

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE PRESENTATION
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND SERVICES
INSPECTOR GENERALS: ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR
IMPROVEMENT

STATEMENT OF:

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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chairwoman Speier, Ranking Member Banks, Committee Members – Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today along with my colleagues to discuss our roles and responsibilities as Service-IGs.

Generally, the DAF-IG is charged with independently assessing, through investigations, inspections and reviews, the readiness, efficiency, and discipline of the Department of the Air Force, which includes both the Air Force and the Space Force. To empower full independence the DAF-IG and its subordinate organizations reside within the Secretariat chain and The Inspector General (TIG) reports directly to the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF). All authorities of DAF-IG and all organizations within, directly emanate from the Secretary of the Air Force to DAF-IG.

At the DAF level, the DAF-IG organization is composed of three Field Operating Agencies and four Directorates, all serving both the Air Force and Space Force. Below the DAF-level, we have Inspector General (IG) presence at 186 installations supporting our Major Commands, in the Air Force, and our Field Commands, in the Space Force. IGs below DAF-level support and report to their chain of command, however, DAF-IG retains oversight of their inspections and investigations. DAF-IG also issues the policies that govern field IGs' responsibilities and mission and provides the training for all new IGs.

At the installation-level, IG offices are relatively small. They support the installation command team in assessing readiness through exercises, conducting IG investigations, and providing a complaints resolution function to address concerns of airmen and guardians. Formal assessment and grading of an organization's readiness, compliance and effectiveness is not conducted by installation IGs, by design, it's conducted by the next level IG, in our case, Major Command (MAJCOM) and Field Command (FIELD COM) IGs. Inspections by MAJCOM and FIELD COM IGs are oversights by the DAF Inspection Agency, which reports directly to DAF-IG. Oversight is conducted through physical presence at some inspections to ensure assessment policies and grading guidelines are followed. All inspection reports are also forwarded to the DAF Inspection Agency. Inspection standards and guidelines for readiness, compliance and effectiveness are common to all and issued by DAF-IG. Oversight for nuclear mission inspections is provided by the DAF Inspection Agency as well as the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which reports to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

Investigations conducted by installation IGs are oversights by MAJCOM and FIELD COM IGs and the Department of the Air Force Complaints Resolution Directorate (DAF-IGQ), which reports to DAF-IG, and then ultimately by DoD-IG as well. All investigations across the DAF involving a senior official, Brigadier General and above, or Senior Executive Service tier-1 and above, are conducted by the Senior Officials Directorate within DAF-IG. All senior official investigations are oversights by DoD-IG.

Across the DAF we have 2,620 airmen and guardians performing IG duties of which, 1,880 are military and 740 are civilians. Total funded billets however stand at 1,886. The mix of civilians and military is important to us. Our military IGs offer experience, but also critically important

currency in the issues they're charged to inspect or investigate. Our civilian IGs bring a wealth of experience and provide helpful continuity.

Our partnership and collaboration with all our sister-Service IG teammates and DoD-IG is in my view exceptionally good. We receive very helpful and healthy oversight from DoD-IG, and across the Services, we share lessons-learned and best practices with each other. We fully cooperate with DoD-IG and have well-established oversight and handoff guidelines common to all of us, which work very well.

Independence of the IG at all levels is highly respected, cherished, and protected within the DAF. This element of independence is critical to executing the mission, at all levels. Although field IGs report to their chain of command, the results of their inspections and investigations are independent and oversighted at multiple levels. If any IG experiences undue influence, they will up-channel their concerns to the next, higher level in the IG chain, all the way up to DAF-IG. All IGs serve under common standards of conduct.

In terms of overall capacity and resourcing, we have generally received appropriate support and priority. But, like most other organizations, we have some capacity shortfalls, primarily at the installation-level, which we're working to address.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.