THE FIRST 12
Offices of Inspector General

THE FIRST 12 INSPECTORS GENERAL, APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, WERE a distinguished group of public servants. Many had backgrounds in the law and accounting, and several were veterans. The Inspectors General were tasked with carrying out an entirely new concept of oversight. Specifically, they were to carry out independent oversight from within their agency. They laid the groundwork for protecting taxpayer dollars by detecting and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal Government. Because of their early successes, 10 years later Congress expanded the Inspectors General from the original 12 to 57, and later, to 73.

PUBLIC LAW 95-452—OCT. 12, 1978
Public Law 95-452
95th Congress

An Act
To reorganize the executive branch of the Government and increase its economy and efficiency by establishing Offices of Inspector General within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Labor, and Transportation, and within the Community Services Administration, the Small Business Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Small Business Administration, and the Veterans’ Administration, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act be cited as the “Inspector General Act of 1978.”

PURPOSE; ESTABLISHMENT

Sec. 2. In order to create independent and objective units—