EXPANDING the Inspectors General

THE FIRST INSPECTORS GENERAL HAD GREAT SUCCESS. IN 1988, CONGRESS recognized this success by passing the Inspector General Act Amendments, which established 45 additional Offices of Inspector General. Upon signing the bill, President Ronald Reagan said of Inspectors General, “Their efforts to combat fraud, waste, and abuse deserve our sincere thanks and continued support.”

Like the first 12 Inspectors General created by the 1978 Inspector General Act, 12 of the new Inspectors General established by the 1988 Amendments were also Presidential appointees. The Amendments also created a new group of Inspectors General in agencies that became known as Designated Federal Entities, or DFEs. Those 33 Inspectors General were to be appointed by the agency head.

Although the 1988 amendments saw the largest expansion of Inspectors General, Congress has continued to establish new Inspectors General when it saw a need. Today there are 73 Inspectors General across the Federal Government.