

Armed Forces Inspectorate (CGA)

The Armed Forces Inspectorate has a general assignment to inspect, oversee, audit, investigate, advise and assess. However, it is much more than a general inspectorate or a ministerial internal audit department.

As both a military body and an agency, the CGA is placed under the direct authority of the Minister of Defence to “assist in overseeing [his] ministry by verifying, in all organisations under his authority and supervision, compliance with laws, regulations and ministerial directions as well as the advisability of decisions and the effectiveness of results with regard to the objectives set and the proper use of public funds” (article D 3123 1 of the Defence Code).



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SPHERE OF COMPETENCE

Since its establishment in 1964, the mission assigned to the CGA has gone beyond the verification of legality traditionally entrusted to the general inspection body, to address the overall performance of the Ministry of Defence. Decree 2009 1178 dated 5 October 2009 specifies that its «assignment to inspect, oversee, audit, investigate, advise and assess» applies to the ministry’s entire sphere (organisation of the ministry, human resources, budget, investment, information systems...).



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SPECIFIC MISSIONS

In addition to enquiries that it conducts at the request of the Minister, the CGA undertakes sector-based monitoring of the ministry’s functions and agencies, monitors the progress of weapons programmes and fulfils the functions of government commissioner with regard to large arms companies, Defence suppliers.

Additionally, the CGA:

- undertakes preventive oversight of certain texts (organisation of the ministry, human resources);
- exercises, within the ministry, the responsibilities assigned to the inspectorates of factories and of facilities classified for environmental protection, under ordinary law;
- is responsible for relations with the Cour des comptes (Audit Office);
- coordinates the Ministerial Internal Audit Committee, chaired by the head of the CGA.

Lastly, the responsibilities of the Armed Forces Inspectorate (CGA) include the safeguarding of the rights of individuals. In this regard, the Thémis unit, established in 2014, is assigned to receiving and handling reports of harassment, violence and discrimination of a sexual or sexist nature or related to sexual orientation, in respect of civilian and military personnel of the Ministry of Defence.

History of the Armed Forces Inspectorate

Emanating from the military administration’s long tradition, the CGA evolved along with the major stages in the establishment of the Ministry of Defence.

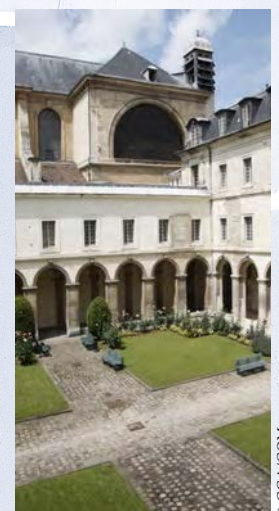
From the birth of standing armies in the 14th century, the King’s Commissioners for War and the Commissioners of the Navy came into being, forerunners of the inspectors and administrative corps, responsible for verifying proper use of public funds by the command. In 1689, Colbert created a post of inspector in each naval port. In 1776, an ordinance granted them total independence and full powers of inspection, principles that were reaffirmed by Napoleon in establishing an inspection body for the army, separate from and independent of the administration.

The establishment in 1961 of a unified ministry for the armed forces naturally led, in 1964, to the creation of a single armed forces inspectorate, described in French as ‘général’ because its jurisdiction is not restricted to the administrative and financial spheres. The

three inspection corps (Army, Air Force, Navy) were combined in 1966 into the ministerial military corps of the Armed Forces Inspectorate (CGA).

SYMBOL

The badge of the Armed Forces Inspectorate (CGA) combines the acanthus leaf, a Greek symbol of triumph over obstacles and insignia of the Roman army commissioners (administrative function), and the oak leaf, the tree being deemed imperishable, symbolising command (sign of the authority of the inspectors within the scope of their activity).



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