



U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
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## Statement Regarding Resignation of U.S Mortuary Official Keel

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As reported in *The Washington Post*, one of the three officials found to have engaged in misconduct and retaliation at the U.S. military mortuary in Dover, Del., Quinton "Randy" Keel, has resigned. Mr. Keel's actions at the mortuary first came to public light in the US Office of Special Counsel's November 2011 report to the President and Congress. As three employees at the mortuary disclosed mismanagement and mishandling of human remains, Mr. Keel and two other supervisors illegally tried to suppress their disclosures and punish them for their whistleblowing.

It is not surprising that Mr. Keel chose to resign. The Office of Special Counsel's report of investigation, which will be made public in mid-March and which the Air Force received in late January, found that Mr. Keel retaliated against the whistleblowers. We remain in communication with senior officials at the Air Force and await their final decisions on disciplinary action for the two supervisors who remain on staff.

"The government needs to listen to employees who come forward with serious allegations of wrongdoing," said Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner. " And it needs to take disciplinary action when supervisors suppress or punish whistleblowers. Failure to do so sends a chilling message."

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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).*