

# Before You Tell it to Your Inspector General

**I Got A Beef  
With The System!**

What steps should  
I take now?

✓ **Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.**  
(Are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal)

✓ **Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.**  
(Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway)

✓ **If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first.**  
(IG's at higher commands will normally refer the case to the local IG for action)

✓ **Be honest and don't provide misleading information.**  
(IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information)

✓ **Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.**  
(If a policy is flawed you can propose a change via a DA Form 2028 or DAF Form 847)

✓ **Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution.**  
(Only Commanders can issue orders; the role of the IG is to determine the facts and advise the Commander)

✓ **Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact.**  
(Your claim that a supervisor has violated the rules doesn't make it fact; claim must be supported with evidence)

✓ **Don't expect instant action on your request... Be patient.**  
(Investigations take time and IGs tend to have heavy workloads)

✓ **Be prepared to take "No" for the answer.**  
(In any case "Yes" or "No", the IG will explain why)

**Your Local IG is: Colonel Nathan B. Maertens**

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**To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Service Member, Civilian, or Family Member seeking IG assistance. After all, problem solving is one of the IG's primary missions.**