**Coordinating IG Inspections at Division / Installation Level**

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Inspectors General at the Division / Installation level, and the commanders and staffs they support, often find themselves frustrated by the number and frequency of IG Inspections they receive from higher level headquarters such as DoD IG; DAIG; and / or an ACOM / ASCC / DRU IG. What is often overlooked concerning this perceived "flood" of outside inspections is how the local IG could reduce the number of inspections simply by coordinating inspection schedules with these various headquarters.

AR 1-201, Army Inspection Policy, spells out the five principles of an inspection in Chapter 2. One of those five principles states that inspections must be coordinated. At first glance many assume "coordinated" means that they have to properly coordinate their inspections to make sure they have the right Subject-Matter Experts (SMEs) or to ensure that the inspected unit has personnel, equipment, and other resources ready when the inspection team arrives. That type of coordination is important but is not what the inspection principle of "coordinated" really means.

When discussing the inspection principle of coordination, AR 1-201 states that: "The proper coordination of inspections precludes inspection redundancies, complements other inspection activities, and minimizes the inspection burden on subordinate organizations." Additionally, the regulation provides three questions to ask as part of inspection coordination:

1. Can this inspection be canceled or combined with another inspection?

2. Does this inspection duplicate or complement another inspection?

3. Do inspection reports from other agencies or other echelons of command exist that can assist in the conduct of an inspection?

Unlike the common definition of coordination described above, the principle of coordination (per AR 1-201) deals more broadly with the coordination of the inspections a unit intends to conduct or will receive from a higher headquarters. This principle charges OIP Coordinators (and IGs in particular) to be aware of planned external inspections and then make some decisions (within the commander's guidance) about the Division's internal inspection plan. If done properly and in a timely manner, this coordination can affect decision-making at the higher headquarters and lessen the impact of inspections on subordinate units.

The Division IG usually receives annually a two-year IG inspection plan from the next higher IG. The Division IG then has to compare the inspection plan from the higher headquarters with the proposed inspection topics he or she intends to recommend to the Division / Installation Commander. Obviously, as a result of this comparison, the Division inspection plan may require changes, or the Division IG could request to change or alter the inspections plan from the higher headquarters.

The endstate of this coordination should be an updated Division / Installation IG inspection calendar that is forwarded to the unit's higher headquarters.

Above is an example of a two-year Division IG inspection calendar as of the 1st Quarter of FY13. This example shows how a Division IG office can track planned inspections using a relatively simple and easy-to-read product. The calendar allows the Division IG to show the Commander and staff what inspections the higher headquarters IGs have planned in addition to Division internal inspections. It also shows the current status of each inspection. One thing to note on this calendar is the addition of compressed inspections. This information (referring to question 3) can be valuable to an IG at a higher headquarters and that IG's Commander and usually arrives much sooner than completed inspection reports. It lets them know what is important to the subordinate commanders and may impact the decision-making process at the higher headquarters regarding possible topics to inspect in the future.

Once coordination of IG inspections is completed with the higher headquarters, the Division / Installation IG then coordinates with the OIP Coordinator and ensures the proper integration of IG inspections as a part of the unit OIP.



The second calendar example is a portion of a Division inspections calendar that shows the integration of IG inspections as part of the Division OIP. Due to the recent redeployment of this Division, the IG focus is on Readiness Assistance Visits (RAVs) as units begin to reset under Army Force Generation (**ARFORGEN**) and need to rebuild / re-establish systems. What this calendar shows is that coordination between the Division IG and the OIP Coordinator took place to ensure no overload or duplication would occur. The external inspections are clearly listed on the calendar, and Division IG RAVs complement the Division's Command and Staff inspections as units move through the ARFORGEN phases. As with the previous example, the Division would forward the calendar to the higher headquarters to give them visibility of all Division inspections for the purpose of further coordination and planning.

The importance of all this planning and coordination comes to light when the inevitable happens. At some point, every IG will get a "hot" issue most likely directed at various levels from the Secretary of the Army (or higher) down to your Division / Installation commander. That issue will lead to a compressed inspection that immediately takes priority over everything else on the calendar. As important as the issue may be, we must not forget the principle of coordination and its overarching purpose: to minimize the impact of inspections on subordinate units. If proper planning and coordination is taking place, a relatively quick analysis of the inspections and training calendars can help minimize the impact of any compressed inspection by determining which units have the most flexibility to handle an additional inspection.