such a notification would be consistent with the handling of the recent OPM and other data breaches. This information should then be cross referenced with any EEO, OPR, whistleblower retaliation case or other adverse actions against compromised employees for action by employees, EEO, OSC or congressional oversight.

It is my understanding the whistleblower in OSC File No. D1-14-1514 made a copy of the data he reported on and notified the agency. The USMS was made aware of the copy of the data and the whistleblower cooperated fully in the investigation. At the conclusion of that investigation and to this date the USMS has not requested the return of this information. This is indicative of the continued careless negligence of managing officials in the USMS.