



Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General

July 10, 2015

A Statement from the VA Deputy Inspector General

One of my first acts as VA Deputy Inspector General is to take steps to ensure that all VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) employees are fully trained on protections and remedies guaranteed to Federal employees by the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, and related laws. To this end, I have decided to seek certification from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel under its 2302(c) Certification Program. Undertaking the certification process will help strengthen our past training efforts so that all OIG employees—from our Hotline analysts who are a whistleblower's first point of contact with the OIG to our auditors, investigators, and healthcare inspectors who interact with whistleblowers in the course of their daily work activities—can assist whistleblowers in making protected disclosures and educating them on their right to be free from retaliation for whistleblowing and other prohibited personnel practices. Whistleblowers are the lifeline of OIG organizations, and I am committed to protect their identities, understand their concerns, objectively seek the truth, and pursue accountability and corrective action.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda A. Halliday".

LINDA A. HALLIDAY
Deputy Inspector General