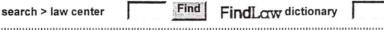


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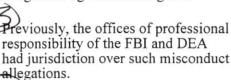
# Ashcroft tightens Justice control over FBI on misconduct allegations

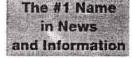
July 18, 2001 Posted: 1:56 PM EDT (1756 GMF)



WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Attorney General John Ashcroft Wednesday tightened the Justice Department's control over the FBI by giving his Inspector General jurisdiction over allegations of FBI misconduct.

Ashcroft's order also extends to allegations against DEA agents.



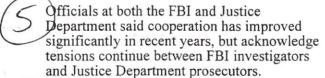


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The move comes in the wake of a series of congressional hearings to determine whether the Justice

Department is sufficiently policing the FBI. For decades, the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover maintained substantial autonomy within the Justice Department.





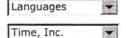
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campaign fund-raising investigation fueled Justice Department complaints of an independent FBI.



The latest flap which prompted calls for increased control of the FBI was the bureau's failure to provide government and defense lawyers all of the documents from the Oklahoma City bombing investigation prior to the trial of Timothy McVeigh, who was executed in June.



In a brief statement, the Justice Department said the expansion of the Inspector General's authority was designed to provide "consistency throughout the department. Misconduct allegations in other Justice agencies, such as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the U.S.



## Marshals Service, are already under the control of the Inspector General.

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"This action now gives the Office of Inspector General the same authority to investigate misconduct allegations against employees of the FBI and DEA that the Office of Inspector General has with respect to all other components of the Department of Justice, thereby promoting consistency in the disposition of such allegations," Ashcroft said in the written statement.

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