



## Inspector General Community Celebrates 40 Years

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Inspector General Act of 1978, but the concept of oversight goes back to the country's founding, when General George Washington adopted a European practice by appointing agents to inspect his army and report their findings.

In October 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Inspector General Act, establishing the first 12 presidentially appointed Inspectors General in federal departments and agencies. The Act empowered the Inspectors General to curb waste, fraud and abuse and promote economy and efficiency in government operations. In the 40 years since, the IG community has grown to include 73 statutory Inspectors General, both presidentially appointed and appointed by agency heads, who collectively oversee the operations of nearly all aspects of federal government.

Four decades of curbing waste, fraud and abuse and promoting economy and efficiency in government is worth celebrating – and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) is doing just that. On July 11, 2018, CIGIE hosted at the U.S. Capitol the “Building on 40 Years of Excellence in Independent Oversight” conference, which featured addresses by Watergate journalist Bob Woodward and other distinguished speakers who discussed the past, present and future roles of OIGs.

### Scope and Impact of AbilityOne OIG

The Office of Inspector General for the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (U.S. AbilityOne Commission OIG) is the newest OIG in the IG community.

The inception of the IG in an agency that is 80 years old demonstrates the enduring and evolving history of the success of the IG model. The AbilityOne OIG oversees a program that exceeds \$3 billion a year in sales to the federal government through procurement contracts. The Commission's program consists of a network of more than 500 nonprofit agencies with approximately 45,000 workers who are blind or have significant disabilities.

Information and publications by the AbilityOne OIG are posted on <https://abilityone.gov/commission/oig.html> and [www.oversight.gov](http://www.oversight.gov)