

Testimony of David B. Buckley
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Confirmation Hearing for CIA Inspector General
September 21, 2010

Madam Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I am deeply honored that President Obama has nominated me for consideration to this position. Before I get too far into my testimony, I would ask your indulgence and allow me to recognize my wife of 26 years, Janice, who is here today, and the several friends who have come to the hearing to show their support for me. Our three children are in college and were unable to travel here today. I am flattered by and thankful for the support of my family and friends.

During more than three decades in government service — including 31 years as a direct government employee — I have married, had three children (now all in college), have remained active in service to my community and church, and count myself blessed in all those endeavors. It would be my honor to continue serving my country as the CIA IG if confirmed for this position.

Madam Chairman, I would like to speak to my background and qualifications, and then share some observations about the role of the Inspector General, CIA.

Madam Chairman, I entered active military service in 1976. I spent eight years in law enforcement and investigations for the Air Force, and then was honorably discharged and became a civilian special agent and counterespionage case officer for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. I conducted criminal investigations and counterespionage operations with the FBI. I received specialized investigative training and I was trained in clandestine human intelligence operations by the DIA and CIA. In

1987, I became a professional staff member at the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee as an investigator for the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where I had the honor for working for PSI Chairman Senator Sam Nunn for seven years, conducting investigations and oversight of government operations and other matters of import to the Senate. Then, from 1995-1998, I was the special assistant to the Department of Defense Inspector General and, realizing the need for more oversight of the DoD intelligence enterprise, worked to establish the position of Assistant Inspector General for Intelligence Review there. In 1998, I briefly served as the Assistant Director for Defense and National Security investigations at GAO's Office of Special Investigations until later that year I was asked to help stand up the newly authorized Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. I spent six years at TIGTA as the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations. In 2005, I was asked by then Ranking Member Jane Harman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to join the staff, where I became the Minority Staff Director for the 109th Congress. Since 2007, I have been working as a consultant for DHS, DoD and intelligence community agencies.

Madam Chairman, I believe the role and mission of Inspector General is important in any agency, but absolutely vital at the Central Intelligence Agency. The Inspector General reports to the Director and is an essential element of the proper functioning of the Agency. The Director needs an independent oversight element to provide unbiased assessments, based on the professional tools that auditors, investigators and inspectors bring. The CIA is involved in international high-risk operations and activities, the vast majority of which are done in secret and often with an intentionally deceptive cover in order to protect them from detection by our adversaries. These factors, as well as the consequences of any abuse in such programs, demand that oversight be both vigorous and sensitive. Furthermore, in the absence of transparency and public scrutiny, the CIA relies on the IG, as well as Congress' intelligence committees, to provide independent oversight. In this context, the Inspector General's office is often the only organization able to probe the Agency's intelligence programs to detect instances of waste, fraud and abuse.

In addition to reporting to the Director, I believe that the CIA IG needs to establish and maintain quality communication with the Senate and House intelligence committees. I believe it is critical that Congress be kept informed of the issues of concern to the IG, and that the IG also be responsive to concerns raised by Congress. An appropriate level of communication is also necessary between the CIA IG and the other inspectors general in the intelligence community, as well members of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, so that the CIA can benefit from government-wide best practices.

Madam Chairman, as someone recently observed, the role of the Inspector General is a difficult job to do well and an easy job to do poorly. The job requires a great deal of skill, tact, and professionalism. If confirmed, I pledge to do my best in the execution of those responsibilities in leading the office and in working with the Agency's leadership, its employees and the Congress. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today and will do my best to answer your questions.