

AIR FORCE INSPECTION AGENCY



MISSION

Air Force Inspection Agency mission is to provide independent and timely assessments of acquisition, nuclear surety, operations, logistics, support, and health care to SECAF, CSAF, SAF/IG, and commanders of major commands. Serve as primary action arm of SECAF inspection system; Identify critical deficiencies and recommend improvements for accomplishing peacetime/ wartime missions; evaluate USAF activities and policies; Provide by-law and compliance oversight of all USAF-level FOAs and DRUs; The Agency provides independent and timely assessments of acquisition, nuclear surety, operations, logistics, support and health care to SECAF, CSAF, SAF/IG and MAJCOM/CCs. AFIA identifies critical deficiencies and recommends improvements for accomplishing peacetime and wartime missions. The Agency evaluates Air Force activities, personnel and policies. The Air Force Inspection Agency reports to the Secretary of the Air Force Inspector General.

AFIA is organized into three inspection directorates and one mission support directorate.

The Process Integration Directorate conducts assessments focused on improving processes to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Air Force. Independent teams of subject matter experts collaborate with stakeholders at all levels to identify systemic problems, produce actionable solutions and develop a culture of continuous process improvement within the Air Force.

The Eagle Look Directorate provides strategic-level support and consultation to improve efficiency and effectiveness of Air Force processes by working collaboratively with customers at

all levels to produce incremental action plans that improve processes and institutionalize continuous process improvement.

The Inspection and Oversight Directorate schedules, coordinates and executes Compliance Inspections and Nuclear Surety Inspection Oversight assessments. The directorate is the Air Force Inspector General's action arm, responsible for oversight of all Air Force Nuclear Surety Inspection Oversight and the conduct of Compliance Inspections of all FOAs and DRUs.

The Medical Operations Directorate performs Health Services Inspections of all Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard medical units worldwide in partnership with acknowledged expert civilian accrediting agencies to assess/improve medical war plans and readiness, management effectiveness and quality of healthcare delivery at Air Force medical units. Additionally, by agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, AFIA inspects Radioactive Materiel Permits held by the U.S. Air Force.

The Mission Support Directorate administers the infrastructure for AFIA and manages the personnel, financial, information systems, logistics and internal resources to ensure inspectors have the knowledge and equipment to conduct assessments.

Publishes TIG Brief magazine, a worldwide publication that provides authoritative guidance and information to Airmen to improve the performance of inspectors and those they inspect. TIG Brief includes articles on lessons learned, best practices, anticipated or actual problems, recommendations to improve management, safety, security, inspection and operational techniques, and contemporary issues facing the Air Force. Published since 1943, it is the Air Force's oldest publication.

LINEAGE

Air Force Inspection and Safety Center established and activated as a separate operating agency, 31 Dec 1971

Status changed to a field operating agency, 5 Feb 1991

Redesignated Air Force Inspection Agency, 1 Aug 1991

STATIONS

Norton AFB, CA

Kirtland AFB, NM

ASSIGNMENTS

Headquarters, United States Air Force, 31 Dec 1971

COMMANDERS

MG Richard E. Merklings, #1978

MG Harry Falls, Jr., #1981

MG Gerald D. Larson, #1983

Col Robert M. Murdock, #1995

Col James C. Robertson, III, #1997
Col Maria I. Cribbs, #1999
Col Fred K. Wall, #2000
Col J. Worth Carter, #2003
Col David E. Snodgrass, #2004
Col Thomas F. Berardinelli, #2006
Col J. Worth Carter, #2002
Col Michael J. Kingsley, #2008
Col Heraldo B. Brual, #2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
2 Sep 1974-30 Jun 1976

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1978
1 Jan 1979-31 Jan 1982
1 May 1984-30 Apr 1986
1 Oct 1988-30 Sep 1990
1 Oct 1991-30 Sep 1993
1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1995
1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000
1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002
1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006
1 Jan 2011-31 Dec 2012

EMBLEM

Adopted the emblem of the 1002d Inspector General Group upon its inactivation and disbandment on 1 Jan 1972. The two units were not lineally connected.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Air Force Inspection and Safety Center at Norton AFB, CA, monitored the Air Force inspection system and safety programs. MG Richard E. Merklings served as both the center's Commander and as the Deputy Inspector General for Inspection and Safety, Hq. USAF.

On 31 Jan 1978, Air Force Inspection and Safety Center 's work force totaled 569 (407 military and 162 civilians), including foreign exchange officers, safety engineers from major aerospace companies, staff training officers, Reserve supplement officers, and mobilization augmentees.

Air Force Inspection and Safety Center had five directorates—Inspection, Aerospace Safety, Medical Inspection, Nuclear Surety, and Programs. The last supported the others in such areas as analysis, scheduling, operational budgeting, data automation, personnel, and administration. The Center also conducted an Inspection School for all newly assigned USAF, major command, and separate operating agency inspectors.

The Inspector General's Assistant for Inquiries and Complaints, also at Norton AFB, answered complaints referred to The Inspector General of the Air Force.

The Center's Directorate of Inspection evaluated the effectiveness of Air Force management, mission capability, and readiness. The directorate conducted three types of inspections: The Functional Management Inspection to evaluate well-defined activities and programs; the System Acquisition Management Inspection to review all aspects of weapon system acquisition; and the Command Inspection System Inspection to evaluate major command and separate operating agency inspection team performance. The directorate also conducted studies for the Chief of Staff, USAF, and commanders of major commands concerning Air Force-wide readiness and offers a consultant service, reporting only to the commander requesting the assistance.

The Directorate of Aerospace Safety was the Air Force safety program functional manager for USAF and Air Reserve Forces flight, ground, missile, space, and explosives accident prevention. The directorate had primary responsibility for Air Force safety directives. It developed standards, programs, procedures, and trending techniques to assist in identifying and correcting safety-related problems in all functional areas. The directorate participated in mishap investigations of specific interest to the Chief of Staff, USAF, and served as the focal point for all matters pertaining to USAF implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The directorate's Safety Policy and Programs Division developed inter-service, interagency, and international agreements related to Air Force Safety matters. The Life Sciences Division assisted in the planning, design, development, and operation of Air Force weapon systems and work environments. The System Safety and Engineering Division developed safety techniques and procedures for Air Force managers in weapon system acquisition, maintenance, and operation.

The Safety Education Division designed, planned, and developed resources for safety education programs including university-level safety courses. It also published Aerospace Safety, Driver, and Maintenance magazines, and the Safety Officer's Study Kit. The Reports and Analysis Division was custodian of all Air Force mishap reports, and has primary responsibility for identifying problems in all safety disciplines.

The Weapons Safety Division developed and implements missile, space, and explosives safety programs. Flight safety programs were directed by the Flight Safety Division. Occupational Safety and Health Act and other ground safety responsibilities are guided by the Ground Safety Division.

The Directorate of Medical Inspection performed Health Services Management Inspections of all active-duty and Air Force Reserve medical units. The directorate also conducted functional management inspections of specific medical activities and programs.

The Directorate of Nuclear Surety at Kirtland AFB, NM, had safety and inspection responsibilities like those of the Directorates of Inspection and Aerospace Safety, but confined solely to nuclear/laser matters. In addition to directing the accident, incident, deficiency reporting system and giving technical advice for investigating and preventing nuclear accidents, directorate personnel served as secretariat and chairman of the Nuclear Weapon System Safety Group. The Nuclear Weapon System Safety Group evaluated each nuclear weapon system to ensure it satisfies DoD nuclear safety standards; it also originated the weapon system safety rules for Secretary of Defense approval.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 2 Jan 2018

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.