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Your Friendly IG Quarterly

Command Authority. What Is It?

Col Joyce R. Storm

We receive inquiries on scope, scale, and appropriate commission of command authority. Per AFI 1-2, Command Authority is, “the lawful authority and responsibility to promote and safeguard the morale, physical well-being, and the general welfare of persons under their command” and “the authority and responsibility to act and to lead their units to accomplish the mission.”

There is an inherent expectation that commanders balance

Executing the Mission, Leading People, and Managing Resources.

Command Authority is meant to be broad to allow for max execution of missions. This space must be balanced with potential Abuse of Authority.

When we receive an inquiry, we will consult with JA to analyze whether or not a commander acted outside their Title 10 authorities.

If you have questions about Command Authority, please reach out to your IG and/or JA offices.

Complaints & Resolutions

Along with resolving complaints, the Inspectors General at all levels are responsible for ensuring Air Force members are aware of, and understand, their rights and responsibilities regarding the IG Complaints Resolutions program (CRP). USAFA/IG uses a variety of methods to publicize the IG CRP such as this quarterly bulletin, newcomers’ orientations, and visiting work areas. Additionally, the USAFA/IG posters, which are sent out semi-annually through email distribution, provides the USAFA/IG contact information along with the DoD Hotline and SAF/IG complaints hotline. USAFA/IG also educates commanders and civilian leaders (squadron and above) within 90 days of their assignment. This training includes their reporting responsibilities regarding 1) allegations against senior officials and open investigations against officers, and 2) substantiated findings of misconduct

and/or adverse information against officers. Additionally, new commanders/civilian leaders are reminded of the rights that service members have making a protected communication along with guidance on processing non-IG issues referred to them for appropriate action. While much of USAFA/IG’s educational training is scheduled, any organization that is interested in having a short presentation provided to their Airmen, can contact this office directly to set up a date and time at 333-3493. Additionally, any organization may contact the same number to obtain the USAFA/IG poster for distribution at their location.

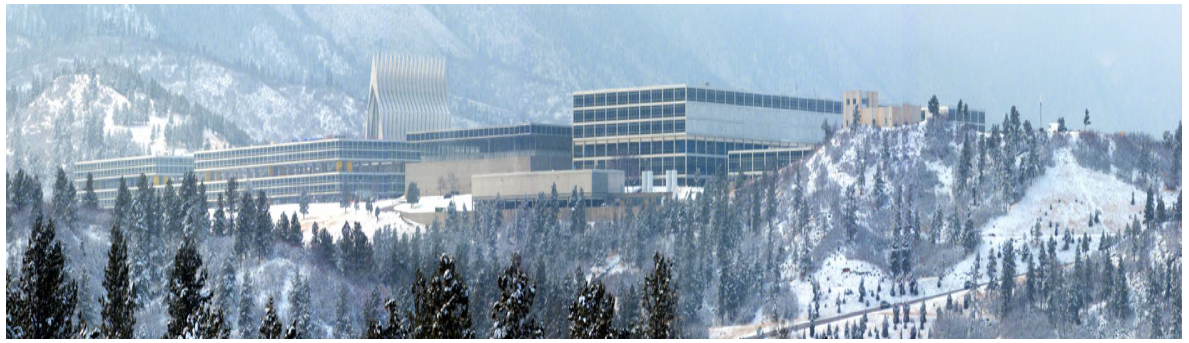


Air Force Inspector General

USAFA Inspector
General:

USAFA Inspector General:
General Inquiries





Rise of the MEIPs (Mission Element Inspection Programs)!

Since October 2023, USAFA's consolidated IG resources have driven change to provide IG capabilities and responsiveness across all mission areas of USAFA. Now, all commanders have input into the institution's risk-based analysis, as well as individual CC Inspection Programs. We created horizontal inspections that include major unit assessments, HQ assessments and dedicated IG support to major unit commanders. Ultimately, IG services that were previously only available to a single major unit and headquarters staff are now available to all major unit commanders.

Over the past year, USAFA commanders and SAPMs have constructed the foundation to assess, report, measure, track and remediate non-compliance with their units. SAPMs and commanders built their self-assessment programs to meet the following goals:

- Risk analysis of missions through a Risk Based Sampling Strategy (RBSS) and Commanders Inspection Reports (CCIRs), providing leadership with a bottom-up view of unit compliance.
- Self-Assessment Plans to ensure continuing review of important areas of risk.
- Business Rules to govern reporting processes and Commander's Inspection Management Boards (CIMB) to report on risk.

All of this teamwork led to successful unit programs! What is next? Validation! Over the next 1-2 years, an assessment team led by USAFA/IG, but partnering with major unit SAPMs, will evaluate each program for Recommend Improvement Areas.



SEL Corner

SMSGt Steve Edwards

Senior Enlisted Leaders (SELs) play a pivotal role in the success of Commanders Inspection Programs (CCIPs) within the Air Force. Their extensive expertise, leadership, and connection to the enlisted force make them invaluable in ensuring readiness, compliance, and operational effectiveness.

Key Contributions:

-Advocacy for standards and compliance—SELs are custodians of Air Force standards and regulations. They ensure that inspections focus on adherence to policies while promoting a culture of compliance. Their hands-on experience with mission execution allows them to identify areas of risk and provide actionable insights.

-Bridging leadership and the enlisted force—acting as a critical link between commanders and enlisted personnel, SELs facilitate two-way communication. They help explain inspection objectives and processes to the force while relaying grassroots concerns and operational realities to commanders. This ensures inspections are

both thorough and practical.

-Training and mentorship—SELs actively train and mentor teammates at all levels, equipping them to excel during inspections. By fostering an understanding of inspection criteria and expectations, they help build a proactive, ready culture.

-Promoting continuous improvement beyond inspections—SELs advocate for a mindset of continuous improvement. They encourage Airmen to consistently meet and exceed standards, aligning day-to-day operations with broader Air Force objectives.

The involvement of SELs in CCIPs ensures that inspections are more than a compliance exercise; they become a vital tool for mission readiness and operational excellence. By leveraging their leadership and experience, SELs enhance the effectiveness of these programs, directly contributing to the Air Force's success.