



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Recognizes  
National Whistleblower Appreciation Day**

**(July 30, 2019)** Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (ICIG) Michael K. Atkinson welcomed Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and senior leaders from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) to engage the ODNI workforce on the importance of whistleblowing and its impact at an event celebrating National Whistleblower Appreciation Day at the Intelligence Community Campus in Bethesda, Maryland. This is the second year the ICIG has hosted an event celebrating National Whistleblower Appreciation Day to champion the significance of whistleblowing.

Following an introduction by Inspector General Atkinson, Director Coats provided opening remarks. The Director acknowledged whistleblowers as key sources of information for countering wrongdoing, and stressed that lawful whistleblowing is good governance. He strongly encouraged everyone to continue discussions on the importance of reporting instances of wrongdoing. The Director thanked the workforce for their dedication, emphasized the importance of its work, and took questions from the audience. The ICIG greatly appreciated the opportunity to engage with Director Coats and his continued interest and support of its mission.

Mr. Atkinson moderated a panel discussion featuring senior leaders from ODNI's Office of General Counsel, Office of the Intelligence Community Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, Civil Liberties, Privacy, and Transparency Office, Office of the Ombudsman, and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center. Among the topics discussed were the effect whistleblowing has had in saving United States taxpayers billions of dollars each year, and the protections that exist to ensure employee confidentiality during the reporting process. Each panel member provided an overview of the programs and services available within their offices to assist employees with getting the "right information" to the "right people," as well as how the offices work together to ensure employee concerns are addressed in a manner that safeguards information and sources. The session concluded with questions and answers from the audience.

National Whistleblower Appreciation Day celebrates America's first whistleblower law, passed unanimously by the Continental Congress on July 30, 1778, and acknowledges the contributions of whistleblowers in combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States. The United States Senate passed a resolution designating July 30th as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. National Whistleblower Appreciation Day seeks to inform employees, contractors working on behalf of the United States taxpayers, and members of the public about the legal right of a U.S. citizen to "blow the whistle" to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, or abuse.

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The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 established the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The ICIG's mission is to provide independent and objective oversight of the programs and activities within the responsibility and authority of the Director of National Intelligence, to initiate and conduct independent audits, inspections, investigations, and reviews, and to lead and coordinate the efforts of the Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum. The ICIG's goal is to have a positive and enduring impact throughout the Intelligence Community, to lead and coordinate the efforts of an integrated Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum, and to enhance the ability of the United States Intelligence Community to meet national security needs while respecting our nation's laws and reflecting its values. The Forum consists of the twelve statutory and administrative Inspectors General having oversight responsibility for an element of the Intelligence Community. The Chair of the Forum is the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

For more information about the ICIG, please contact [IC\\_IG\\_PAO@dni.gov](mailto:IC_IG_PAO@dni.gov) or visit the ICIG's websites:

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