

# DHS watchdog: Coast Guard member faced retaliation for whistleblower complaint

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A member of the Coast Guard who filed a whistleblower complaint later received a poor performance review and faced retaliation from supervisors, according to the [Homeland Security Department's Office of Inspector General](#).

The unidentified member of the service was not recommended to advance as part of the negative evaluation, the IG wrote in a document quietly released Dec. 11 that detailed findings of an investigation into allegations of whistleblower retaliation.

The retaliation [violates the Military Whistleblower Protection Act](#), which protects members of the armed services from reprisal for reports of crimes like sexual harassment, unlawful discrimination and gross mismanagement.

It's unclear if the office will release the full report of the investigation, [as it has in other cases](#) in the last few years. The DHS IG did not respond to a request for comment on why it didn't release the full findings.

**More details:** An internal investigation began when the member's supervisor "expressed animosity" against the member and others for coming forward about the incident. The nature of the complaint is not described in the announcement.

"The member's immediate supervisor criticized the member for making the protected communication and accused the member of having 'jumped the chain of command,'" in a counseling session to address the performance issue, the release said.

**Growing trend:** The findings from the IG are part of the growing number of Coast Guard members who have been punished for making discrimination and harassment complaints about their superiors.

A lieutenant commander stationed at the Coast Guard Academy [in 2018 received a negative Officer Evaluation Report after filing a harassment complaint](#) and in 2019, a lieutenant commander and a lieutenant were [retaliated against for reporting misconduct relating to a weigh-in incident and compensation, according to the department](#).

**What's next:** The IG sent the full report to DHS acting Secretary Chad Wolf to decide what further action to take under the Military Whistleblower Protection Act.