



United States Department of Defense Office of Inspector General



Liberty Day 2005

In recognition of Liberty Day, March 16, 2005, the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General has revised the Liberty Day booklet to include the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Independence Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General issued by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency.

The Liberty Day booklet was first issued in 2002, when Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld recognized Liberty Day with the publication of a compilation of key U.S. documents. The task of compiling the documents was accomplished by Department of Defense Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz, who produced the Liberty Day booklet containing the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies of North-America (1775), and the Articles of War (1775). The books are small enough to fit in a standard shirt pocket.

At the time the books were issued, Secretary Rumsfeld expressed his hope that the compilation of these documents would serve as a constant reminder of the sacred oath required by Congress for every individual elected or appointed to office in the civil or uniformed services.

The U.S. Congress designated March 16 as Liberty Day, in recognition of the birthday of James Madison, fourth president of the United States. According to the October 2000 Joint Resolution, Madison was the major author of the Virginia Plan, "model and basis for [the] United States Constitution that emerged from the Constitutional Convention of 1787."