



U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
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## Special Counsel Applauds Action on Franz Gayl

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Navy Central Adjudication Facility has removed the threat of an indefinite suspension without pay from Franz Gayl and reinstated his security clearance. Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner applauds this action.

Last year, Mr. Gayl's security clearance was stripped in the aftermath of his whistleblowing that the Marine Corps had failed to provide Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRSP) vehicles to service members in Iraq in a timely manner, which led to unnecessary deaths and injuries.

Mr. Gayl was then put on leave with pay and was recently threatened with an indefinite suspension. On October 7, the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a request with the Merit System Protection Board to place a stay on the indefinite suspension while OSC investigated the claim, arguing that the suspension might be in retaliation for whistleblowing. That stay was granted on October 13.

Mr. Gayl still has a case pending with the Office of Special Counsel. Therefore, additional information will not be released at this time.

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*The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. For more information, please visit our website at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).*