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History of the IG

The Army's IG system was conceived in war and has been maintained in peace. In 1777, George Washington determined that the Continental Army required the services of an IG. At the same time, the Continental Congress decided that it also needed an IG to keep the government informed about military affairs. The relationship of the inspectors to the military chain of command and to representatives of the government was a delicate one. Over the years, government agencies have resolved this delicate relationship by establishing their own fact-finding organization, like Congress' GAO and the IG, DOD. While the Army's IG system also provides information to other governmental agencies, it has evolved into a system that keeps commanders fully informed. It serves commanders and their soldiers through the IG functions of [teaching and training](#), [inspections](#), [investigations](#), and [assistance](#).