

Oversight Matters!

**Committee on Government Reform
Oversight Accomplishments
109th Congress**

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Summary

In the 109th Congress, the Committee on Government Reform proved once again that oversight matters. The Committee and its seven subcommittees convened 256 investigative hearings on a very diverse portfolio of subjects, from contracting in Iraq to steroids in professional baseball. At the Committee's request, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) produced 359 reports, testimonies and briefings in support of oversight investigations and program reviews¹. As a result of Government Reform Committee oversight, billions of dollars worth of outright savings, avoidable costs and increased revenues have been identified and captured.

Pursuant to the Committee's broad jurisdictional grant under House Rules, and guided by the Committee Oversight Plan², investigations were pursued into matters affecting the "[o]verall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities, including Federal procurement."³ In the course of that oversight, the Committee and Subcommittees uncovered wasteful spending, mismanagement, ineffective policy implementation, and poor interagency coordination.

Direct savings and other financial benefits identified as a result of the Committee's GAO work alone now total **\$6.4 billion**.⁴ Current oversight yielded savings in areas such as the Department of Defense excess property reutilization system (\$42 million) and information technology investments at the Department of Interior (\$80 million).⁵ Other quantifiable fiscal achievements accrued from earlier GAO reports to the Committee.

Oversight inquiries and findings also prompted executive branch action to stop wasteful practices, capture savings, and improve program management. Specifically, Committee oversight investigations found:

- The Department of Interior failed to include statutorily required royalty payments in offshore oil leases negotiated in 1998 and 1999, potentially costing the U.S. Government more than **\$10 billion** in lost revenue over the life of the leases. The contracts are being renegotiated.
- Complex and error-prone pay and benefit systems often produced miscalculations and overpayments to deployed Army Guard and Reserve soldiers. GAO discovered that collection actions were being pursued against service members for

¹ See Appendix I

² Available at <http://reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/108th%20Oversight%20Plan.pdf>

³ Rule X, clause 1(h)(6), Rules of the House of Representatives, 109th Congress.

⁴ The total represents the net present value in FY2006 of financial benefits identified and accrued as a result of GAO findings and recommendations contained in work on which the Government Reform Committee was a requestor. The process used to calculate and review savings and other financial benefits attributed to GAO recommendations is described at length in the *Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2005* at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d061sp.pdf>. Accessed October 10, 2006. Savings and other benefits may be captured over five fiscal years.

⁵ See Appendix II

overpayments while millions of dollars in pay and benefits were still being sent to those who did not merit them, including deserters. The Army has instituted a variety of corrective actions.

- In April 2006, the Defense Security Service announced that an unexpected spike in clearance applications had precipitated a budget shortfall requiring the agency to stop accepting applications from federal contractors. The Committee investigation of DSS uncovered systemic management problems and a lack of financial controls. New leadership at DSS is working with OPM to stabilize clearance investigation processing. DSS began accepting contractor clearance applications again in July.
- Legislators and the public lack detailed, real-time information about federal expenditures. In-depth Committee oversight of federal procurements and contracting actions provided impetus for passage of landmark legislation to establish a searchable public database of federal grants and contracts. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (S 2590) will empower everyone with access to the Internet to review federal grants and contracts to see how their tax dollars are being spent.
- Aggressive oversight by the Committee uncovered serious data security problems throughout federal agencies, specifically at the Department of Commerce where it was learned that more than 1,100 laptop computers containing sensitive information had been lost since 2001. Committee provisions to strengthen the Federal Information Security Management Act regarding agency actions in response to data breaches were enacted as part of a Veterans Administration bill.

These and the many other oversight accomplishments in this compilation put the lie to the sweeping generalization that the House has failed to conduct meaningful oversight of the Bush administration. True, it's not the politically charged, inquisitorial, "Gotcha!" oversight some might prefer. But effective, constructive oversight is much more a matter of due diligence and digging than depositions and sensational disclosures. Oversight matters because it makes government better, not because it collects political scalps. Oversight matters because it is a primary constitutional responsibility of the legislative branch to be watchful how the public's money is spent. We have been watchful.

Full Committee Oversight

Subject: Budget Transparency and Controls on Waste and Fraud

Accomplishments: Chairman Davis successfully led the effort to adopt legislation (S. 2590) to increase budget accountability and transparency by establishing a public database to track federal grants and contracts. The new database will ensure that those expenditures are readily accessible to the media, the public, and Members of Congress.

The Committee authored provisions included in the FEMA reform package (H.R.5441) to address waste, fraud and mismanagement challenges that plagued DHS in its response and recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Among the proposals adopted was authority to designate one percent of the funds assigned to any agency for oversight activities such as monitoring and tracking of funds, reviewing contracts, investigating fraud allegations and developing oversight plans and accountability reports for Congress.

Overview: The federal government awards approximately \$300 billion in grants to roughly 30,000 different organizations annually. Each year, roughly one million contracts exceed the \$25,000 reporting threshold. The Blunt-Davis bill will ensure that those expenditures are readily accessible to the media, the public, and Members of Congress. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act will:

Eliminate Wasteful Spending by empowering everyone with access to the internet to begin reviewing federal grants and other forms of taxpayer assistance for waste, fraud, and abuse;

Ensure Compliance with Federal Law by requiring grantees to also disclose their subgrantees, and

Ensure Compliance with Lobbying Restrictions by identifying entities receiving federal grants that would be subject to lobbying restrictions in existing law.

Committee oversight of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina led to adoption of a proposal to reconstitute and strengthen the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Committee-sponsored language on critical human capital programs, procurement practices and programs to combat waste and fraud in recovery grant distributions were included in FEMA reform language adopted in H.R. 5441.

Subject: GSA Reorganization

Accomplishment: Legislation authored by Chairman Davis (H.R. 2066), and now enacted as law, restructured the General Services Administration to modernize government-wide purchasing functions. Two separate buying organizations operating out of two different funds had become a barrier to coordinated acquisition of management services and the technology needed to support a total solution.

Overview:

Under the previous structure, the General Services Administration (GSA), through two similar and often overlapping structures – the Federal Supply Service (FSS) and the Federal Technology Service (FTS) – each year bought products and services from the private sector worth well over \$30 billion and resold them to federal agencies. This bifurcated system may have made sense when it was created two decades ago when information technology investments were a relatively new phenomenon, but technologies such as laptop computers, cell phones, and e-mail are now as ubiquitous with office supplies as are desks and phones.

The General Services Administration Modernization Act assists GSA in remedying its management challenges and responding to the evolving technology market. The centerpiece of the Committee's legislation provides that the Federal Acquisition Service be supported by a newly created Acquisition Services Fund consisting of the assets of the old Information Technology and Supply Funds. The merged Acquisition Services Fund and Federal Acquisition Service created by this legislation eliminate the artificial and outdated barriers that have prohibited GSA from offering acquisition services to customer agencies that combine information technology and other goods and services. The bill will allow GSA for the first time to offer customer agencies goods, services, and information technology together in a single acquisition. It brings GSA in line with the current commercial market that has evolved from stand-alone hardware or services to solutions that are a mix of products, services and technology.

The legislation was the product of an extensive hearing and oversight process undertaken by Chairman Davis that spanned three Congresses. The legislation is rooted in the findings of multiple hearings held by the Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy, the Committee on Government Reform. The last hearing held on March 16, 2005, built on the prior two hearings and laid the groundwork for the legislation consolidating FSS and FTS into a single entity operating out of a unified fund.

Subject: Disaster Preparedness and Response

Accomplishments: As a result of oversight conducted by the Government Reform Committee, the Select Committee on Katrina and others, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has clarified roles and responsibilities under the National Response Plan (NRP). The revised NRP makes clear that the Secretary is responsible for declaring an incident of national significance that triggers federal support in a disaster. Moreover, DHS has completed revisions to the Catastrophic Incident Supplement and developed additional operating procedures to ensure that the activation of the Catastrophic Incident Annex is fully supported.

DHS has retrained and exercised its principle federal officials and federal coordinating officers on roles and responsibilities in a disaster.

DHS has developed a National Exercise Program to plan, organize, conduct, evaluate, report on, and track corrective actions by federal, state, and local efforts as a result of exercises.

DHS has upgraded its advance procurement capability to ensure surge capacity in a disaster.

DHS has created a network of strategic logistics centers for pre-positioning assets.

DHS accelerated recruitment efforts to ensure staffing levels for 2006 hurricane season.

Overview:

In response to the obvious inadequacy of the response to Hurricane Katrina, the Committee on Government Reform and the Select Bipartisan Committee on Hurricane Katrina investigated federal, state, and local government preparedness and response to Hurricane Katrina. The Democrat leadership of the House declined to appoint members to the Select Committee, but Republican Members invited Democrats from affected districts to participate in developing the Committee's findings. Committee hearings on disaster response contracting, use of foreign donations and the federal emergency response command and control structure were among the first to elicit sworn testimony from key figures in the federal effort, most notably DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Director Michael Brown.

Subject: Department of Interior's Management of Federal Offshore Leases

Accomplishment: Based on oversight conducted by the Government Reform Committee and the Energy and Resources Subcommittee, holders of offshore oil leases agreed to renegotiate price threshold royalty payments, potentially preventing the loss of more than **\$10 billion** in federal revenue. The Committee investigation revealed that payment of the royalties had not been required under the terms of lease agreements negotiated during the Clinton Administration.

Overview: In response to a *New York Times* story that called into question the Department of Interior's performance in collecting oil and natural gas royalties, the Committee initiated an investigation and discovered the absence of price thresholds in deepwater leases entered between the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service and various oil and natural gas producing companies during 1998 and 1999. The Subcommittee held four investigative hearings on the matter and the full Committee held one on September 14, 2006.

There is every indication that carelessness and irresponsibility on the Department's behalf contributed to this unprecedented loss to the American people. It appears professional negligence, however, is not peculiar to the Minerals Management Service. At the Subcommittee hearing on September 13, 2006, Interior Department Inspector General Earl Devaney testified that the Department suffers from an institutionalized culture of managerial irresponsibility and a general lack of accountability. "Short of a crime, anything goes," said Devaney.

A full Committee hearing conducted by Committee Chairman Davis and Subcommittee Chairman Issa heard testimony from Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett and MMS Director Johnnie Burton. Both Department officials were unable to account for the mishaps of the Department.

Subject: Modernizing the Federal Acquisition System

Accomplishments: Chairman Davis drafted provisions included in the annual Defense authorization bill to consolidate the civilian boards of contract appeals in the Department of Defense into a single board. Proposals adopted would also provide for inflation adjustments for all major acquisition thresholds, and authorize the use by state and local governments of the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule for goods and services to facilitate recovery from natural and man-made disasters.

Overview:

The Government Reform Committee endorsed two other proposals during the 109th Congress intended to determine how to most efficiently and effectively organize the federal government. These legislative initiatives – the *Government Efficiency Act* and the *Commission on the Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies Act* – were the culmination of eight hearings held by the Government Reform Committee to improve the operations and effectiveness of the federal government.

Topic: Promoting Responsible Federal Property Management.

Accomplishments: Since the 106th Congress, the Committee on Government Reform has held oversight hearings on the financial and management challenges created by the federal government's outdated property management structure. The Committee has examined industry best practices and marked up comprehensive property reform legislation that reflects some of the key property management components of the President's Freedom to Manage initiative. In the 108th Congress, the Committee considered the Federal Real Property Asset Management Reform Act of 2003. However, we were unsuccessful in moving forward with this bill because of complicated budget scoring rules. Therefore, Chairman Davis, Chairman Jim Nussle of the House Budget Committee, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Congressional Budget Office conferred on a legislative proposal that would resolve budget concerns by creating a \$50 million reserve fund for a real property disposal pilot program. The result is H.R. 3134, the Federal Real Property Disposal Pilot Program and Management Improvement Act of 2005.

Overview: H.R. 3134 is intended to establish an expedited property disposal process to gather data on the Federal government's ability – or lack thereof – to dispose of property and to demonstrate that disposing of vacant, underutilized, and deteriorating Federal real property will save taxpayer dollars. H.R. 3134 authorizes the Federal government to dispose of costly real properties it no longer needs, which will be a boon to local communities that can add those properties to their tax rolls. Specifically, the bill codifies key provisions from Executive Order 13327 on Federal real property asset management, establishing an inventory database, a Federal Real Property Council, and Senior Real Property Officers in executive agencies. The Executive Order was based on several management provisions from Federal Real Property Asset Management Reform Act of 2003. H.R. 3134 creates a five-year pilot program to allow for the expedited disposal of federal excess, surplus, or under-performing real properties outside of the bureaucratic conveyance process. Under the pilot program, the OMB Director, in consultation with the Federal Real Property Council, will select Federal properties to be sold under the pilot program. The properties may not be sold for less than fair market value and the disposal costs may not exceed the sales proceeds. As an incentive to participate in the pilot program, the affected agency will retain a portion of those proceeds.

H.R. 3134 will immediately pump millions of dollars into local economies and the private sector business owners will generate tax revenues for the local communities over the long term, while saving the Federal government millions of dollars. The pilot program was agreed to and approved by the House in the budget resolution when a \$50 million reserve fund was provided to the Government Reform Committee to pay for the pilot program. H.R. 3134 is stalled due to misguided referral decisions by the Parliamentarian which effectively strip the Government Reform Committee of its government-wide federal real property disposal jurisdiction and cost the taxpayers billions of dollars in repair and maintenance expenses for unneeded properties.

The Federal government is one of the world's largest real property owners. Its real estate portfolio has over 3.2 billion square feet in nearly 525,000 buildings, valued at over \$328 billion. Many Federal properties are in disrepair, lack up-to-date technological infrastructure, and pose health and safety threats to workers and visitors alike. Others are no longer suited to meet the Federal government's changing mission. Yet, billions of dollars are spent each year just to maintain *unnneeded* properties. As a result, agencies are often forced to vacate properties and lease costly space from the private sector.

The situation has led GAO to include vacant, underutilized, and deteriorating Federal real property management on its High Risk Series. GAO finds that the magnitude of this problem puts the government at significant risk for lost revenues and opportunities. Specifically, GAO points to the fact that underutilized or excess property is costly to maintain, and excess government buildings and land could be put to more cost effective uses, exchanged for more useful property, or sold. For instance, GSA alone, estimates that its deteriorating buildings require \$6-7 billion in repairs and DOD spends \$3-4 billion annually just for maintenance of *unnneeded* facilities. The Department of Defense spends between \$3 and 4 billion annually just for maintenance of unneeded facilities.

Federal agencies are subject to several laws that limit their authority to acquire, manage, and dispose of real property. The General Services Administration has broad responsibility over Federal real property, but its freedom to effectively manage holdings is severely restricted. Other agencies, such as the Department of State, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, have separate authority that gives them limited flexibility to dispose of their property under specific conditions.

H.R. 3134 provides limited and controlled authority for a five-year period to promote and test the federal government's ability to sell real properties through a streamlined process in order to generate savings and revenue. It also provides funding via five percent of proceeds from properties sold that could be used for studies and analyses to evaluate the process--successes/failures encountered in the pilot. The bill would generate revenue for the US Treasury and create additional savings by reducing the administrative and overhead expense of costly repairs, operations and security of buildings in disrepair or non-use.

Additionally, H.R. 3134 creates a monetary incentive for many agencies, which they would not have otherwise, to sell properties and retain 10% of proceeds. The bill enables agencies to circumvent time consuming and arduous processes to dispose of excess properties or those that are under-performing or otherwise not meeting agencies needs. It also creates an opportunity for federal agencies to improve federal properties that are in disrepair, deteriorating, and pose health and safety risks so that they can be sold and/or used for better purposes.

Even if more than 50 properties were sold under the pilot, though that is not anticipated, it would merely put a dent in the government's huge real estate inventory which exceeds three billion square feet in 525,000 buildings valued at more than \$328 million. Ultimately, the potential net benefits of H.R. 3134 include improved federal spaces and

conditions, lower operating costs, enhanced security and safety, and increased revenue without up-front capital expenditures.

Subject: Oversight of Contracting in Iraq

Accomplishments: Throughout the Committee's oversight of contracting in Iraq, testimony highlighted the difficulties of contracting in a war zone and revealed contracting cost and performance problems. As a result, there has been an increase in competitive contracting and an improvement in the government's approach to and oversight of contracting in Iraq.

The Committee on Government Reform is the only Congressional Committee to have conducted an oversight hearing that included appearances by all of the stakeholders: the Administration, oversight entities and contractors on the acquisition strategy in Iraq.

Overview: Overview: Since 2004, the Committee on Government Reform has been engaged in continuous and vigorous oversight of contracting activities in Iraq. The oversight has involved four hearings on the challenges of contracting in a war zone, numerous briefings from the agencies involved in the contracting efforts, as well as review of thousands of documents the Committee obtained from key federal agencies. Those efforts focused primarily on contracts for logistical support of U.S. military operations.

Most recently, on September 28, the Committee held a hearing to examine the process, the progress and the problems of reconstruction contracting activities in Iraq. The Committee learned that the reconstruction efforts in Iraq have been troubled due to problems related to security for the contractor workforce, constant changing of government program managers, and general insurgency limiting personnel access to construction sites. These challenges have resulted in mounting reconstruction costs and delays in project completions.

The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) highlighted the government's improved approach to contracting in Iraq. The Administration has taken corrective action with contractors failing to deliver the prescribed tasks including the Basrah Children's Hospital and the Primary Healthcare Centers. GAO also noted the increase in the number of competitive awards for government contracts in recent months.

Topic: Security Clearance Investigation Delays, Backlog

Accomplishment(s): As a result of the Committee's oversight, processing of contractors' clearance applications was resumed after a two month stoppage due to faulty DOD budgeting. New leadership was installed at the Defense Security Service to address chronic backlogs and the inability to predict, and meet, the demand for clearances.

Overview: Two committee hearings in 2006 focused on the clearance process and efforts to streamline and standardize personnel background investigations. The current personnel security clearance process has come under increasing criticism since the attacks of September 11th, 2001 created an increased demand for security clearances and other types of background investigation. Work by the Government Accountability Office in May 2004 revealed a backlog of investigations of private sector clearance applicants of almost 190,000 and that the total time for these applicants to receive their clearance had ballooned to 375 days. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of work on federal contracts cannot be performed if personnel cannot obtain required security clearances. Lengthy delays pervert the federal contracting market by inflating the salary demands of cleared personnel, increasing costs to the taxpayer.

In its final report, the 9/11 Commission also recognized the importance of fixing the personnel security clearance system, calling for a single federal agency, "responsible for providing and maintaining security clearance, ensuring uniform standards, and maintaining a single database [of cleared personnel]." In view of that recommendation, Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Title III of the legislation directed the Executive Branch to designate a single oversight entity charged with directing day-to-day oversight of personnel security clearance investigations and adjudications as well as the implementation of uniform policies and procedures. The legislation was intended to address the concerns of the multiple government agencies that grant security clearances but which distrust the disparate investigative and adjudicative standards of others and consequently choose to reinvestigate job-seekers rather than recognize their existing clearances, a principle known as reciprocity. On June 27, 2005, the President issued Executive Order 13381, designating the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the oversight entity called for by Congress.

Subject: Networx

Accomplishment: As a result of this oversight process, the GSA Networx program has evolved into a program that will be able to leverage the strengths of all aspects of the telecommunications market.

Overview: The Committee conducted three oversight hearings of Networx, GSA's fourth generation government-wide telecommunications program. Networx is to be a government-wide contract that will allow all government agencies to acquire telecommunications and networking services and technical solutions. Throughout this oversight inquiry, the Committee explored whether various incarnations of the Networx acquisition strategy would provide robust competition from the entire spectrum of the marketplace, including the largest industry players and smaller non-traditional technology firms that offer innovative solutions, to meet the government's increasingly complex telecommunications requirements.

In contrast to previous telecom acquisition programs run by GSA, FTS 2000 and FTS2001, the Networx strategy involves a two-part program to capture the entire marketplace of potential vendors. The major part, known as Universal, will offer a full range of domestic and international network services. The second part, called Enterprise, is aimed at allowing participation by providers who offer fewer specialized services with less extensive geographic coverage than required by Universal. This strategy will allow both large and small companies to play a major role in the development of the Federal telecommunications network.

To date, offers have been submitted under both Networx Universal and Enterprise. GSA anticipates both parts of program will be awarded by spring. The Committee continues to follow the process and has asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to follow the program with a close eye on issues relating to transition of agency telecom requirements to the new program. The Committee is cautiously optimistic that the program will be successful, but it will require continued oversight throughout the selection and transition phases

Subject: Federal Workforce Improvements

Accomplishments: The Committee has championed legislation, regulations and pilot programs to give needed flexibilities to employees and managers at NASA, SEC, FBI, DHS, DOD, Border Patrol, State Department, intelligence agencies, and the federal acquisition workforce, among others. All of these initiatives were conducted in consultation with employee representation organizations

Dental and Vision Care: Starting this January, federal employees will for the first time be able to using pre-tax dollars to pay for dental and vision care. This landmark change to federal employee health coverage is the result of close coordination between Government Reform Committee Chairman Davis, Chairman Susan Collins in the Senate, and the Office of Personnel Management.

Telework: Chairman Davis has coordinated closely with Chairman Frank Wolf to promote the use of teleworking policies in federal agencies. The Committee monitored implementation of telework policies.

Whistleblower Protections: The Government Reform Committee, by a vote of 34-1, endorsed legislation to modernize, clarify, and expand the federal employee whistleblower protection laws. One of the most significant reforms included in that legislation is that if the Office of Special Counsel does not take action within 180 days in response to a whistleblower complaint, a federal employee could chose to have his or her claim decided in federal district court. In addition to this structural change, the legislation included provisions aimed at clarifying congressional intent in response to federal court rulings regarding whistleblower claims that have been issued over the past decade.

Overview: The most valuable asset of the federal government is its employees. Especially in the National Capital Region, employees who spend hours each day commuting to and from their workplace – often a distance of less than 20 miles – are not as productive stewards of the taxpayer dollar as we could hope for. As a result, Chairman Davis has coordinated closely with Chairman Frank Wolf to promote the use of teleworking policies in federal agencies. Taking advantage of available and reasonable technology has the potential to save millions of dollars in routine operations, as well as saving the federal government from spending potentially millions more in the event of a national disaster. The effective use of telecommuting will provide for continued government operations during an emergency or disaster situation, increased efficiency and productivity in the federal government, and an increase in the quality of life of federal employees. The importance of Continuity of Operation Planning was underscored when we heard at the July 2006 hearing how the IRS responded to flooding that forced the IRS building to be closed.

Subject: Combating Illegal Narcotics

Accomplishments: In 2006, the House passed Government Reform Committee sponsored legislation to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy, a White House office established to formulate and coordinate the federal government's drug control policy. The legislation would reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy as well as most of the programs administered by ONDCP, including the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center, and the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

Chairman Davis has led several congressional delegations to Colombia to examine and assess U.S. investment in Colombia. The war on drugs and drug-supported terrorism can only be won with the proper tools, resources, and partnerships. U.S. efforts in Colombia help keep illegal drugs off American streets. Promising results in Colombia over the past five years illustrate the need for continued congressional support to win the war on drugs.

Overview: Congress created the ONDCP in 1988 to be the primary shaper, coordinator and proponent of Federal policies targeted at reducing the impact of drug abuse and its consequences in our society and communities. The Director of the ONDCP, popularly known as the "Drug Czar," advises the President on drug control policy and strategy, reviews and certifies the budgets of national drug control programs and works to ensure their effective coordination. The reauthorization legislation attempts to strengthen the ability of ONDCP to coordinate and manage the drug control activities of multiple federal agencies. The bill represents a forceful and bi-partisan recommitment to a broad national effort to control drug abuse and to renew support for a strong Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). By renewing this authorization, the Committee hopes to soon see an even better coordination of the President's strategy to demonstrably reduce drug abuse by America's young people and to control its sad consequences. Provisions have been included that confirm the status of the Director; that strengthen the Director's ability to oversee fund transfers out of drug control activities; and that ensure that the Administration can't use the budget process to write activities out of the Director's authority, and responsibility, to certify budget proposals.

The Committee's jurisdiction over national drug policy includes oversight of U.S. anti-narcotic activities in Colombia. Colombia is a significant source of cocaine and heroin for the U.S. market, and approximately 80 percent of cocaine entering the U.S. is either produced in or passes through Colombia. The drug trade has a terrible impact on Americans through addiction, drug-related crimes and death. Through Plan Colombia and specifically, the Andean Counterdrug Initiative, the U.S. has provided significant funds and materials to Colombia and the region to fight drug trafficking. The U.S. objective in the region is simply to reduce the supply of drugs in the U.S. by eliminating cultivation and production of cocaine and opium, building law enforcement infrastructure, arresting and prosecuting traffickers, and seize traffickers' assets. Close Committee oversight of these programs has led to more efficient allocation of funds and ensured continued U.S. support for the region's war on drugs.

Topic: Steroids in Professional Sports

Accomplishments: Due to the Committee's investigation, Major League Baseball (MLB) was forced to drop the "and/or fine" provision in its policy for positive steroid tests.

The Chairman, Ranking Member and others introduced H.R.2565 *the Clean Sports Act of 2005*, legislation which became unnecessary once MLB, the NFL, the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) all responded to the Committee's investigation by strengthening their steroid testing policies. The NHL responded by instituting a steroid testing policy for the first time in the history of the League

Overview: In February 2005, Henry Waxman sent a letter to Chairman Davis requesting the Committee look further into the alleged steroid use in MLB as reported by Jose Canseco. Mr. Waxman also highlighted President Bush's State of the Union address in which he stated "the use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids in baseball, football and other sports is dangerous, and it sends the wrong message – that there are shortcuts to accomplishment, and that performance is more important than character."

As a result, the Committee launched a six-month plus investigation into the current and former performance-enhancing drug policies of the MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL, Major League Soccer, US Track & Field, USA Cycling, Association of Tennis Professionals, as well as the policies for the US Anti-Doping Agency/US Olympic Committee.

The Committee held four oversight hearings during its investigation:

1. *Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use*, March 17, 2005;
2. *Steroid Use in Sports Part II: Examining the National Football League's Policy on Anabolic Steroids and Related Substances*, April 27, 2005;
3. *Steroid Use in Sports Part III: Examining the National Basketball Association's Steroid Testing Program*, May 19, 2005; and
4. *Eradicating Steroid Use, Part IV: Examining the Use of Steroids by Young Women to Enhance Athletic Performance and Body Image*, June 15, 2005.

Current and former MLB players, Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro, and Curt Schilling testified at the first hearing, as well as Senator Jim Bunning MLB Hall of Fame, and parents of student athletes who committed suicide after taking steroids. This hearing, televised live on ESPN and cable news networks brought national awareness to the issue of performance-enhancing drug use in professional sports and student athletes. The NFL hearing was also televised live on ESPN.

Topic: The Intergovernmental Impact of Illegal Immigration

Accomplishment: The Committee inquiry and field hearing helped quantify the fiscal impact of porous national borders on state, county and local government budgets, particularly with regard to law enforcement and health care.

Overview: On August 14, 2006, the Committee convened a hearing to examine the impact of illegal immigration on state, county and local governments. Hearing testimony from county and federal law enforcement officials, the Committee was informed of the unique law enforcement-related issues border regions confront. Gang activity among illegal immigrants is an acute problem, with as much as 80 percent of gang-related crime in some counties being tied to illegal immigrants. According to the U.S./Mexico Border Counties study, if the border counties were the 51st state, they would rank first in Federal crimes.

The Committee also heard testimony from San Diego-area health care professionals. The specific impact on communities of illegal immigration can be harshly felt at local hospitals. In the San Diego area, four hospitals have closed in recent years, in part due to the unsustainable burden of uncompensated care to the uninsured, a substantial portion of whom are undocumented aliens. Up to twenty percent of emergency room visits, and up to one quarter of all free care, are estimated to be attributable to illegal immigrants. Emergency departments are already reported to be in crisis and that volume of people using that fragile system for primary care is a huge factor in that crisis.

The Committee continued the important nationwide dialog about immigration reform. Decades-long neglect of the sovereign responsibility to adequately police national boundaries and enforce national laws has transferred immense burdens downstream to local taxpayers. Any serious immigration reform must take account of those intergovernmental impacts and protect states and localities from fiscal shockwaves. From that perspective, effective external and internal enforcement programs are essential prerequisites to broader immigration reforms.

Subject: Dispute Between Comcast and MASN Over Coverage of Nationals Games

Accomplishment: MASN now carried on Comcast. All Nationals games are available to local cable subscribers.

Overview: On April 7, 2006, the Committee held a hearing to examine the dispute between Comcast Corporation and the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN) that was preventing 75 percent of the Washington Nationals baseball games from being carried by Comcast in the Washington area. As the largest cable provider in the Washington region with 1.3 million subscribers, Comcast's failure to carry MASN prevented the majority of the Washington cable market from having access to their home baseball team's games.

Despite the Committee's hearing and the public outcry, Comcast was steadfast in its continued refusal to carry MASN and Nationals games. In response to Comcast's obstinacy, Chairman Davis wrote to the FCC on May 8, 2006 requesting timely consideration by the Commission of a complaint filed by MASN against Comcast alleging violations of the Communications Act for failure to televise the Nationals games.

In July 2006, the FCC ruled that the parties were to submit to binding arbitration to settle their dispute. Less than one month later, on the heels of this decision, Comcast and MASN settled their dispute. MASN is now carried by Comcast, and the majority of the team's games are available in the Washington market.

Topic: Empowering the National Guard

Accomplishments: The Department of Defense’s Financial Accounting System and the Department of the Army have instituted many internal changes to help integrate pay and personnel systems, streamline administrative processes, and enhance education and service to members of the Reserve Component. At the start of our investigation, the Committee uncovered that in just 6 Guard units, over \$1 million of errors occurred for 450 of 481 soldiers investigated. Quarterly briefings and reporting to the Committee by the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army has resulted in hundreds of process improvements that have improved service to soldiers and resulted in a significant decrease in payment errors.

The Department of the Army has also improved oversight and constituent services for wounded reserve component soldiers since the Committee uncovered that wounded soldiers were being incorrectly paid under the ADME system. Since that time, the Department of the Army has created new tracking, training and outreach processes, including MRP, Medical Retention Process, to insure reserve component soldiers are not subject to payment errors during their care and release from service.

The Committee continued its investigation of DoD financial and personnel systems and in a GAO case study, uncovered that due to the still disjointed finance and personal systems, that nearly 900 wounded reserve component soldiers had debts over \$1.3 million due to Army personnel and payroll errors and were referred to debt collection agencies. Since that time, a new law covering wounded soldiers has corrected the process and waived these soldiers from debts not of their own making.

Introduction of the *National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006* has educated Congress about the current operational needs of the National Guard and the necessity of improving structure and representation to reflex new operational realities.

Overview:

In response to continued calls from wounded and mis-paid Guardsmen, the Committee held a hearing on February 17, 2005, entitled “Wounded Army Guard Reserve Forces: Increasing the Capacity to Care,” and a hearing on April 27, 2006 entitled “Financial Friendly Fire: A Review of Persistent Military Pay Problems.” These hearings focused on the lack of integration and regulations by the Department of Defense regarding the deployment of National Guard soldiers in the Global War on Terrorism. GAO studies accompanied the Committee’s investigations uncovered administrative personnel and processes not prepared to deal with the number of National Guard deployed, especially in the Department of the Army.

In response to the increasing post 9/11 role of the National Guard, the Committee held two hearings: “The Critical Role of the National Guard at House and Abroad on October

20, 2005; and “Controlling Restricted Airspace: An Examination of the Management and Coordination of Our Nation’s Airspace on July 21, 2005. Accompanied by GAO studies, the Committee learned that the National Guard is not being given the training or equipment needed to perform Title 10 or Title 32 missions. Governors testified to the lack of coordination with the Department of Defense on the homeland role of the National Guard, and the danger posed to their states by leaving Guard equipment abroad. The hearing on the interagency management of national airspace revealed a lack of coordination, information sharing and decision making between DoD, DHS, and First Air Force (Air National Guard Wings charged with air defense) and the FAA, that still posed serious challenges to coordinated air defense coverage.

Topic: Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Accomplishments: Continued Committee oversight urged the Administration to finalize the pandemic plan and strategy—a multi-agency proposal to ensure coordination among all federal agency activities. The plan was finalized in November 2005 followed by an implementation plan in May 2006. The President requested \$7.1 billion in emergency funding for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza and Congress has appropriated \$3.8 billion as the first installment.

The Committee's three hearings in the 109th Congress on pandemic preparedness helped elevate the issue to a level of national significance. Awareness of the issue was increased as federal, state and local health officials took the public health threat seriously.

Overview: Hurricane Katrina highlighted the need for better preparedness and readiness to handle major public health threats at the local, state and national level. The Committee continued effective oversight regarding pandemic preparedness issues by evaluating the implementation of the Health and Human Services Pandemic Influenza Plan and the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. It was important to assess the guidance and resources provided to state and local health officials to adequately prepare for a public health threat of this magnitude. Additionally, the Committee reviewed progress to establish strong domestic vaccine production capabilities, enhance disease surveillance, and create and promote educational efforts. The Committee also sought information on the government's progress in developing Continuity of Operations plans, including telework, or distributed work programs, to be used during a pandemic.

The Committee requested GAO to examine the Department of Defense's (DOD) pandemic influenza preparedness efforts. A pandemic would be of global and national significance and could affect large numbers of DOD personnel, seriously challenging DOD's readiness.

Topic: Vioxx and Post-marketing Drug Surveillance by the FDA

Accomplishment: Responding to the Committee's oversight investigation into structural problems impeding effective monitoring of drug safety, FDA announced the creation of the Drug Safety Monitoring Board to scrutinize post-marketing risks and benefits of FDA approved drugs, improve how drug safety information is disseminated to physicians and patients by creating a drug safety website, and resolve drug safety disputes.

Overview: On September 30, 2004, Merck announced a voluntary world-wide withdrawal of its arthritis and acute pain medication, Vioxx. Following the Vioxx withdrawal, the Committee conducted an investigation into FDA's actions regarding Vioxx and of FDA's post-marketing surveillance of drugs. The investigation led the Committee to question the structure of FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and the relationship between its Office of New Drugs (OND) the Office of Drug Safety (ODS). During the investigation, it became clear that there were internal problems between OND and ODS. To address the vulnerabilities in the interaction between these two offices, The Committee was pleased with the creation of the Drug Safety Monitoring Board but remained concerned with CDER's approach to the post-marketing surveillance of drugs. To address its concerns, the Committee held a hearing in May 2005.

Subject: Climate change

Accomplishment: The Committee is being recognized as moving Congress forward on the issue of climate change in that it is looking for creative, technology-based solutions to the impacts of climate change.

Overview: .The Committee held two hearings addressing this issue. The purpose of the first hearing was to provide members with a general understanding of the science and what various stakeholders (including the Administration, corporations, and scientists) are saying about the state of the science and how to address the challenge of climate change. The purpose of the second hearing was to examine the Administration’s current Climate Change Technology Program and whether a more intense research program along the lines of a Defense Advanced Research Program Agency would be appropriate.

Environment and Energy Daily said “...the House Government Reform Committee’s second hearing in a week highlights interest in global warming not often seen by the GOP-controlled Congress. In particular, panel chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) stands out for his push to examine allegations of White House censorship on the government’s public statements concerning climate change.” The *Washington Post* characterized the Government Reform Committee hearings as “[a] more responsible” approach than that pursued by other committees.

Subject: Improving Transportation In The National Capital Region

Accomplishments: *The National Capital Transportation Amendments Act of 2006* passed the House and has been approved by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill would reaffirm the federal government's commitment to helping maintain the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Specifically, the legislation would authorize the federal government to appropriate \$150 million annually for ten years to Metro. However, for the first time ever, the legislation would require the local jurisdictions of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to identify dedicated funding streams to match the federal contribution.

In exchange for infusing the Washington Metro system with federal funds, the legislation would also require the establishment of a statutory inspector general at WMATA to ensure that WMATA is spending federal dollars as efficiently and effectively as possible. Additionally, the legislation would bolster the federal government's presence on the WMATA Board of Directors to guarantee that the federal perspective is adequately reflected in the Authority's decision making process.

Overview: As the Committee with jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Government Reform Committee has conducted multiple hearings on transportation issues in the National Capital Region and worked closely with regional leaders to address some of the key transportation issues facing federal workers.

Congress has long recognized the unique relationship between Metro and the federal government and the critical role that Metro plays in federal government operations. Congress has authorized funds for the Transit Authority four times before in recognition of the special service Metro provides the federal government. The federal government first committed to sharing responsibility for Metro in 1960, when President Eisenhower signed the "National Capital Transportation Act," creating a National Capital Transportation Agency to develop a regional rail system for the Nation's Capital. Since that time, Congress has periodically infused the system with federal funding.

Subject: Improving District of Columbia Government Operations

Accomplishments: District Financial Health: Chairman Davis sponsored legislation that will soon be signed into law that would permanently establish a Chief Financial Officer in the District of Columbia that is fully accountable to both Congress and the District government. After close to a decade of clean financial reporting in the District, the legislation also takes a step toward relaxing some of the restrictive spending controls imposed on the District by Congress in order to allow the city to spend local reserves in the event of emergencies without congressional approval.

Education in the District: In addition to closely monitoring the implementation of the *DC School Choice Act* (providing scholarships for District children attending under-performing public schools to enroll in private schools), the Committee has increased its oversight of the District's public school system and the District's efforts to provide quality services to the children of DC

Troubled DC Social Services: The Committee conducted multiple oversight hearings to monitor and assess the progress made in the District to elevate the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and the city's Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration out of court-ordered receivership. These agencies serve the most vulnerable populations in the District – children and citizens with developmental disabilities.

Overview:

Since coming to Congress, Chairman Davis has worked closely with local and federal officials to address the many social and financial challenges facing the Nation's Capital. Whether it was establishing a Federal Financial Control Board to manage the operations and accounts of the District government in the wake of financial collapse, or creating a Tuition Assistance Program to allow District high school graduates to attend public colleges and universities nationwide at in-State tuition rates, Davis has always take a tough but fair approach of District-Federal relations. This Congress, the Government Reform Committee has worked to establish a permanent Chief Financial Officer in the District, aggressively overseen the reforms taking place in the DC public school system, and monitored the progress taken at the local level to reform challenged District agencies that provide services to children and citizens with disabilities.

Subject: Integrity of Government Programs and Operations

Accomplishments: The Committee issued a bipartisan investigative staff report on the nature and extent of the lobbying of White House officials by Jack Abramoff and his associates.

The Committee also unanimously adopted legislation denying federal retirement benefits to federal policymakers convicted of public corruption related crimes and approved provisions increasing the transparency of agency contacts with the private sector, enhancing the revolving door restrictions on executive branch employees, and providing for disclosure of federal sponsorship of communications.

Overview:

As part of its six month investigation, the Committee obtained more than 14,000 pages of billing records and e-mail communications from Abramoff and his associates at Greenberg Traurig L.L.P. related to instances of lobbying White House officials. All of the corruption-related initiatives spearheaded by Chairman Davis have been conducted in a fully bipartisan manner.

Topic: Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) implementation at Fort Belvoir

Accomplishments: Using information gathered at the hearing, the Committee was able to propose several provisions that were subsequently included in the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, including:

Expanded statutory instruction to the Defense Department to include mass transit projects for consideration and a study of transportation infrastructure requirements and construction under the Defense Access Road (DAR) program around Fort Belvoir;

Authored a provision that would facilitate an agreement between Virginia and the Army to complete construction of the Fairfax County Parkway through the Engineer Proving Grounds (EPG) site;

Directed the Secretary of the Army to include a complete assessment of the impact on the local transportation infrastructure in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to increase in personnel at Fort Belvoir;

Secured a provision that will require the Army to immediately conduct a feasibility study for the use of a General Services Administration (GSA) warehouse site in Springfield, VA, that is within walking distance of the Springfield Metro and VRE station, as a prime location to settle some of the 23,000 personnel scheduled to move to Fort Belvoir .

Overview: The 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended that the Department of Defense (DoD) relocate more than 22,000 jobs and 7 million square feet of office space to Fort Belvoir, VA. This constitutes a force roughly the size of the Pentagon, and there are significant concerns that the infrastructure in the proximity of Fort Belvoir will be inadequate to accommodate the increased demand.

On July 27, 2006, the Army released its proposal detailing the placement of the new jobs at Belvoir by the September 15, 2011, deadline. The plan would cluster 18,000 military and civilian workers and 5 million square feet of office space at the Engineer Proving Ground (EPG), located adjacent to I-95, and place the remaining jobs on the main post.

The I-95 corridor, which Fort Belvoir abuts, is already heavily congested. Without proper planning and investment in additional infrastructure, the traffic resulting from the BRAC process could make I-95 and other surrounding roadways impassable. This would have a detrimental effect on commerce along the Eastern Seaboard and in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area. It also threatens the ability of those Department of Defense activities located at Fort Belvoir to accomplish their mission.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Topic: Interior Department Investigation – The Case of the Missing Price Thresholds

Accomplishments: During the second term of the 109th session, the Subcommittee investigated the absence of price thresholds in deepwater leases entered between the Interior Department’s Minerals Management Service and various oil and natural gas producing companies during 1998 and 1999. The Government Accountability Office estimates that the lack of price thresholds will cost the U.S. Government upwards of **\$10 billion** in lost revenue over the life of the leases. According to GAO, this loss is estimated at nearly **\$2 billion to date**.

At one hearing, senior executives from major oil companies testified that they would renegotiate the problematic leases and pay the government what they owe. Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Company, currently being purchased by Anadarko Petroleum, subsequently suspended its lawsuit against the federal government which challenged the Secretary’s authority to impose royalties. A favorable ruling for Kerr-McGee could have cost the federal government an additional \$60 billion.

Based on the expressed willingness of the oil companies to renegotiate, the Congressional Budget Office scored the **entire \$10 billion** owed on the 1998 and 1999 leases as income to the federal government.

Overview: In response to a *New York Times* article that questioned the Department of Interior’s performance in collecting oil and natural gas royalties, the Subcommittee initiated its own investigation and discovered the absence of price thresholds in deepwater leases entered between the Interior Department’s Minerals Management Service and various oil and natural gas producing companies during 1998 and 1999. The Subcommittee held four investigative hearings on the matter and the full Committee held one on Sept. 14, 2006.

It seems carelessness and irresponsibility on the Department’s behalf contributed to this unprecedented loss to the American people. It also appears that professional negligence is not peculiar, even within Interior, to the Minerals Management Service.

At the Subcommittee hearing on Sept. 13, 2006, Interior Department Inspector General Earl Devaney testified that the Department suffers from an institutionalized culture of managerial irresponsibility and a general lack of accountability. “Short of a crime, anything goes,” said Devaney.

A full Committee hearing conducted by Committee Chairman Davis and Subcommittee Chairman Issa heard testimony from Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett and MMS Director Johnnie Burton. Neither official could account for the mishaps of the Department.

The Subcommittee, in conjunction with the full Committee, continues to attempt to ensure that oil companies pay what they owe and that the Interior Department reverses the culture that led to this unprecedented loss to the American people. Said Davis and Issa, “That money belongs to the American people and must be collected just as any other benefit unduly conferred upon a private citizen.”

Topic: Methyl Bromide and the Montreal Protocol's Critical Use Exemption

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee assessed the Critical Use Exemption process for the use of methyl bromide and held an oversight hearing on the issue, which is an issue of critical importance to the nation's health and agricultural interests.

Overview: Methyl Bromide is a widely used biocide because of its effectiveness at killing insects and plant pathogens. Because it is recognized as an ozone-depleting substance, it is regulated globally under the Montreal Protocol and domestically under the Clean Air Act. The use of methyl bromide was supposed to be phased out at the end of 2005, but the Critical Use Exemption was put in place because there is not yet a wide-scale alternative.

Farmers must submit their anticipated annual need for methyl bromide to the EPA, which then appeals for a Critical Use Exemption based on total anticipated use. The amount ultimately allowed under the Exemption is always less. Industry alleges that the EPA and USDA do not advocate enough on their behalf and that this places them at a competitive disadvantage with global counterparts who have nearly unfettered use of the biocide.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from industry advocates, as well as officials from the EPA and USDA.

Topic: Energy Security in a Changing World

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee held five oversight hearings—two relating to geopolitics, two on petroleum refining and natural gas markets and one on hurricane preparedness in the energy sector—and prepared the Government Reform Majority Staff Report *Securing America's Energy Future* to draw attention to the precarious state of U.S. energy supplies and dependence on foreign oil. Chairman Issa also introduced H.R. 4043, the *Gasoline Assurance and Security Act*, a bill to assure crucial fuel supplies for the United States and to avoid economic catastrophe in the event of a supply shock. The bill requires the National Academies of Science to carry out a study on the feasibility and utility of creating strategic reserves for fuels other than crude oil.

Overview: The hearings and report were prepared in response to public concerns regarding our dependence or “addiction” to foreign oil, the rise in global petroleum prices, and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when gasoline and natural gas supplies were curtailed and prices spiked. Security experts have raised concerns about the fact that the United States sends more than \$600 million per day to foreign sources, many of which are state-owned oil companies in countries that are hostile to us and may even support terrorism. In addition, the hearings and Report were spurred by the disturbing trend in which some countries have nationalized energy production or used “energy as a weapon”—such as when Russia cut off the supply of natural gas to the Ukraine and Western Europe during the winter of 2005 and 2006. As stated in the Majority Staff Report, “The energy crisis is potentially an economic and national security threat of such magnitude that governmental action is necessary to ‘provide for the common defense’ and the ‘general welfare’ of the United States.”

Topic: Electricity Grid Reliability and Electricity Restructuring

Accomplishments: Chairman Issa requested a Government Accountability Report entitled *Electricity Restructuring*, which was released in November 2005. The Subcommittee called to account the actions of the most important federal and private entities in ensuring the nation's supply of electricity. These include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as the regional Independent System Operators (ISOs) from California, New York and New England. ISOs are independent, federally regulated entities established to coordinate regional electric transmission and ensure the safety and reliability of the system. ISOs from these three areas oversee the most vulnerable "hotspots" in the nation for the last few years. At hearings before the Subcommittee, FERC and the ISOs testified about their plans on how to strengthen the grid and transmission infrastructure to meet increased demand.

Overview: The Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held two hearings – one on national reliability in June 2005, and one, in July 2006, on specific areas of the country that are particularly susceptible to blackouts or power interruptions. The hearings and GAO report were spurred by public interest in fixing the problems that led to the Northeast-Midwest blackout of 2003 and the California and Western U.S. electricity crisis of 2000-2001.

Topic: The Hydrogen Economy and the Next Generation Nuclear Plant

Accomplishments: Chairman Issa held a number of hearings to analyze progress made in realizing the “hydrogen economy” outlined in President Bush’s 2003 State of the Union Address and subsequent 5-year research initiative on hydrogen and fuel cells. A GAO report, entitled *Nuclear Energy: DOE’s Next Generation Nuclear Plant Project is at an Early Stage of Development*, was prepared at the request of the Chairman.

Overview: The Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held one hearing on the feasibility of creating an economy based on hydrogen as an energy “carrier,” which means hydrogen in fuel cells for transportation and other everyday uses. Two hearings were dealt with advanced nuclear reactor development, including the Next Generation Nuclear Plant, which is a planned demonstration plant that is capable of generating electricity and simultaneously producing hydrogen on a large scale.

Topic: Rebalancing the Carbon Cycle

Accomplishments: This hearing increased the public's awareness of federal government funding of science and technology programs to address carbon emissions to the atmosphere. The hearing also increased awareness of what is known and not known about the carbon cycle, how the carbon cycle is changing and the potential significance of these changes.

Overview: Despite many recent studies about climate change and increased attention from Congress and the federal government, the key natural process at the core of climate change, the carbon cycle, is rarely discussed in detail. The carbon cycle consists of the flow of carbon between the atmosphere, oceans and earth, and has been affected by human emissions of carbon dioxide. This hearing explored basic carbon cycle science and federal government science and technology programs to address anthropogenic carbon emissions.

Topic: Gasoline: What's Causing Record Prices at the Pump?

Accomplishments: This hearing increased the public's awareness of the key factors that influence gasoline prices. Interest in the issue by the Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy and Resources spurred the GAO to publish a report titled "Motor Fuels: Understanding the Factors That Influence the Retail Price of Gasoline." The GAO report was designed to "help improve public understanding of the major factors that influence the U.S. price of gasoline and the challenges facing the United States on issues related to gasoline supply, demand, and prices."

Overview: Increased global oil demand, constraints on refinery capacity, petroleum infrastructure limitations and the number of specialized fuel blends in the U.S. all contribute to the price of gasoline. The Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held a hearing to explore how these key factors influenced gasoline price increases. Partially as a result of the Subcommittee's interest in the issue, the GAO published a report that explored the key factors in more detail.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Topic: DOD Excess Property

Accomplishments: Management at DOD and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) agreed with the Subcommittee findings and have begun to implement inventory control reforms to ensure sensitive equipment is not released to the public. GAO and DOD estimate that more than \$34 million has been saved to date as a result of oversight findings and other initiatives. In addition, training programs are being initiated to ensure employees understand inventory control requirements.

Overview: The Subcommittee investigated the effectiveness of Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) accountability and control processes over inventories disposed by the Defense Reutilization Marketing Service (DRMS). The DLA, which provides logistical support to America's armed forces, in peace and in war, manages an inventory valued at about \$83 billion. The Subcommittee asked the GAO to conduct a study to determine the effectiveness of DLA inventory control processes.

During a June 2005 hearing, the Subcommittee learned that a GAO analysis of \$18.6 billion in excess property disposal activity identified \$2.5 billion in items that were reported to be in new, unused or in excellent condition referred to as "A" condition. Although federal regulations and DOD policy require re-use of excess property in good condition, the analysis showed that DOD units only re-used \$295 million or 12 percent of these items. The remaining \$2.2 billion or 88 percent of the \$2.5 billion in disposals of "A" condition excess property were not re-used. Instead, they were sold, destroyed or transferred or donated to other agencies.

During the 2006 hearing, the Subcommittee learned that although DLA and DRMS implemented several initiatives to improve the overall re-use rate for excess A-condition items, the GAO analysis found that the reported re-use rate remained at 12 percent as of June 2006. In addition, security tests conducted by GAO found that sensitive military equipment items were improperly released by DOD and sold to the public, thus posing a national security risk. Some of this equipment included F-14 parts that Iran needs to maintain its air force. The sensitive nature of these items requires particularly stringent internal security controls.

Topic: Nuclear Weapons Complex Security

Accomplishments: At the Subcommittee's recommendation, the Secretary of Energy designated an office responsible for department-wide security policies and clarified the roles and responsibilities of site offices and headquarters for conducting security oversight.

At the Subcommittee's recommendation, the Secretary of Energy is implementing a comprehensive management plan to improve training, qualifications and increase force strength of the security protective force.

DOE has begun the process of consolidating special nuclear material.

Overview: The Subcommittee conducted an oversight investigation of Department of Energy (DOE) efforts to improve nuclear facility security. The Department of Energy is the nation's custodian for the protection of nuclear weapons, components and special nuclear material.

The oversight investigation attempted to identify systemic problems within the structure and management of DOE. The investigation sought to make sure risk-management policies are threat-based, not artificially constrained by the question, "How much security can we afford?"

Without question, DOE nuclear warhead production plants, test facilities, research labs, storage locations and decommissioned sites are attractive targets for terrorists determined to turn modern technology against us and willing to die while doing so. The highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium (PU) held at various locations could be used as the core of an improvised nuclear device or dispersed as a radiological weapon.

At the Subcommittee's request, GAO found that DOE was not aggressively confronting the many challenges posed by the need to secure a sprawling, aging infrastructure against post-9/11 threats. In general, the DOE management structure may not yet reflect current security imperatives.

In April 2006, the House Government Reform Committee adopted the Subcommittee report entitled, *Updating Nuclear Security Standards: How Long Can the Department of Energy Afford to Wait?*

Topic: Deficiency in the number of Iraqi Security Forces

Accomplishment: Awareness increased of deficiency in number of Iraqi Security Forces needed.

Overview: The Administration has told the Congress and the American public that a key to United States strategy in Iraq is the growth of Iraqi Security Forces. As Iraqi forces “stand up,” United States and Coalition forces will “stand down,” President Bush has said. A number of factors are involved in the “stand up” of Iraqi Security Forces, including the number of personnel, leadership, unit cohesion and esprit, loyalty to the Iraqi government, training and equipment.

The first of these factors, number of personnel, is fundamental. According to the Department of Defense Report to Congress in August 2006, entitled “Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq,” there will be 325,000 trained and equipped Iraqi security personnel by December 31, 2006. The Iraqi Army will include 137,500 and the Iraqi police and border patrol 187,500.

Witnesses testified at the Subcommittee’s hearing on July 11 entitled “The Evolving National Strategy for Victory in Iraq” that successful counter-insurgencies historically require 20 security personnel per 1,000 of population. In the case of Iraq’s 22 million people that live in the areas where insurgent and sectarian violence are occurring, this equates to 440,000 security personnel – or 115,000 more than are expected to be trained and equipped by the end of this year.

The GAO also maintained that “...the number of trained and equipped security forces does not provide a complete picture of their capabilities and may overstate the number of forces on duty.”

Topic: Deficiency in the Elements Required In a Comprehensive Strategy for Iraq

Accomplishment: Obtaining recommendations of the Comptroller General for improving the national strategy for Iraq.

Overview: In November 2005, the National Security Council issued its “National Strategy for Victory in Iraq” (NSVI) – a broad overview to explain the strategy for victory in Iraq.

At a Subcommittee hearing on July 11, 2006, Comptroller General David Walker testified that GAO found the NSVI lacked three of the six characteristics of an effective strategy developed by GAO in its previous work.

To improve the U.S. strategy’s usefulness to Congress, Walker testified that the National Security Council, along with the departments of State and Defense, complete the NSVI by adding these elements:

1. full identification of current and future costs of U.S. involvement in Iraq;
2. full identification of which U.S. agencies implement key aspects of the NSVI, or resolve conflicts existing among the agencies; and
3. full description of how U.S. goals and objectives will be integrated with those of the Iraqi government, and detail the Iraqi government’s anticipated contribution to its future security and reconstruction needs.

Topic: Waste And Mismanagement In Iraq Reconstruction Contracts

Accomplishment: Identified contracting problems in Iraq that produce waste and the mismanagement that leads to those problems.

Overview: Concern over waste in contracting in Iraq is high. As Comptroller General David Walker put it at a Subcommittee hearing on April 25, 2006: “My view is that there’s been a tremendous amount of waste and mismanagement with regard to contracting...with the Defense Department in particular there have been serious, long-standing systemic problems in the contracting area.”

Vice-Chairman Shays told the Comptroller General to provide a list of contractors involved in contracting problems in Iraq and areas in the Department of Defense that need investigation for mismanagement.

On Sept. 28, GAO presented its findings at a full Government Reform Committee hearing on reconstruction contracting in Iraq. Executives of Parsons and Bechtel – two contractors involved in contracts that had serious problems of faulty work, cost overruns and non-completion – also testified. A GAO report submitted as part of the record stated that DOD:

“made assumptions about funding and time frames that later proved to be unfounded. The failure to define realistic requirements has had a cascading effect on contracts and has made it difficult to get...successful outcomes. Further, DOD lacked the capacity to provide effective oversight and manage risks.”

Topic: International Maritime Security

Accomplishments: As a result of this oversight, Chairman Shays introduced H.R. 5707 to provide for standardized reporting of crimes aboard ships.

Overview: The Subcommittee held two hearings examining international maritime security, including law enforcement, passenger security and incident investigation aboard cruise ships.

The hearings found a number of international treaties and domestic laws govern freedom of the seas and protection of individuals traveling aboard ships, leading to a wide disparity among cruise ship lines regarding the reporting and investigations of crimes aboard ships. The Subcommittee found this disparity traces to the fact that cruise ships typically operate under many different flags of jurisdiction, and firm, consistently defined requirements to report crimes against U.S. citizens when a foreign-flagged vessel is in international waters don't exist.

The Subcommittee concluded that current laws allow U.S. agency involvement when an incident involves a national of the United States, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Coast Guard have the authority to investigate and refer for prosecution alleged crimes in international waters involving U.S. citizens. However, because the U.S. does not require operators of foreign-flagged cruise ships to report crimes committed outside its jurisdiction, regulation is required to ensure the safety of U.S. citizens traveling on cruise ships.

Topic: United Nations Oil for Food Program

Accomplishments: This oversight raised awareness of the corruption and fraud endemic to the Iraq sanctions regime, as well as the current U.N. reforms which fail to directly address sources of corruption that led to the scandal. For the first time, minutes of the U.N. “661 Committee” on Iraq sanctions were made public.

Overview: The Subcommittee’s investigation into the Iraq oil-for-food scandal revealed vast fraud and mismanagement surrounding hundreds of millions of dollars of international sanctions-busting activities. The Subcommittee received a GAO report in April 2006 on lessons learned from the scandal and held two oversight hearings during the 109th Congress.

Topic: Rightsizing the U.S. Presence Abroad

Accomplishments: The State Department has reported that efforts to manage the placement of U.S. personnel abroad already have resulted in more than \$150 million in savings. Based on this oversight, language was adopted in the 2005 State Department authorization bill to strengthen the process by which federal agencies determine the need to place personnel abroad.

Overview: If properly managed, rightsizing initiatives could save taxpayer dollars, eliminate unnecessary services and improve the way embassies operate. The Subcommittee received three GAO reports related to U.S. government efforts to right-size the number of staff assigned to embassies, cut costs and improve service.

Overseas Presence: State and USAID Should Adopt a Comprehensive Plan to Improve the Consolidation of Overseas Support Services, released in September 2006, reports that the State Department and US Agency for International Development (USAID) have demonstrated that consolidating services is feasible and could reduce costs and improve services. Yet, the State Department and USAID face several challenges in consolidating services and need to develop better cost and performance data. GAO recommends designating overseas service consolidation a priority, developing a plan for consolidating services that details the desired outcome and setting timelines and performance criteria for success.

Overseas Presence: Cost Analyses and Performance Measures Are Needed to Demonstrate the Full Potential of Providing Embassy Support Remotely, released in May 2006, reported that the State Department has several regional and domestic offices that provide management services to those abroad, including financial management and human resource services. Yet, State faces a number of challenges in expanding its use of remote support and had neither analyzed the potential cost savings of providing some services from remote locations, nor assessed the quality of the support provided. GAO recommended that State Department identify and analyze the various costs of providing support remotely, develop a means to measure customer satisfaction and use information to determine when to provide support services remotely.

Overseas Staffing: Rightsizing Approaches Slowly Taking Hold but More Action Needed to Coordinate and Carry Out Efforts, released in June 2006, cautions that almost five years into the right-sizing effort, the government still lacks accurate data on the size of the U.S. overseas presence. For example, estimates of the number of U.S. government personnel overseas range from 66,000 to 69,000. Moreover, although the State Department's Office of Rightsizing has begun to provide overall direction to the government-wide right-sizing process, non-State agencies have voiced concerns about the process and want to be more included. GAO recommended that State complete and maintain a unified database to accurately calculate the number of U.S. government personnel overseas, improve its efforts to coordinate right-sizing plans with non-State agencies and require that posts develop rightsizing action plans.

Topic: 9/11 Commission Recommendations on Civil Liberties

Accomplishments: A Subcommittee hearing entitled *9/11 Commission Recommendations: Balancing Civil Liberties and Security*, held June 6, 2006, raised public awareness on two pieces of legislation currently referred to committees – H.R. 5000, the 9/11 Commission Civil Liberties Board Act; and the related H.R. 5017, Ensuring Implementation of the 9/11 Commission Report Act.

Overview: The hearing also raised awareness of the inherent weaknesses and faults of the White House Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, including underfunding; a lack of subpoena power; Board members' service at the pleasure of the President; and the stipulation that Board investigations may be vetoed by the Attorney General. Two weeks after the hearing, the Board received a funding increase of \$750,000 to total \$2.25 million.

Topic: 9/11 Health Effects

Accomplishments: As a result of an oversight investigation, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) stated that the \$75 million in appropriations to programs providing health screening, long-term monitoring and treatment for World Trade Center (WTC) responders would begin to be distributed in October 2006, rather than February 2007. In addition, improvements are being made to encompass all those who were in the vicinity of the WTC, including the residents of Lower Manhattan and Federal responders. On February 2, 2005 Congress addressed these issues by introducing the Remember 9/11 Health Act (H.R. 566) to aid those at Ground Zero by providing protection and services to certain individuals after the attacks.

Overview: The Subcommittee investigated the federally funded programs that register, screen, monitor and treat those who were in the vicinity of the World Trade Center (WTC) following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The Subcommittee held four hearings to examine the health effects of the attacks.

At the request of the Subcommittee, the GAO prepared four testimonies on the five separate monitoring programs the federal government funded to assess the effects of the attack and its aftermath on the physical and mental health of various responders. GAO noted the differences between the programs, which include the Fire Department of New York WTC Medical Monitoring Program, the WTC Medical Monitoring Program, the New York State Responder Screening Program, the WTC Health Registry and the WTC Federal Responder Screening Program.

The hearings and GAO testimony demonstrated inadequacies in the screening, monitoring, and treatment of WTC responders. Witnesses at an October 2003 field hearing in New York City testified that federal and local governments needed to take additional measures to investigate health effects and to provide treatment for those injured at the WTC site. A September 2004 hearing concluded that the programs in place for monitoring health and providing assistance to victims of the WTC attack need to be expanded. During a February 2006 hearing, witnesses said public health and safety preparedness against future attacks required further examination.

On September 26, 2006, the subcommittee requested a GAO report to investigate how to improve the implementation of the current programs and detail what lessons have been learned to help develop more effective programs in the event of future disasters.

Topic: Protection of Public Explosive Storage Facilities

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee found The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has no authority to oversee or inspect all state and local government explosives storage facilities. Legislation was proposed to require states to submit to the Attorney General a report that specifies all locations state and local law enforcement agencies use to store explosive materials. The bill would require the Attorney General to maintain an inventory of state and local law-enforcement explosive materials storage sites and to prescribe regulations for the secure storage of explosives by these agencies that, at the least, require video surveillance or an alarm system.

Overview: At the request of Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., the Subcommittee examined the adequacy of safeguards and security measures for, local and state explosive material storage facilities. Concerns have increased because of the attractiveness of the material to terrorists and others with malevolent intent. Although this vulnerability can't be eliminated, strategic improvements in security can make it more difficult for attacks to succeed and lessen the impact of attacks that may occur.

State and local government agencies are not required to obtain a license from ATF to use and store explosives, and only licensees such as private-sector explosives storage facilities are subject to mandatory oversight. As a result, ATF has no means to ensure that state and local government facilities comply with federal regulations.

Although ATF does not collect nationwide information on state and local government explosives storage facilities, information about some of these facilities is collected when facility operators voluntarily request an ATF inspection. Since January 2002, ATF has conducted 77 voluntary inspections at state and local storage facilities. By comparison, all licensed private-sector facilities must submit a variety of information about their facility, including location and security measures, to ATF during the licensing process. ATF also collects information about these facilities during mandatory inspections.

Topic: Overclassification

Accomplishment: The Subcommittee found the government’s information policy in a state of near chaos with no consistency in dealing with sensitive-but-unclassified information not only with the public but with federal contractors and among government agencies. The Office of National Intelligence echoed this concern stating, “the existence of multiple SBU designations, governed by its own unique set of procedures, adds a layer of complexity to efforts to share information.”

Overview: There are at least 52 different protective markings used on sensitive unclassified information. Included among these are widely used markings, such as *Sensitive but Unclassified*, *Limited Official Use*, *Official Use Only*, and *For Official Use Only*. Other notable categories are *DHS Critical Infrastructure Information*, *Law Enforcement Sensitive* and *DOD Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information*.

The Subcommittee found that 9/11 has become an excuse for secrecy rather than a reason for it. Witnesses who testified before the Subcommittee stated, “The national security classification policy is erratic, undisciplined and prone to abuse.” In January 2005, the GAO reported many aspects of homeland security information sharing remain ineffective and fragmented.

The increase in classification of information and the designation of *Sensitive but Unclassified* (SBU) and *For Official Use Only* (FOUO) material is the result of E.O. 13292 which reverted to the “when in doubt, classify” standard and expanded classification authorities and categories.

The Subcommittee also found that overclassification ultimately incurs avoidable costs and compromises national security. Adversarial, versus automatic, declassification procedures are cumbersome and time consuming. Safeguards for unnecessarily classified material require costly security measures. And government officials confronted with dizzying rules for numerous categories of classified information often cannot or do not distinguish significant security matters from routine material mark items secret out of an excess of caution or zeal. In short, he who defends everything defends nothing.

Topic: National Security Whistleblowers

Accomplishments: The House Government Reform Committee adopted legislative changes to the whistleblower law to include as a protected disclosure any lawful disclosure an employee or applicant reasonably believes is credible evidence of waste, abuse or gross mismanagement, without restriction as to time, place, form, motive, context or prior disclosure, and restore protection against retaliatory investigations. The amendment adopted in Committee would give jury trials to federal whistleblowers if the Office of Special Counsel does not take corrective action within 180 days on their retaliation complaints.

Overview: Agency whistleblowers operate within a system of mixed messages. On the one hand, the Code of Ethics adopted by Congress in 1958 directs all government employees to “expose corruption wherever discovered.” Over the years, agency employees have received credit for revealing problems of defense cost overruns, unsafe nuclear power plant conditions, questionable drugs approved for marketing, contract illegalities and improprieties and regulatory corruption. On the other hand, exposing corruption can result in termination, transfers, reprimands, denial of promotion or harassment.

Early on, loopholes developed in the original 1989 Whistleblower Protection Act. The Subcommittee found that there are limited opportunities for employees of the FBI, DOE, DOJ, among others, to seek redress when their security clearance is revoked. Each department and agency deals with issues of reprisal on its own. Many of the departments and agencies formalized their whistleblower procedures in the late 1990s and were on course to improve the relationships between their Inspectors General and employees. However, in the aftermath of 9/11, the ensuing shake-up of the intelligence and counterintelligence agencies and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the Subcommittee found a general deterioration of whistleblower protections.

The reorganization of the national security community appears to have significantly retarded progress made with respect to whistleblower rights over the last 25 years. A subtle trend has emerged that employees who make disclosures about mismanagement see their security clearance revoked. During Subcommittee hearings, witnesses stated this type of reaction is characteristic of the post-9/11 era and argue that institutions have a duty not to tolerate or engage in retaliation against good-faith whistleblowers. This duty includes providing relief to ameliorate the consequences of actual or threatened reprisals, and holding accountable those who retaliate. Whistleblowers and other witnesses to misconduct have a responsibility to raise their concerns honorably and with foundation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Topic: Improving Financial Management at the Department of Homeland Security

Accomplishments: By enacting the *DHS Financial Accountability Act* and monitoring its implementation, the Subcommittee ensured that financial management problems that plague the department would be addressed. In response to close oversight, DHS elevated the position of the Chief Financial Officer and began a series of detailed audits designed to correct the root causes of accounting errors.

Overview: Chairman Todd R. Platts, R-Pa., has made financial management at the Department of Homeland Security one of the top priorities of the Subcommittee. His work has been instrumental in bringing about reforms to strengthen management and accountability at DHS.

On July 24, 2003, Chairman Platts introduced the *Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act*, which was signed into law on October 16, 2004. The Act applied the provisions of the *Chief Financial Officers Act* to DHS, requiring annual financial audits and Senate confirmation of its Chief Financial Officer. In an effort to establish sound management practices early on, the law also required an audit opinion on the department's internal controls – the system of checks and balances that help to prevent and detect errors or fraud.

Chairman Platts' first hearing resulted in a commitment from DHS to submit audited financial statements. After the audit revealed serious weaknesses, Chairman Platts called the department's CFO and Undersecretary for Management to a second hearing in March 2004 to discuss the findings and to continue the push to apply the provisions of the CFO Act to DHS through passage of The DHS Financial Accountability Act.

Once the *DHS Financial Accountability Act* was signed into law, Chairman Platts urged the department to nominate a permanent CFO to be confirmed by the Senate. At a June 9, 2005, hearing of the full Government Reform Committee, Chairman Platts questioned the newly appointed secretary, Michael Chertoff, on financial management matters. He zeroed in on the secretary's omission of the position from his organizational chart and the lack of a nominee for that important post and held a separate Subcommittee hearing to discuss these concerns on July 27, 2005. At that hearing, the chart had been corrected to reflect that DHS would hire a CFO and that the CFO would report directly to the Secretary for Homeland Security – a key requirement of the CFO Act.

In January 2006, President Bush nominated David L. Norquist to be the CFO at DHS. Mr. Norquist was confirmed by the Senate in May. On Sept. 13, 2006, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing to discuss compliance with the stringent internal controls audit requirement. Mr. Norquist testified that the department has begun the important process

of identifying accounting weaknesses and developing corrective action plans to improve management.

Topic: Reducing Improper Payments

Accomplishments: President Bush signed the *Improper Payments Information Act* into law in November 2002. This law, authored by former Subcommittee Chairman Stephen Horn, R-Calif., was the first attempt by the Federal government to quantify the problem of erroneous payments in entitlement programs. Building on the momentum behind passage of the IPIA, the Subcommittee's oversight has pushed Federal agencies to start identifying and correcting root causes of improper payments. Several have made substantial progress, and improper payment rates and dollar amounts are now reported annually in each agency's Performance and Accountability Report.

Overview: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) estimates that the government makes more than \$30 billion a year in improper payments. In 2001, OMB selected 12 programs that had the highest risk of making improper payments and required those programs to identify their error rates. In 2002, Congress passed the *Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA)*, which codified requirements set out in OMB's pilot program and extended those requirements to all Federal programs.

In FY 2004, the 12 original pilot programs involved reported \$45.1 billion in erroneous payments. In FY 2005, the same 12 reported \$37.3 billion in such payments – a savings of nearly \$8 billion.

Chairman Platts made oversight of the IPIA one of the Subcommittee's top priorities and held five hearings on this topic, focusing on the problem from a broad perspective and drilling down into specific programs. With a vast majority of improper payments originating from Medicare and Medicaid, the Subcommittee spent significant time looking in those areas – including a field hearing to look specifically at the TennCare program, the state-administered Medicaid program in Tennessee.

The largest component of the reduction in improper payments from FY 2004 to FY 2005 came in the Department of Health and Human Services – another area where the Subcommittee focused its attention.

Topic: Accountability for Hurricane Katrina Funds

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee's proposed legislation spurred the creation of a Deputy Inspector General for Disaster Relief and a Council of Inspectors General, which coordinates with the Department of Justice Katrina Fraud Task Force to prevent, detect and prosecute fraud. The structure will serve as a model for future disasters.

Overview: On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, destroying thousands of square miles of residential and commercial areas and leaving much of the Gulf Coast uninhabitable. By September 9, 2005, Congress had provided more than \$63 billion to DHS for disaster relief, including \$15 million to the DHS Office of Inspector General to oversee the management and expenditure of these funds.

In response to a request by Chairman Davis and Chairman Platts, the DHS OIG developed a plan for oversight of the funds to be spent directly by DHS. A dozen other Federal agencies involved in the Hurricane Katrina rebuilding effort have developed their own plans to ensure funds are spent wisely.

The plans focused on reviewing and testing internal financial controls, monitoring and advising agency officials on contracts, grants and other financial transactions before they are approved, and meeting with contractors and applicants to advise them of the requirements and assess their capabilities to properly account for funds. In addition, the plans call for aggressive audit and investigative efforts designed to identify and address waste, fraud and abuse as early as possible.

In September 2005, Chairman Platts and Chairman Davis introduced legislation to establish a *Special Inspectors General Council for Hurricane Katrina*, H.R. 3810, which would essentially codify the structure as it was created.

The Subcommittee made two visits to the Gulf Coast to review the activities of the inspector general community and the accountability structure. The DHS OIG, through effective use of the PCIE Homeland Security Working Group, is coordinating the efforts of a dozen federal OIGs whose agencies are involved in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort.

The IG council also coordinates its efforts with the Department of Justice, which established the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force on September 8, 2005, to deter, detect and prosecute those who commit fraud in the wake of this disaster. To date, the Task Force has investigated more than 6,000 tips and complaints and charged more than 400 individuals in fraud cases.

Topic: Strengthening Government Transparency

Accomplishments: After holding the House's first oversight hearing on the *Freedom of Information Act* in five years, Chairman Platts was instrumental in bringing about a sweeping Executive Order to strengthen the procedural aspects of FOIA compliance by federal agencies. The Subcommittee also passed the *OPEN Government Act*, H.R. 867 at the end of the 109th Congress.

Overview: *The Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA), signed into law in 1966, was enacted after more than 11 years of congressional deliberation focused on executive department and agency impediments to public access to information. FOIA established a statutory right of public access to executive branch information in the Federal government.

FOIA originally included nine categories of information protected from disclosure, and Congress has added additional exemptions over time. Since 9/11, an increased tendency toward secrecy has begun to worry civil libertarians and members of the press. In addition, some requesters faced lengthy delays and had trouble tracking their requests and communicating with Federal agencies in the process.

In response to these concerns, several pieces of legislation, including the *OPEN Government Act*, were introduced in the 109th Congress to strengthen FOIA and to alleviate procedural barriers to timely compliance.

In May 2005, members of the press and representatives of the Justice Department, National Archives and Records Administration testified at a Subcommittee hearing. On Dec. 14 of that year, President Bush issued Executive Order 13392, *Improving Agency Disclosure of Information*, which required agencies to review their FOIA operations, develop an agency-specific plan and report to the Attorney General and the OMB Director on their review and plans by June 14, 2006. The Subcommittee held a second oversight hearing to look at the plans in July 2006.

On Sept. 27, 2006, the Subcommittee passed H.R. 867, the *OPEN Government Act*, which would amend FOIA to close loopholes, help requesters obtain more timely responses and provide FOIA officials the tools to ensure that the Federal government remains open and accessible.

Topic: Improving Accounting Controls Throughout Government

Accomplishments: As a direct result of the Subcommittee’s oversight, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) strengthened internal control requirements for Federal agencies through a revision of Circular A-123, which implements the *Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act*. The heads of Federal agencies are now required to assure the soundness of internal controls, and agencies must provide more detailed documentation of their efforts to detect and prevent fraud and mismanagement.

Overview: When corporate scandals shook the U.S. economy early in the decade, Congress enacted stringent accounting requirements on publicly traded companies. The legislation, the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*, required company managers to document safeguards they employ to prevent errors or fraud – commonly known as “internal controls.” Internal controls can be as simple as computer passwords or having a manager sign off on a time sheet and as complex as software that tracks spending and detects spikes that signal trouble. Internal controls provide a foundation for accountability. They are important in the private sector, but they are imperative in government.

Glaring internal controls problems in the Federal government have made headlines recently – for example, \$45 billion in mistaken payments in government programs and soldiers being paid incorrectly while serving in harm’s way.

When audits at DHS revealed egregious problems with internal controls, Chairman Platts sponsored the *DHS Financial Accountability Act* to require DHS management to take responsibility for improving internal controls – and to have an auditor attest to those improvements. In light of this legislation and the new requirements for the private sector under *Sarbanes-Oxley*, the White House re-examined requirements for Federal agencies and decided to put more responsibility on agency management to ensure that internal controls are sound.

Topic: Improving NASA's Financial Management

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee, through aggressive oversight, brought important change to NASA's management structure. In the 108th Congress, audits revealed serious financial management problems exacerbated by a lack of accountability and muddled chain of command for CFOs at NASA's 10 centers in how they interacted with headquarters. By 2005, the NASA Headquarters CFO had direct authority over all 10 center CFOs and had begun to implement corrective actions.

Overview: Audits performed over the past several fiscal years have revealed serious weaknesses in financial management at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In FY 2003, auditors could not confirm the reliability of financial information, pointing to more than \$500 billion in undocumented year-end adjustments, a \$2 billion discrepancy in its fund balance with Treasury and major internal-control weaknesses.

In July 2003, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing to look at the results of the audit and the implementation of a major financial system overhaul, the Integrated Enterprise Management Program (IEMP). NASA management blamed data conversion problems for its poor audit performance in FY2003, but these problems continued through FY 2004 and FY 2005, resulting in additional disclaimers of opinion.

One of the major weaknesses was NASA's structure. With its 10 independent centers each having its own CFO, NASA headquarters had little control over management. After the hearing, NASA's CFO made a commitment to Chairman Platts to work on establishing a clear chain of command – including hiring and firing authority – over all 10 CFOs.

In 2005, the Subcommittee held a joint hearing with the House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. NASA's CFO appeared, accompanied by all 10 center CFOs, demonstrating to the Subcommittees that she had established the appropriate management structure. NASA is making substantial progress in addressing accounting weaknesses and has worked with the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board to develop a proper formula to depreciate assets unique to the Federal government – a formula that will eventually help other Federal agencies.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERALISM AND THE CENSUS

Topic: Ensuring An Accurate Count in the 2010 Decennial Census

Accomplishment(s): Two hearings were held on status of preparations: (1) *Halfway to the 2010 Census: The Countdown and Components to a Successful Decennial Census*, April 19, 2005, and (2) *Apportionment in the Balance: A Look into the Progress of the 2010 Decennial Census*, March 1, 2006.

The Subcommittee requested GAO reports on: (1) how adjusting Decennial Census data affects Federal funding to states, and (2) on whether there was any significant overlap of information collected by government-funded surveys conducted by the Census Bureau, other federal agencies, and private organizations.

Overview: The 2010 decennial census is just over three years away. The census results will drive Congressional reapportionment, redistricting and the annual allocation of about \$300 billion in federal money. The Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census is closely overseeing the 2010 Census policies and preparations to ensure that it will be the most complete count possible.

During hearings, Reps. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and Eleanor Holmes-Norton, D-D.C., have pushed to change the rules for counting prisoners. For more than 210 years, decennial censuses have defined “residence” as the place where people usually live, sleep and eat. Reps. Maloney and Holmes-Norton would like to change the definition of residence for prisoners so that they would be counted where they lived prior to their arrest rather than in the prisons where they reside. Since many federal programs allocate funds based on population, this could lead to increased funding for their districts.

Topic: Helping to Cleanup America’s Dirtiest Industrial Sites.

Accomplishment(s): Chairman Turner introduced the *America's Brownfield Cleanup Act* (H.R. 4480) on Dec. 8, 2005.

The Subcommittee released the H.Rept. 109-616, “Brownfields: What Will It take to Turn Lost Opportunities into America’s Gain?” on Sept. 6, 2006.

Overview: In 2004, full committee Chairman Davis requested that GAO review the EPA’s Brownfields program and the general state of brownfields redevelopment. GAO’s report, published in December of that year, found that stakeholders considered the program helpful in redeveloping brownfields sites, but additional incentives could greatly enhance the value of the program.

In 2005 and 2006, Chairman Turner held five hearings on the topic. These hearings had three distinct purposes – to evaluate the state of brownfields redevelopment across the country, measure the effect of state and federal programs on redevelopment and identify what, if anything, Congress could do to improve redevelopment efforts.

The hearings revealed that there are approximately 450,000 to 1 million brownfield sites across the country. Stakeholders mostly agreed that the high cost of brownfields cleanup remains a significant deterrent to private-sector investment in brownfields redevelopment. Moreover, concerns over legal liability for cleanup have prevented some potential buyers of brownfields sites to back out of redevelopment deals. Thus, the view of stakeholders is that improved federal assistance for loans, grants and tax incentives as well as liability relief is needed to spur on redevelopment efforts.

Despite the broad view that the current system should change, Democrats on the Committee resist moving forward. Their Minority Views report argued that recommendations for liability relief “undermine the longstanding principle of polluter pays.” They also argued that Federal tax credits for brownfields redevelopment “would simply be another vehicle for shifting the cleanup cost from the polluters to taxpayers.”

Topic: Improving America's Community and Economic Development Programs.

Accomplishment(s): The Subcommittee held three D.C.-based hearings and two field hearings on the topic of Community Development Block Grant reform.

A Subcommittee report raised awareness on Capitol Hill about the need for the program and the need to look at revising its formulas and performance measures

A GAO report commissioned by Subcommittee Chairman Turner and Full Committee Chairman Davis had similar findings.

The Administration in its FY 2007 budget proposal abandoned efforts to eliminate the CDBG program and proposed some changes to the CDBG formula and oversight provisions.

Overview: CDBG reform arose as an issue in February 2005 when the administration proposed in its FY 2006 budget submission to Congress to eliminate the CDBG program along with 17 other community and economic development programs. The administration proposed creating a new program in the Department of Commerce called the Strengthening America's Cities Initiative (SACI). The new program would be funded at levels nearly \$2 billion less than all 18 programs combined and \$1 billion less than CDBG by itself. As justification for eliminating CDBG, the Administration cited a recent Office of Management Budget analysis of the program claiming that it was "ineffective."

On March 1, 2006, Chairman Turner began a series of five hearings to examine whether the CDBG program should be eliminated or tweaked to improve its effectiveness. Ultimately, the Subcommittee found, with corroboration from reports released by the National Academy of Public Administration and the GAO, that the program is effective at providing local governments flexible funding that can be used on a wide variety of community-building activities. However, GAOs concurred with the Subcommittee's finding that, though the great bulk of CDBG funds are used on activities consistent with the goals of the program, some accountability problems remain. Specifically, GAO reported, "HUD does not centrally maintain the data needed to determine compliance with statutory spending limits on public services . . . and on administration and planning."

In response to the Subcommittee's investigation, HUD proposed in its FY 2007 budget submission to maintain the program in HUD and adjust both the CDBG formulas and compliance oversight. Although legislation to undertake these steps has yet to be introduced in Congress, the Subcommittee's efforts have moved HUD in the right direction.

Topic: More Equitable Funding Through Improved Intercensal Population Estimates

Accomplishment(s): Hearing on September 6, 2006: “2+2 Should Never Equal 3: Getting Intercensal Population Estimates Right the First Time.”

Overview: On July 22, 2006, *The Washington Post* reported that the Census Bureau admitted to missing more than 31,000 people, or nearly 6 percent of the District of Columbia’s population. Further investigation revealed that 90 cities and counties have successfully challenged Census Bureau intercensal population estimates since 2000.

Intercensal population estimates are vital to the accurate allocation of hundreds of billions of federal dollars. When the Bureau produces inaccurate estimates, many local governments do not have the resources to challenge them and thus have to accept inaccurate counts and insufficient funding.

Dr. Warren Brown of Cornell University testified that “we have to conclude that the vast majority of local governments are unaware of errors in estimates of their population or are not taking advantage of the challenge process.” The Subcommittee has raised awareness of this critical issue.

Topic: Reforming Public and Assisted Housing.

Accomplishment(s): Since February 2006, the Subcommittee has held five hearings on the topic of public and assisted housing in the United States.

Overview: Congress first authorized public housing in 1937, as part of President Roosevelt’s public works legislative package, and intended it to be a temporary program. Nearly 70 years later, it remains a troubled part of the American landscape.

By the 1960s and ‘70s, much of the nation’s public housing had fallen into disrepair and distress. By the 1980s, the public – and many in Congress – were demanding that the system be reformed. Congress responded with several minor reforms throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s. By 1995, however, it was clear that far too many people still lived in public housing developments that did not provide clean, safe, and quality housing.

In 1998, Congress responded again by passing the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act (QHWRA) -- the largest overhaul of the system since its creation. On many levels, it has been widely praised and wildly successful.

Today, public housing programs serve more than 3 million families at a price of more than \$20 billion annually in federal funding. Public housing programs consume nearly 60 percent of HUD’s budget. In recent years, public housing programs and housing assistance have taken a back seat in the national debate.

As Chairman Turner said in the Subcommittee’s first hearing on this topic “With a combined federal, state and local government investment of more than \$50 billion, it is time we begin looking to see if these funds are being well spent”

In February 2006, the Subcommittee began doing just that. Since that time, the Subcommittee has held five hearings to examine the viability and efficiency of the nation’s assisted and public housing system. The Subcommittee has received testimony from 26 witnesses representing a wide variety of stakeholders. These witnesses have included HUD officials, members of academia, public housing authority (PHA) directors, non-profit housing developers, financiers, and public housing tenants. One shortfall in the current system is how HUD forces PHAs to calculate rents. HUD Deputy Secretary Roy Bernardi agreed, saying in the Subcommittee’s final hearing, “The process for calculating rent and verifying income are [sic] onerous, often inaccurate and can result in significantly different rents for similar households.”

Topic: Revitalizing Neighborhoods Through Historic Preservation

Accomplishment(s): Held a hearing on Nov. 1, 2005: *Historic Preservation vs. Katrina: What Role Should Federal, State and Local Governments Play in Preserving Historic Properties Affected by this Catastrophic Storm?*

Held another on Sept. 20, 2006: *“Historic Preservation and Community Development: Why Cities and Towns Should Look to the Past as a Key to Their Future.”*

Congressional Delegation traveled to Hurricane Katrina-damaged New Orleans, La., and coastal Mississippi.

Overview: Mr. Turner and the Subcommittee recognize that historic preservation programs, including tax credits and revolving funds, are effective tools for neighborhood revitalization and economic development. The Subcommittee has explored the various tools and raised awareness of their effectiveness.

Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, stated that the Nov. 1, 2006 hearing “had a profound impact and was very significant in persuading the Congress to enact legislation enriching the tax credit for the impacted area in the Gulf Coast and for providing \$40 million in grant funds to historic resources.”

Topic: Tax-offsets Benefiting Local Governments.

Accomplishment(s): Chairman Michael Turner introduced H.R. 3498 on July 28, 2005. The bill would allow units of local government to collect delinquent local taxes through the reduction of Federal tax refunds.

Overview: In early 2005, Frank O’Leary, treasurer of Arlington County, Va., approached Chairman Michael Turner with an idea that would help local governments increase their general revenues without increasing taxes. Under current law, state governments can collect delinquent state income tax money by intercepting the taxpayer’s federal tax refund. In FY 2005, states pulled in \$232 million from 462,000 payment claims in this way. Why couldn’t local governments do it?

With such compelling evidence of the benefits of expanding the program, Chairman Turner, Full Committee Chairman Davis and Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.), introduced H.R. 3498, to expand the state program to local governments.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Topic: Regulation in Plain Language

Accomplishments: Bipartisan legislation proposed, reported out of committee. Awareness increased.

Overview: James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 62 that, “It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood.” Since our founding, it has been recognized that coherence and clarity in our laws, and later regulations, are necessary for the creation of a strong republic.

The idea of using plain language in crafting regulations is not new to the federal government. During the 1970s, Presidents Nixon and Carter made efforts in this area. In 1993, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12866 and ordered that agencies draft their regulations “to be simple and easy to understand with the goal of minimizing the potential for uncertainty.” It also required that all information provided by agencies to the public, “shall be in plain, understandable language.” In 1998 President Clinton continued his efforts to use plain language in regulations by issuing a Presidential Memorandum that formalized the requirement for federal employees to write in plain language. Yet, federal regulatory agencies continue to defy their obligations in this matter.

On Feb. 28, 2006, Chairwoman Candice Miller, R-Mich., and Ranking Member Stephen F. Lynch, D-Mass., of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs introduced the Regulation in Plain Language Act (H.R. 4809). On March 1, 2006, at a Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs hearing on the topic, Chairwoman Miller said using plain language could save time, effort and money for the government and taxpayers. Federal agencies’ use of jargon, complex sentences, and ambiguous terms leads to frustration, confusion and often non-compliance. “You shouldn’t have to be a lawyer to apply for a small business loan,” she said. One witness, Joseph Kimble, a professor at the Thomas Cooley School of Law in Michigan, testified to the many empirical studies demonstrating the cost savings to businesses and government when plain language is used in regulation and communication with the public. He cited an example of a rewritten Department of Veterans Affairs letter to veterans. After it was rewritten in plain language, calls to regional information centers decreased from 1,100 a year to less than 200. Dr. Annetta Cheek, Vice-Chair of the Center for Plain Language, catalogued examples of government forms, letters and rules that have been rewritten in plain language and the dramatic improvements in clarity. She spoke strongly in favor of the benefits of H.R. 4809 and what it could do to create more positive change in the federal government. Todd McCracken, president of the National Small Business Association, reminded the panel of the disproportionate cost of compliance for small businesses. Those costs often include hiring outside assistance to comply with federal rules. On June 8, 2006, the Committee on Government Reform held a mark up of the Regulation in Plain Language Act (H.R. 4809). The Committee reported the bill favorably.

Topic: Improving the Quality of Information in the Federal Government

Accomplishments: Awareness Increased, Myths Dispelled.

Overview: It seems axiomatic that the quality of government decision making is only as good as the information that informs those decisions. The Information Quality Act (sometimes referred to as the Data Quality Act), passed in 2001, and the amended Paperwork Reduction Act, address this by requiring OMB to develop guidelines to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information and to establish mechanisms that allow citizens to seek and obtain correction of information that does not comply with the guidelines. OMB issued its IQA guidelines in February 2002, directing agencies to prepare their own guidance by April 2002. Agencies have published their own guidelines and have had two years of experience with handling requests for correction of information.

Opponents of IQA argued that agencies would be deluged by requests for corrections and thus prevented from doing their work. Yet, according to OMB, in FY 2003, fewer than 100 requests for corrections were filed under IQA. And requests have declined since. In response to these requests, agencies have removed information from websites, updated or added information to websites or documents, or linked further review to ongoing studies within the agency program areas.

The Committee on Government Reform held the only oversight hearings on this act since its passage. Witnesses argued that the IQA is a critical tool for improving government and belongs among other transparency/good-government statutes such as FOIA. They also argued that judicial review will be necessary for a fully functioning correction process. Government information will become more critical in the future as health, safety, and environmental regulation improve thanks to scientific research. Additionally, government information not part of rulemaking but disseminated via the Internet or other media can have significant impact on public policy decision making. Ensuring that this information is of the highest quality and uses the best available science will be necessary to create fairness and transparency in government.

Topic: The Federal Government and Illegal Immigration

Accomplishments: Awareness Increased; Mistakes Admitted. Janis Sposato, Associate Director for National Security and Records Verification Directorate, USCIS, in response to an inquiry by Chairman Candice Miller, R-Mich., admitted that her agency had failed to issue a simplified I-9 employment verification form, as required by the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act. She said, “My organization came into being in February, so I can’t speak to why something hasn’t happened previously. But, I agree with you completely that the I-9 form and process needs to be simplified. I do have staff working on it ... to simplify the form, reducing the number of documents that may be presented to employers.”

Overview: Immigration dominated political debate in the summer of 2006. Both the House and Senate passed dueling versions of immigration reform bills and both struggled to win the PR debate. The Subcommittee looked at enforcement of current law to determine how government uses its resources to crack down on employers who ignore the ban on illegal immigrant labor. Vigorous enforcement actions against those who employ illegal labor would make it inherently more expensive to employ illegals and decrease the number of job opportunities for illegal immigrants.

The Subcommittee concluded that information and enforcement power is scattered among the Department of Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service. Furthermore, the holders of the information are either not authorized to enforce immigration law (SSA) or choose not to (IRS, Labor). Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE/DHS) is charged with enforcing immigration law but is denied valuable information possessed by SSA, which would help ICE target resources at problem employers.

Topic: The Impact of Regulation on U.S. Manufacturing

Accomplishments: Regulation changed; Legislation Proposed (H.R. 3255); Awareness Increased. Chairman Candice Miller, R-Mich., introduced H.R. 3255, which requires OSHA to adopt current fire protection safety standards. DOT issued a Final Rule governing Hours-of- Service for Truckers, which is currently the subject of litigation. OSHA issued a final regulation in February 2006 governing industrial exposure to Hex Chrom. This rule is also the subject of litigation from both manufacturers and labor unions. EPA issued a proposed rulemaking to provide relief for the paperwork burden on small businesses associated with TRI compliance in October 2005.

Overview: American manufacturers shed 2.8 million jobs between 2000 and 2003. Michigan endured sustained unemployment of higher than 7 percent, in large part attributable to the decline in the local manufacturing sector. Manufacturers bear the brunt of regulation compliance, spending about \$8,000 per employee. In response to the rapid decline of the manufacturing industry, OMB asked the public to nominate rules that could be reformed to reduce regulatory burden. Of the 189 nominations received, OMB selected 76 for priority consideration. An OMB report released in March 2005 summarized each of the 76 nominations, along with a timeline for specified action by the agencies. A high percentage of the nominations are either OSHA, EPA or DOT regulations, all of which sent representatives to testify before the Subcommittee in a series of hearings that focused on agencies' plans to improve these burdensome regulations. The "hot topics" of the hearing include: OSHA's hexavalent chromium rules; DOT hours-of-service regulations; OSHA's fire safety standards and EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI).

On the value of sunset provisions in health and safety laws: DOT General Counsel Jeffrey Rosen: "As a tool, [sunsets] are extremely useful. It is a very effective way to have agencies assess the continuing validity of the assumptions that went into the original rule."

Topic: Reduction of Paperwork Burden

Accomplishments: Hearings Held, Awareness Increased

Overview: The Subcommittee has led efforts to reduce the paperwork burden Federal agencies impose on the public, which has increased 22 percent since 1995 and now stands at 8.4 billion hours. The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, which has primary legislative jurisdiction of the Paperwork Reduction Act, held five hearings on government efforts to reduce the paperwork burden.

The Subcommittee examined burden-reduction efforts within Federal agencies, with particular attention paid to IRS, EPA, and the Departments of Labor and Transportation. In June 2005, the GAO released a report requested by Full Committee Chairman Davis and Subcommittee Chairman Candice Miller, R-Mich., citing a poor record of compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act by Federal agencies. The Subcommittee also held a hearing to study ways to provide regulatory relief to small business owners and make agencies more accountable for the burden they impose.

Topic: The IRS Paperwork Burden

Accomplishments: Awareness Increased. “Program changes at the IRS reduced taxpayer burden by 137 million hours, primarily through simplifying the individual income tax return.” John Graham, former Administrator of OIRA.

Overview: The IRS accounts for 80 percent of Americans’ paperwork burden, and the Subcommittee has pressed the agency to simplify the extension process and use plain English on taxpayer forms. Under pressure from the Subcommittee and in an effort to minimize the burdens it imposes on the economy and average citizens, the IRS has established an Office of Taxpayer Burden Reduction and worked to increase e-government initiatives so Americans can file electronically, which requires less paperwork and is more accurate.

Topic: Agency use of Interim Final Rules and Direct Final Rules

Accomplishments: GAO Report initiated

Overview: In response to an interim final rule issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies, which increased the paperwork burden imposed on manufacturers of power mobility devices, the Subcommittee was struck by the agency’s use of an interim final rule in non-emergency circumstances. When an agency uses either an interim final or direct final rule, it must show “good cause” that the Notice and Comment procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary or contrary to the public interest.” Once an agency has made this finding, the subsequent rule is exempt from a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (RFA) study, certain sections of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); and, if EPA or OSHA is involved, direct final and interim final rules are exempt from the panel process.

The Subcommittee expressed concerned that agencies may be using the “good cause” exception more than necessary as a convenient way to bypass the traditional APA analysis. It is working with GAO to update a previous study on the use of the “good cause” exception. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to share the results of that study.

Topic: HOV Facility Use by Low Emission and Energy-Efficient Vehicles

Accomplishments: Mistake Admitted / Agency Policy Changed

Overview: On June 5, 2006, the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs sent a letter to the Department of Transportation expressing concern over the agency's approval of state programs, particularly in California and New York, for the use of High-Occupancy Vehicle-only (HOV) facilities by vehicles with less than two occupants when the state programs were in violation with Federal law. On July 13, the department announced that its interpretation of current law was indeed incorrect and that it would work with California and New York to bring their programs into compliance with the law.

Topic: FEMA Flood Map Modernization

Accomplishments: Agency Study / Awareness Increased

Overview: FEMA has undertaken an effort to modernize the nation's flood maps. As a result of hurricanes in recent years, FEMA has been forced to pay more in claims than ever before. Critics claim FEMA is increasing revenue from premiums by forcing more properties into the National Flood Insurance Program as it modernizes maps, knowing that these properties will not make claims. In the Great Lakes region, FEMA used 20-year-old data to justify changes in base flood elevations. The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs held a hearing in Michigan in May 2006 to question FEMA's map modernization efforts and to examine the local impact of agency actions.

FEMA announced at the hearing that it had asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to validate a study with updated data. The Corps recommended a new study be completed. As a result, the Subcommittee introduced legislation (H.R. 6010) requiring the Corps to complete a new flood study for the Great Lakes region.

Topic: EPA Regulation of Emissions from Certain Agricultural Processes

Accomplishments: Problem Admitted / Agency Policy Changed

Overview: EPA discovered in 1997 that there were inconsistencies in monitoring the levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted during certain agricultural processes. Since the discovery, EPA has attempted to remedy the problem by embarking on questionable enforcement proceedings to force companies into settlement agreements and issuing guidance of testing methods that have been questioned on both legal and scientific grounds. The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs sent a letter to EPA in January 2006, and followed up with additional letters in February and July, questioning EPA policy for dealing with newly found VOC emissions in agriculture. EPA has since admitted a problem exists, and the Subcommittee has been working with the agency and affected industries to ensure that VOCs in agriculture are regulated fairly.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND AGENCY ORGANIZATION

Topic: Health Information Technology within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program

Accomplishments: In March 2006, Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., along with Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr., D-Mo., introduced the Federal Family Health Information Technology Act (H.R. 4859). After a third hearing on the subject during the 109th Congress, OPM issued its FEHBP Program Carrier Letter on April 4, 2006, where OPM tracked key components of H.R. 4859 and stated: “OPM fully supports initiatives to promote the adoption of health information technology (HIT) in the healthcare industry.” On Sept. 13, 2006, the Subcommittee passed an amendment to H.R. 4859 to create a voluntary secure system of electronic health records for the approximately 8.3 million participants in the FEHBP without raising healthcare premiums.

Overview: The Amendment passed on September 13, 2006 is the culmination of a lot of hard work and a bipartisan effort led by Reps. Porter and Clay. The Subcommittee, which held four hearings on this during the 109th Congress, learned that “electronic health records” proposed in the amendment reduce medical errors and save lives, lower the costs of health care and improve its quality and empower consumers with information about their health status and medical needs. As former Speaker Newt Gingrich stated at the March hearing, “Paper kills.”

The Amendment passed by the Subcommittee aims to enable every FEHBP participant who wants an electronic health record to obtain one. It requires carriers to provide their members with both a carrier-based electronic health record and a personal electronic health record. The Subcommittee eliminated a provision that would have allowed the FEHBP’s 1 percent administrative fee to be used to help fund electronic health records and added one that requires carriers to provide a way for those without computers or computer savvy to have access to their records and a way to modify them if necessary. Savings that result are credited back to the FEHBP fund, potentially resulting in lower premiums.

Topic: Yucca Mountain Project: Have Scientists Falsified Documents?

Accomplishments: Problems with analysis of the Yucca Mountain Project for disposal of nuclear waste admitted; Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman called the process and program “broken” and has promised to address them.

Overview: On March 16, 2005, The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that Federal employees of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) falsified data used in scientific studies at the Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) in Nevada, the proposed repository for the storage of the Nation’s nuclear waste. DOE discovered this from more than 50 e-mails exchanged by USGS employees dating back to 1998 that discuss fabrication of quality-assurance procedures and documents relating to water infiltration and climate studies at YMP. This revelation sparked investigations by inspectors general of the Departments of Energy and Interior, as well as the FBI. Given the Subcommittee’s jurisdiction over the Federal workforce, Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., launched an investigation to examine the allegations and probe the extent to which Federal employee involvement in falsification undermined the project. Chairman Porter also asked the GAO to conduct a study, which concluded that, despite extensive efforts to restore confidence in scientific documents because of quality-assurance problems discovered in the USGS emails, DOE continues to face quality assurance and other challenges.

The Subcommittee held three hearings related to the investigation: (1) March 30, 2005, “Yucca Mountain Project: Have Federal Employees Falsified Documents”; (2) June 29, 2005, “Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth”; and (3) April 25, 2006, “Yucca Mountain Project: Broken Management, Broken Quality Assurance, Broken Project.”

Topic: Improving the Thrift Savings Plan (Preparing for Retirement) with Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS)

Accomplishments: On April 12, 2005, Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., introduced H.R. 1578, the Real Estate Investment Thrift Savings Act, to provide for the establishment of a real estate stock investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan. The bill has 201 cosponsors and has been discharged by the full Committee. Also, Chairman Porter asked the GAO to study the management, oversight and educational efforts of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) to assess current oversight of FRTIB and how it might be improved, the plan's administrative costs, alternative models for oversight, the board's statutory investment policies and fiduciary responsibilities and the information and services provided to plan participants.

Overview: The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), similar to the 401(k) offered by private-sector companies, allows Federal employees to contribute tax-deferred money into any of five funds managed by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The current setup does not allow Federal employees to diversify their funds for retirement. Between 2000 and 2003, the highest average annual rate of return on any stock in the fund in the TSP was -.1 percent; the rate of return on REITs was near 20 percent. Thus, at the end of the 108th Congress, the Subcommittee began to investigate adding a sixth fund, a real-estate investment trust (REIT). This continued in the 109th Congress.

The Subcommittee held two hearings on this in the 109th Congress. One examined the impact of adding REITS on the funds already in use and the future impact on retirement benefits. The other looked at a resolution adopted by the Employee Thrift Advisory Council opposing the addition of REITS. The FRTIB opposes adding a REITS option because, it says, current offerings are sufficient. But the board has not asked plan participants for their opinion since the early 1990s.

The GAO recommended that the board develop a way to assess participants' satisfaction with TSP and as well as industry trends and innovations. The Board rejected the suggestion. But after hearing the Board's concerns and discussing the bill with outside experts, Chairman Porter, along with Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., and full committee Chairman Davis, introduced H.R. 1578, a bill that now has 201 co-sponsors, ranging politically from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi to House Majority Leader John Boehner. A week later, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the merits of adding a REITS fund as a TSP option. At that hearing in April 2005, the Board promised to engage an investment consulting firm to analyze various issues, including the REITS option. That report has yet to be delivered.

The Subcommittee has tired of the obvious stall tactics. According to the Board's own figures, the percentage of private companies that offer five or fewer options, like the TSP, dropped from 7 percent in 1999 to 1 percent in 2003. The average for all 401 (k) plans is 18, and the average for those with more than 5,000 participants is 20. It's time to move forward.

Topic: Personnel Reform

Accomplishments: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced on January 26, 2005, that the administration would revamp personnel rules government-wide sometime in 2005 and such proposals would be reflected in the president's FY 2006 budget proposal. This proposal, titled the Working for America Act, was submitted to Congress later in 2005. The Working for America Act never was introduced. During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee engaged in aggressive oversight of how the new personnel systems at the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) were performing and held a hearing to examine the administration's proposal. On February 14, 2005, DOD and OPM jointly published the proposed regulations on the DOD National Security Personnel System in the Federal Register.

Overview: With the passage of the Homeland Security Act in 2002 creating a new personnel system for the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the passage of the National Security Personnel System for the Department of Defense (DOD) in 2003, the establishment of a new government-wide performance-based pay system for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) in 2004, and the growing number of agencies wishing to adopt similar pay flexibilities, the time was ripe to engage in aggressive oversight of how these new personnel systems were implemented at DOD, DHS and for the Senior Executive Service, and to ponder legislation to establish a government-wide performance-based compensation framework for all Federal personnel systems.

The Subcommittee held three hearings on personnel reform in the 109th Congress. The first looked at the new DHS system as it related to the department's national security mission. The second examined the new plan at DOD, and the last looked at the administration's proposal to create a new system of occupation classification, compensation and performance management and to place all Federal employees under a pay-for-performance system.

In the second hearing held on April 12, 2005, entitled "*NSPS: The New Department of Defense Civilian Personnel System – Reaching Readiness*" representatives of DOD, OPM, Federal employee unions, and other interested parties examined the proposed DOD regulations, the DOD implementation plan, and other matters relating to the new personnel system.

Topic: Telecommuting

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee circulated a draft bill with four key provisions: (1) To allow National Capitol Region employees to use a portion of transit pass fringe benefits to offset the cost of personal broadband technology used in telecommuting; (2) To permit federal agencies and their managers to require employees to telecommute if the managers and agencies deem it necessary; (3) To establish the position of a Chief Telecommuting Officer for the federal government at the Office of Personnel Management, whose job would be to elevate the importance of telecommuting and promote its use throughout the federal government; and, (4) To create a one-year pilot program that would allow United States Patent and Trademark Office managers the discretion to waive the one-day a week “report to the official duty station” requirement for federal teleworkers.

Overview: In recognition of telecommuting’s many benefits – improved morale, effectiveness, retention, employee health, attention to children and elderly in employees; care, cost savings in office space; reduced sick-leave absences and energy conservation, etc., reduction of air pollution and other transit costs and improved work environment among them – the Subcommittee held two hearings on promoting the use of telecommuting in the 109th Congress and circulated a draft telecommuting bill.

One hearing dealt with how Federal agencies were dealing with higher gas prices.. Government estimates indicate that in 2003, traffic congestion caused 3.7 billion hours of travel delay and 2.3 billion gallons of wasted fuel. The Subcommittee looked into whether agencies were promoting the benefits of public transportation, telecommuting, flexiwork and other programs that might allow eligible employees to work in economical and efficient ways. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., testified that roughly 60 percent of all jobs could accommodate telework, but only 12 percent of workers participate. The second hearing looked at how telecommuting among Federal workers could be increased in the Washington area and how it might help the government continue operations in an emergency or disaster situation.

Topic: Ethics in Government

Accomplishments: Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., and Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, introduced H.R. 5710, the Ethics in Government Authorization Act of 2006 on June 29, 2006. The Subcommittee unanimously passed the bill on July 18, 2006.

H.R. 5710 would re-authorize the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), which is set to expire at the end of September 2006 otherwise, for another four years, and it would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study ways to improve OGE. In particular, H.R. 5710 requires GAO to submit to the president and appropriate Congressional Committees a report that evaluates OGE's performance and makes recommendations on how to improve its effectiveness. H.R. 5710 will give members of Congress a much better understanding of how OGE operates, what would make it more effective and whether it should be given additional responsibilities.

Overview: The Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is an executive branch agency responsible for overseeing federal executive branch ethics programs, including the financial disclosure process. The OGE also provides overall direction to policies related to preventing conflicts of interest on the part of officers and employees of any executive agency. OGE was established in 1978 through the Ethics in Government Act and was originally a part of the Office of Personnel Management. A 1988 reauthorization made the OGE an independent agency.

The Subcommittee held a hearing on this issue on May 23, 2006, that examined the re-authorization of OGE.

The American people expect government to be open, transparent and accountable. As such, the federal government should maintain a high standard of ethics to build and maintain the public's trust. The OGE is responsible for this.

Topic: Federal Workforce Flexibilities/ Employee Benefits/ Recruitment And Retention

Accomplishments: On Oct. 17, 2005, Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., introduced H.R. 4057, which would make Justice Department attorneys eligible to receive compensatory time off for time spent in travel status, like all other General Schedule employees. The bill has passed the House and now awaits Senate action. The Subcommittee also is refining a draft Civil Service Omnibus bill that will improve the civil service and Federal employees' retirement systems, allow employees to contribute bonus pay to their Thrift Savings Program accounts, allow Federal agencies and departments to offer scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in their fields and other refinements.

Overview: In the 108th Congress, President Bush signed into law the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act, P.L. 108-411, aimed to modernize personnel policies. In the process of conducting oversight of how agencies used these new tools, the Subcommittee discovered the need for adjustments. These needs led to House passage of H.R. 4057 and the circulation of a civil service omnibus bill (the FACE LIFT V Act) with various technical correction provisions and additional management flexibilities. The Subcommittee also has explored ideas in the 109th Congress for developing another round of federal workforce flexibilities and has worked with OPM to introduce non-controversial technical amendments to correct statutory discrepancies that have been introduced into Title 5 through legislation or judicial interpretation.

In 2004, Congress approved government-wide "comp-time for travel" in the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act. After the bill passed, the Department of Justice determined that the bill, as written, did not give it the authority to waive limitations imposed on its attorneys by a previous appropriations measure. H.R. 4057 now, through the technical assistance of the Justice Department, clarifies Congressional intent.

This bill now before Congress would allow Justice Department attorneys to be compensated for travel time during non-business hours. This would assist employees who take early-morning flights to attend to business away from the home office, but they don't get compensated for their dedication. The Federal Actions Correcting & Enhancing Logical Improvements for Title V, also known as the FACE LIFT V Act was circulated in September and has not yet been introduced. It will likely be introduced in November and re-introduced in the 110th Congress.

The Subcommittee also engaged in aggressive oversight of the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act, which was passed in the 108th Congress. Key provisions of the Act:

Recruitment, Retention and Relocation Bonuses

Federal agencies now have enhanced flexibility, within their budgets, to pay bonuses of up to 100 percent of pay (over a 4-year period) to help agencies recruit, retain and relocate employees in the civil service on a targeted basis.

Agency Training

Federal agencies now are required to link agency training programs with their performance plans and strategic goals, establish a comprehensive management succession program and provide special training to help managers deal with employees whose performance is unacceptable.

Annual Leave

To help recruit qualified executives, members of the Senior Executive Service hired from the private sector now will receive the same vacation benefits as those hired internally, and other newly hired Federal employees with qualifying non-Federal experience will receive credit for that experience in determining the amount of their vacation time.

Compensatory Time for Travel

In situations where Federal employees must travel outside normal working hours, they will receive compensatory time off for their travel time.

Topic: Federal Employee Appeals Process

Accomplishments: The Subcommittee circulated a draft bill to establish a Federal Employee Appeals Commission to study the federal employee appeals process. Agencies responsible for federal employee appeals generally have improved processing times in recent years. Some of the improvements can be traced to increased awareness that Congress is watching. For instance, after the Subcommittee held a hearing in November 2005, the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) made substantial improvements in case processing times. A July 2006 report from MSPB said the Board's administrative judges issued approximately 6,800 initial decisions in FY 2005, with an average case processing time of 92 days. Processing time improved to 88 days in the first eight months of FY 2006. In addition, the Board reduced its inventory of pending cases by 48 percent in FY 2005 and by an additional 16 percent in the first eight months of fiscal year 2006. The average case processing time for headquarters decisions was 265 days in FY 2005, but has improved to 154 days in the first eight months of 2006.

Overview: As things stand now, the Federal employee appeal and complaint process is often complicated and heard in numerous agencies and forums. In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee began to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the current system and study ways to improve and streamline procedures. It also considered a proposal by the Senior Executives Association to consolidate all Federal employee and labor union disputes under a single, unified court or agency, eliminating the current possibility of multiple venues for the same dispute. Additionally, the Subcommittee monitored the flexibilities given to the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense for developing new appeals processes. In recognition of the need to review and improve the current federal employee appeals process, the Subcommittee held two hearings in the 109th Congress.

On Nov. 9, 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing to explore a proposal to consolidate employee appeals into one forum -- a one-stop shop. At that hearing, Neil A.G. McPhie, chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, suggested a commission be formed to study the federal appeals process.

In response, the Subcommittee created a draft bill to establish such a commission, and a hearing on July 11, 2006, examined the idea of creating a Federal Employees Appeals Commission to study the current appeals process and the realm of possible solutions. In the draft proposal, the Commission membership would consist of 10 members, including representatives from each of the stakeholder agencies and organizations. Also, the Commission would conduct a study, report the findings to Congress and make recommendations for moving forward.

Topic: Federal Wildland Firefighters

Accomplishments: H.R. 5697, which would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to ensure that those whose duties include significant wildland fire fighting are properly classified as “Wildland Firefighters,” was reported out of the House Committee on Government Reform by unanimous consent.

Overview: Health conditions of aging forests often lead to catastrophic fires there and in adjacent rangelands. These fires threaten communities, harm the natural resources where they strike and challenge the brave firefighters who risk their lives 24 hours a day to battle these intense and difficult blazes. In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the need for reforming the way Federal wildland firefighters are paid and classified. The Subcommittee looked at H.R. 408, the "Federal Wildland Firefighter Emergency Response Compensation Act of 2005," introduced by Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif. H.R. 408 addressed compensation and benefits issues for Federal Wildland firefighters by increasing pay while in a fire emergency and increasing the amount used to calculate retirement benefits. The Subcommittee traveled to southern Nevada to look closely at the issues surrounding compensation for Federal Firefighters, including Wildland Firefighters.

Wildland firefighters are classified as either GS0455 – Range Technician Series – or GS-0462 – Forestry Technician Series. There is no official title of “Wildland Firefighter,” the task that forms the heart and soul of their jobs – and firefighters in Nevada told the Subcommittee this hurts morale and is their No.1 issue. Another bill, H.R. 5697, the Federal Wildland Firefighter Classification Act of 2006, would require OPM to create a classification known as “Wildland Firefighters,” but would not change the pay, benefits, terms of employment or classification of the firefighters – even the rules involving physical hardship or hazard.

Topic: Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits Reform

Accomplishments: In October 2005, majority staff of the Subcommittee, along with its counterpart Subcommittee in the Senate, released a concept paper on federal law enforcement pay and benefits reform that has furthered the dialogue among stakeholders, including employee groups, federal law enforcement entities, the Bush administration and members of Congress and set the stage for action in the 110th Congress.

Overview: Over the last several years, the Senate and House subcommittees with jurisdiction over law-enforcement personnel issues—the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, and the House Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization—have examined ways to restore rationality to the personnel rules for law-enforcement employees. Their efforts led to passage of a law that required the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to review the classification, compensation and benefits of federal law enforcement officers and to recommend ways to alleviate any disparities.

OMB's report outlined a clear case for reform of both law-enforcement pay and retirement benefits and asked for legislation that would enable it to issue regulations to address the problems. Clearly, retirement coverage has not kept pace with the evolution of law-enforcement work into highly specialized occupations. For example, when the provisions for law enforcement retirement were enacted in the late 1940s, the job function could be divided into two specialties – criminal investigation and police work. Today, officers are involved in special weapons and tactical (SWAT) teams, bomb detection teams, explosive ordinance disposal teams (EOD.), airborne surveillance and cyber crime counter operations, to name a few. The outdated definitions mean cause some specialized categories of employees to be excluded from enhanced law enforcement compensation and retirement benefits.

To make matters worse, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 may exacerbate the problem because they provided certain personnel flexibilities outside of current law. The new systems under development for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security eventually will cover 54,000 law-enforcement employees, but almost half of the federal government's law-enforcement officers will not be covered by either system – which could affect staffing, morale and agency budgets.

Based on the Senate and House Subcommittees' extensive review, the goal of reforming federal law-enforcement compensation and benefits is two-fold: To assist with hiring and retention of the high-quality personnel needed in the post-9/11 environment; and to bring common-sense parity to a disparate system that has fractured over time. The Concept paper promoted both goals.

Topic: Transportation Fringe Benefits to Feds in the National Capitol Region

Accomplishments: On May 17, 2005, the Subcommittee approved H.R. 1283, a bill introduced by Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., to provide that transit pass transportation fringe benefits be made available to all qualified Federal employees in the National Capital Region and to allow passenger carriers owned or leased by the government to be used to transport federal employees between their place of employment and mass transit facilities, as well as for other purposes. Encouraging Federal employees to use mass transit will help reduce air pollution and decrease traffic congestion in this region of clogged roads. Authorization for the bill came in the 2006 highway transportation bill, and appropriations were included in last year's Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006.

Overview: Tax-free transportation benefits were made available to all Federal employees in the Washington, D.C. area through H.R. 1283, which passed the Subcommittee on May 17, 2005. These benefits come in two forms – travel vouchers for mass-transit systems and authority for Federal agencies to transport employees to and from Metro stops, bus stations, etc.

Topic: FEHBP Premium Conversion

Accomplishments: On May 17, 2005, the Subcommittee unanimously approved H.R. 994, a bill introduced by Full Committee Chairman Davis that would allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health-insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums. The full Committee reported it out by voice vote on June 16, 2005, and the Premium Conversion Bill, as it is now known, has 340 cosponsors. Health care costs in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, for example, have gone up by over 9% a year since 1999, leaving retirees with few options. H.R. 994 would alleviate health insurance costs – which have increased 9 percent a year every year since 1999 in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program – by saving retirees more than \$400 per year in taxes. This might not seem like a lot of money, but to those on a fixed income, it can make a significant difference.

Overview: This is a matter of equity. This benefit, widely available in the private sector, has been available to executive branch Federal employees for almost five years. The federal government has a long history of treating active employees and retirees the same. If they have access to the same health care, why shouldn't they have the same ability to pay their premiums with before-tax dollars? Also, with health insurance premiums rising faster than the government's cost-of-living increases, it's only fair that retirees receive some relief.

Topic: Student Loan Repayment

Accomplishments: On May 17, 2005, the Subcommittee unanimously approved H.R. 1765, the “Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act of 2005,” introduced by Full Committee Chairman Davis. Unfortunately, the bill also has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee, which has primary jurisdiction because it involves a change in the tax code. The Ways and Means Committee apparently has no intention of moving the bill forward this Congress.

Overview: During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee continued oversight of the student loan repayment program with an eye toward using loan repayment as a tool to lure young workers to replace the unusually large portion of Federal employees nearing retirement. Congress already has authorized agencies to offer to repay student loan debt for some recruits. Research shows this benefit is so popular that recent grads would forego higher salaries to work for employers who will pay down their student loans. In the 108th Congress, the Subcommittee ushered into law the Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act, which increased the amount that agencies can repay to \$10,000 per year from \$6,000 and \$60,000 in the lifetime of the employee, from \$40,000. Few agencies made significant use of this tool in 2002 or 2003.

At the beginning of the 109th Congress, Chairman Davis introduced H.R. 1765, the “Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act of 2005. The GOFEDS Act, would make the benefits enhanced in the last Congress even more helpful by making student loan repayments tax-free for the recipients. This bill represents another step by Congress to better compete with private sector to bring the best and brightest to government service.

Topic: Retiree Issues: Re-employed Annuitants/Part-Time Service Credit/Early Voluntary Retirement and Buy-Outs

Accomplishments: Held a hearing on July 25, 2006, to examine the need for legislation to enhance flexibilities for re-employing annuitants to fill crucial federal workforce shortages without the requirement that salary be offset by annuity. The hearing also looked at whether legislation was needed to help agencies to quickly fill areas of need by encouraging part-time service both before and after retirement. Four days before the hearing – but after the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) had learned it would take place – OPM published a proposed regulatory change to allow for it to grant, or delegate authority to grant, waivers to re-employed annuitants without a requirement that an annuitant’s salary be off-set in emergencies or unusual situations that do not involve an emergency. During the hearing, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy Patricia Bradshaw said a law that the Department of Defense had requested in the FY 2004 Defense Authorization Bill had resulted in unforeseen consequences and asked for a technical correction through new legislation.

Overview: In light of the much-touted “retirement tsunami,” the Subcommittee has been keenly aware that re-employed annuitants can be valuable resources, both during emergencies and to fill critical federal workforce shortages. Witnesses at its July 25, 2006, hearing spoke of the need for law-enforcement personnel to beef up homeland security and other operations, part-time workers and other workforce needs.

FACE LIFT V, the legislation that addresses these challenges, included sections drafted in response to the hearing on re-employing annuitants on a part-time basis and fixing a glitch in the old law to ensure equitable retirement calculations for those who retire under CSRS but who wish to transition into retirement by working part-time as they wind down their careers. In response to a suggestion by the DOD Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy at the hearing, the bill also includes a provision to make dual compensation for re-employed annuitants at DOD a discretionary hiring flexibility.

The Subcommittee also has been monitoring agency use of early retirement flexibilities to enable managers to better shape their workforce to meet agency goals. Agencies can, with the approval of OPM, offer early voluntary retirement to employees during a reduction-in-force (RIF) because of a major reorganization, workload change or other applicable reasons. When OPM determines that an agency is undergoing such a change, eligible employees may apply to retire early on an immediate annuity. Agencies in this position also can offer a separation incentive payment to encourage employees to separate during a RIF. The Subcommittee continued its review of these authorities to ensure that they are being used effectively.

Topic: Federal Executive and Judicial Compensation

Accomplishments: In 2005, Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., asked GAO to study executive and judicial compensation in the federal government. The report, issued in June 2006, confirmed that, when measured against inflation, there are serious inequities in the pay rates of top-level federal executives, particularly the pay rates for positions within the Executive Schedule and the Judicial Branch. Moreover, pay “deflation” appears to be having an adverse affect on the ability of the federal government to attract and retain the best people for public service.

Overview: A Subcommittee hearing on Sept. 20, 2006, focused on the need to increase top-level federal executive pay and possible legislative remedies to be pursued in the 110th Congress. Among the possible approaches is re-establishing a compensation commission to address pay erosion, compression and inversion involving executives and judges within the federal government.

Executives in the federal government always have and probably always will earn less than those with similar positions in the private sector. But, as the hearing revealed, the problem has worsened, and many of the best and brightest in government have been lured away. Americans pay a high price for these low salaries. The expected spike in retirements will only make things worse. When adjusted for inflation, pay for cabinet secretaries has declined in value by 41 percent and pay for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has fallen 34 percent since 1970.

The problem is not hard to understand. The solution is simple. Getting there is not.

Topic: Non-article III Judges (ALJs)

Accomplishments: The report requested by Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., to address executive and judicial compensation in the federal government also looked at pay for administrative law judges. A hearing explored perceived inequities in how they are compensated.

Overview: A hearing by the Subcommittee looked into personnel concerns with regard to non-Article III Judges, with an emphasis on administrative law judges (ALJs). The Subcommittee looked at recruitment and retention of these judges, including pay compression, the utility of implementing pay-for-performance for them, OPM's management of the ALJ program and the alleged inequity of ALJ retirement benefits.

Topic: Agency Organization

Accomplishments: This Subcommittee spent considerable time in the 109th Congress investigating the organizational structure of Federal agencies and found widespread inefficiency and disorder. The Subcommittee held three hearings on this subject, and on July 14, 2005, Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., introduced H.R. 3276, the “Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act,” along with chief cosponsors, Full Committee Chairman Tom Davis and Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas. The bill would establish Results Commissions to recommend to the president plans for re-organizing duplicative Federal programs. The president then could forward the recommendations to Congress, which could then vote them up or down without amendment.

In addition, on July 14, 2005, Rep. Brady introduced H.R. 3277, the “Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act” (Sunset Act), along with chief cosponsors Chairman Davis and Chairman Porter. The bill would establish a Sunset Commission to review the need for each Federal agency, after which it would have to be positively re-authorized by Congress. Without congressional action, any agency not re-authorized would be terminated within two years of review by the Sunset Commission. Similar bills were reported out of the Full Committee on Government Reform on July 20, 2006. Those bills are H.R. 3282, by Rep. Brady, to provide for the periodic review of the efficiency and public need for Federal agencies, to establish a Commission for the purpose of reviewing the efficiency and public need of such agencies, and to provide for the abolishment of agencies for which a public need does not exist) and H.R. 5766, by Rep. Todd Tiahrt, to provide for the establishment of Federal Review Commissions to review and make recommendations on improving the operations, effectiveness and efficiency of Federal programs and agencies, and to require a schedule for such review of all Federal agencies and programs. The latter bill was placed on the Union Calendar on July 24, 2006.

Overview: Through the years, Congress has created federal programs to meet pressing needs but has often lacked the big picture perspective. The unfortunate consequence is rampant overlap, duplication in federal programs and little attention paid to the long-range effects.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee focused on the Federal food inspection system. This system consists of 10 Federal agencies that enforce more than 35 food-safety laws, some of which date back more than 100 years. Because of the nonsensical fragmented responsibility, the USDA, for example, inspects frozen pepperoni pizzas, but the FDA inspects cheese pizzas. This leads to gaps, inconsistencies, ineffective government oversight and an unacceptably low level of protection of the public. The Subcommittee’s efforts to focus attention on the need for organizational improvement led to two hearings and investigations that uncovered widespread overlap in the core areas of inspection/enforcement, training, research and rulemaking.

Another hearing, on July 13, 2005, featuring former Speaker Newt Gingrich, focused on how to foster “entrepreneurialism” among government’s employees. The hearing examined how government often limits employees by allowing them to merely administer programs rather than manage for results, as well as how the same agencies can address this by producing “entrepreneurs” instead of “bureaucrats.”

Topic: Improving the Hiring Process in the Federal Government

Accomplishments: Likely as a result of hearings held in the 108th Congress and, as part of long-running recognition of the need to reform the federal hiring process, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) created a Federal Hiring Toolkit on its Web page on Wednesday, October 4, 2006.

Overview: It's obvious the Federal government takes a long time to hire employees. It averages four to eight months from the time a vacancy is announced until an offer is made. The private sector, according to some estimates, does the same thing in two to six weeks. What's not clear is why it takes government so long. Hearings in the 108th Congress uncovered deep-seated problems, including unclear vacancy announcements, excessive layers of approval, little use of statutory hiring flexibilities and poor guidance from OPM. OPM is working to reform hiring at select agencies through its "Extreme Hiring Makeover" project. Subcommittee staff is preparing a report on the Federal hiring process and laying the groundwork for potential follow-up investigations and hearings, as well as for potential legislative remedies in the 110th Congress. Outside organizations, such as the Partnership for Public Service, the Federal Managers Association and the Senior Executives Association, have committed to helping the Subcommittee develop solutions.

Topic: National Security Workforce Issues/Intelligence Reform

Accomplishments: With the passage of the National Security Intelligence Reform Act of 2004, the intelligence community faced numerous management challenges in the 109th Congress. The Act created a new position, the Director of National Intelligence, to oversee the National Intelligence Program, which consists of more than 10 agencies scattered throughout the Federal government. Integration of these previously uncoordinated agencies under the Office of the Director could be as challenging as was the integration of 22 agencies to form the Department of Homeland Security. During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee closely monitored these implementation issues, as well as other personnel and reorganization matters and, in fact, heard from the Office's Chief Human Capital Office Ronald Sanders on their need to bring back retirees into government service to fill a critical national security need.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing in April 2006 on how to improve staffing and human capital programs within DHS, specifically with regard to airport security.

Overview: Although airport security continues to move in the right direction, some areas still merit close scrutiny. As such, a Subcommittee hearing in April 2006 addressed the background check process for private and government workers and how Federal employees screen cargo and passengers at airports.

Topic: Foreign Service Modernization Act, Provisions For Performance-Based Pay

Accomplishments: Subcommittee staff provided drafting assistance to the House International Relations Committee in the development of the personnel sections in H.R. 6060, introduced by Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J.

Overview: A Pay for Performance policy is part of President Bush's agenda for reforming federal workforce pay. After H.R. 6060 was reported out of the International Relations Committee, our Subcommittee provided technical assistance and policy advice for refining the bill to help transition the Foreign Service pay schedule to a performance-based system.

Topic: OPM's New Strategic and Operational Plan/Chief Human Capital Officers/Succession Planning

Accomplishments: Thanks in part to suggestions from the Subcommittee, Office of Personnel Management Director Linda Springer has committed OPM to a five-year roadmap to accountability that represents a vast improvement over OPM's old strategic plan. Consider this passage on a section of the old plan that deals with hiring objectives: "Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal hiring process and make Federal employment attractive to high-quality applicants of diverse backgrounds." Contrast it with this statement from the new plan: "Decrease hiring decision timeframes to 45 days from the closing date of job announcement to date of offer for 50 percent of hires by end of FY 2006, increasing by 10 percent per year thereafter to 90 percent in 2010." This statement, typical of the 170 specific goals in the plan, is simple, clear, direct and includes deadlines.

The Subcommittee also looked into the effectiveness of Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002. During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee continued to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the CHCO Council and the CHCO Subcommittees, particularly in the areas of the hiring process, poor performers, performance management and succession planning.

Overview: During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee held a hearing to examine OPM's FY 2007 budget allocation and new Strategic and Operation Plan for 2006-2010. OPM Director Linda Springer was the only witness. She spoke about her strategic plan, which won plaudits from Subcommittee members. Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., sent at least two joint letters to House appropriators urging them to fully fund OPM's Retirement Systems Modernization initiative, and the funding was granted. The initiative seeks to improve the speed and accuracy of retirement claims processing and should improve OPM customer service for Federal retirees.

Topic: Poor Performers

Accomplishments: During the 109th Congress, GAO issued a report at the request of Chairman Jon Porter, R-Nev., and Full Committee Chairman Davis titled, “Poor Performers in the Federal Workplace.” GAO found that a key factor for addressing poor performance is “instituting a modern, effective and credible performance management system with appropriate safeguards.”

Overview: The government’s general inability to deal effectively with poor performers in the workplace is well known. Employee surveys have shown that the Federal workforce is dismayed over the continued presence of poor performers in government positions. This attempts to address that.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Topic: Methamphetamine Epidemic

Accomplishments: During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee held 11 hearings on the methamphetamine epidemic, including field hearings in Indiana, Arkansas, Hawaii, Minnesota, Ohio and Oregon. It also helped draft the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act, which passed as part of the PATRIOT Act re-authorization. The Combat Meth Act closes a number of loopholes in federal regulation of meth precursor chemicals.

Overview: Methamphetamine use has grown steadily across the country in recent years. It began as a west coast trend, but has moved eastward and now devastates communities from coast to coast. It was listed as the No.1 law enforcement problem in a 2005 survey. The Combat Meth Act written by the Subcommittee imposes a per-transaction sales limit on pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals, sets manufacturing quotas to ensure oversupply does not lead to diversion and regulates the wholesale “spot market.”

The bill further requires reporting of major meth precursor exporters and importers, and would hold them accountable for their efforts to prevent diversion to meth production. It also toughens penalties against traffickers and smugglers and applies environmental regulations to those who harm the environment through clandestine meth lab operations. Each of these steps is vital to our success in the fight against meth.

Topic: Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006

Accomplishments: Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., introduced the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006. The Reauthorization attempts to strengthen the ability of ONDCP to coordinate and manage the drug control activities of multiple federal agencies.

Overview: With the scourge of drug abuse remaining one of the nation's most pressing problems, this was no time *not* to re-authorize the ONDCP. It was time to see if ONDCP could be improved, and the Subcommittee helped with this. Provision in the re-authorization confirm the status of the director, strengthen the director's ability to oversee fund transfers out of drug-control activities and ensure the administration can't use the budget process to remove activities from the Director's authority and responsibility to certify budget proposals.

The bill requires the main interagency drug coordination plans – such as the General Counterdrug Intelligence Plan, the National Interdiction Command and Control Plan, and the Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy – to be updated for a post 9/11 world and to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the United States Interdiction Coordinator and the Interdiction Committee.

It also seeks to strengthen existing partnerships between federal agencies and state and local operations, such as the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program.

Congress created the ONDCP in 1988 to be the primary shaper of Federal policies targeted at reducing the impact of drug abuse and its consequences for society. The director of the ONDCP, popularly known as the "Drug Czar," advises the President on drug control policy and strategy, reviews and certifies the budgets of national drug control programs and works to ensure their effective coordination.

Topic: FDA Acknowledges Adverse Events of RU-486

Accomplishments: During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee investigated the 950 reports of adverse reactions to RU-486, the so-called morning-after or chemical abortion pill, and these investigations – and a subsequent hearing – resulted in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) disclosing the full history of adverse reports relating to RU-486. The Subcommittee is continuing its oversight to ensure that physicians advise patients of the risks involved in taking RU-486.

Overview: Congress learned in March 2006 that, of those 950 adverse reactions, 248 had required hospitalization, of which eight had led to deaths and nine to life-threatening situations. Those results establish that RU-486 is at least 10 times more dangerous than early surgical abortion, yet it remains on the market. On July 19, 2005, Congress learned that four American women – all young and healthy – had died after taking RU-486, and all four cases involved septic shock caused by a potent anaerobic bacteria.

Subcommittee inquiry focused on what the makers of RU-486 tell physicians and what physicians tell their patients. The FDA's approval of RU-486 included a requirement that the sponsor, Danco Laboratories, must supply physicians with approved labeling, medication guide and patient agreement when shipping the drug. Doctors are to report any hospitalization, transfusion or other serious events to the sponsor.

The Subcommittee will continue to conduct strict oversight to ensure these policies are followed. Lives depend on it.

Topic: Transparency of Federally Funded Programs

Accomplishments: Ushered to passage the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which was signed on Sept. 26. The new law calls for creation of a Website that will list the Federal government's grants and contracts, which will increase accountability and reduce incentives for wasteful spending.

Overview: The signing into law of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, on September 26, 2006, was a watershed event for the American taxpayer. The database called for in this act will be a vital tool for creating a more open spending process.

Government spending is often an impenetrable web of confusion and dead-ends. Exactly who receives taxpayer money and what they do with it may be difficult to ascertain. In some cases, not even the agencies that disbursed the money can tell where it went. Such messy records and bookkeeping would not be tolerated in the private sector. The need for this type of system will help not only in the area of earmarks, but also in the awarding of government grants and contracts.

The necessity of such a database was illustrated by an oversight investigation into USAID programs by the Subcommittee On Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. According to an unclassified State Department memorandum obtained by Subcommittee staff, Restore International, an anti-trafficking NGO that works with law-enforcement agencies in India, was "confronted by another USAID-funded NGO [SANGRAM] as the former attempted to rescue and provide long-term care for child victims of sex trafficking. The confrontation led to the release of 17 minor girls – victims of trafficking – into the hands of traffickers and trafficking accomplices." According to this memorandum, SANGRAM "allowed a brothel keeper to enter a shelter to pressure the girls not to cooperate with counselors. The girls are now back in the brothels, being subjected to rape for profit."

In short, USAID money financed the pro-prostitution SANGRAM through a second organization named Avert, which was established with the assistance of four USAID employees as a pass-through entity. USAID has held the ex-officio Vice Chairmanship of Avert since inception. According to these documents, the USAID board member of Avert voted twice to award funding to SANGRAM (July 27, 2002, and again on Dec. 3, 2004), the last time being some 18 months after the provisions of Public Law 108-25 prohibited taxpayer funding of pro-prostitution groups like SANGRAM.

On Dec. 13, 2005, a large briefing team from the State Department and USAID met with staff from the Subcommittee to demonstrate ownership of the problem and to lay out corrective measures being taken. To the astonishment of Subcommittee staff, the briefers were not prepared to discuss (and exhibited little knowledge of) the pass-through entity known as Avert that USAID established and which served as the mechanism through

which NGOs in India were monitored and financed with American tax dollars. In fact, Subcommittee staff knew more than the State/USAID briefing team about this matter thanks to Google searches for critical documents that had not been provided to the Subcommittee by the administration.

In the months since that Dec. 13 appeal was made for an electronic registry, the Subcommittee oversight request inspired similar pieces of legislation in each chamber of Congress. During debates of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, this scandal of financing pro-prostitution groups by USAID was highlighted by the authors in both chambers as illustrating the need for this legislation.

Appendix I

ENGAGEMENT TITLE (CODE)	PRODUCT CODE / REPORT NUMBER	DATE ISSUED
ISSUES RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF POOR PERFORMERS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (450378)	B2	05/26/05
EMERGING CYBERSECURITY THREATS TO FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (310546)	C2 GAO-05-231	05/13/05
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MODERNIZATION STATUS (542036)	C2 GAO-05-332	10/14/05
RISK MANAGEMENT IN MAKING INVESTMENTS FOR PORT SECURITY (440378)	C2 GAO-06-91	12/15/05
UNDERSTANDING THE COMPONENTS OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (198362)	G5 GAO-05-958SP	10/13/05
FEDERAL MANDATES: IDENTIFICATION PROCESS IS COMPLEX AND FEDERAL AGENCY ROLES VARY (450392)	H2 GAO-05-401T	03/08/05
APPLYING LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 2004-05 INFLUENZA VACCINE SHORTAGE TO PANDEMIC PREPARATION (290505)	H2 GAO-06-221T	11/04/05
DOD PERSONNEL SECURITY CLEARANCE PROGRAM ENCOUNTERS ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS (350865)	H2 GAO-06-747T	05/17/06
STATE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMS TO PROTECT U.S. OFFICIALS OUTSIDE EMBASSY COMPOUNDS (320348)	L1	05/09/05
REVIEW OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE KLAMATH RIVER BASIN CONSERVATION AREA RESTORATION PROGRAM (195040)	L1 GAO-05-804	09/19/05
PRICES FOR MEDICATIONS TO TREAT HIV/AIDS IN DEVELOPING NATIONS (290336)	L2 GAO-05-133	01/11/05
CENSUS BUREAU'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2004 CENSUS TEST (450322)	L2 GAO-05-9	01/12/05
SPECIAL EDUCATION: CHILDREN WITH AUTISM (130435)	L2 GAO-05-220	01/14/05
HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND CHALLENGES (440295)	L2 GAO-05-33	01/14/05
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE: ARMY AND MARINE CORPS NEED TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM TRAINING TASKS AND IMPROVE REPORTING FOR COMBAT TRAINING CENTERS (350328)	L2 GAO-05-8	01/28/05
AUDIT OF CONTROLS OVER TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS TO MOBILIZED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS (192111)	L2 GAO-05-79	01/31/05
HHS OVERSIGHT OF AND MANUFACTURER PRACTICES UNDER THE MEDICAID DRUG REBATE PROGRAM (290343)	L2 GAO-05-102	02/04/05
U.S. PROGRAMS IN TRADE-RELATED CAPACITY BUILDING (320200)	L2	02/11/05
CONTROLS AND SYSTEMS TO ENSURE THAT ACTIVATED RESERVISTS RECEIVE PROPER MEDICAL BENEFITS (192115)	L2 GAO-05-125	02/17/05
ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SERVICES ACQUISITION REFORM ACT (TITLE XIV OF P.L. 108-136) (120370)	L2 GAO-05-233	02/28/05
ASSESSMENT OF DHS INTEGRATION EFFORTS (450303)	L2 GAO-05-139	03/16/05
DOE'S MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR SYSTEM CONTRACTS (360423)	L2 GAO-05-123	03/18/05
KLAMATH WATER BANK OPERATIONS (360453)	L2 GAO-05-283	03/28/05

ENGAGEMENT TITLE (CODE)	PRODUCT CODE / REPORT NUMBER	DATE ISSUED
HOMELAND SECURITY'S EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT AN ACQUISITION ORGANIZATION (120328)	L2 GAO-05-179	03/29/05
OVERLAP WITHIN FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY FUNCTIONS (360456)	L2 GAO-05-213	03/30/05
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: IMPROPER PAYMENTS REPORTED IN AGENCY FISCAL YEAR 2004 PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS (195060)	L2 GAO-05-417	03/31/05
FINANCIAL AUDIT: INDEPENDENT AND SPECIAL COUNSEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 (196027)	L2 GAO-05-359	03/31/05
USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE DRUG PRODUCTS CONTAINING NONOXYNOL-9 (290314)	L2 GAO-05-399	03/31/05
DHS' STRATEGIC PLAN (450314)	L2 GAO-05-300	03/31/05
ANTHRAX DETECTION METHODS (460556)	L2 GAO-05-251	03/31/05
OVERVIEW OF POSTAL INFRASTRUCTURE (543077)	L2 GAO-05-261	04/08/05
SBA'S PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING LOAN SALE ACCOUNTING ISSUES (190125)	L2 GAO-05-409	04/14/05
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET'S (OMB) MANAGEMENT WATCH LIST OF MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PROJECTS (310472)	L2 GAO-05-276	04/15/05
INFORMATION SECURITY: INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) NEEDS TO IMPROVE CONTROLS OVER TAXPAYER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA (310555)	L2 GAO-05-482	04/15/05
PORT SECURITY THREATS, VULNERABILITIES, AND INVESTMENT DECISIONMAKING (440283)	L2 GAO-05-394	04/15/05
STREAMLINING OF GRANT ADMINISTRATION UNDER FFAMIA (PL 106-107) (450316)	L2 GAO-05-335	04/18/05
INFORMATION SECURITY OVER CONTRACTOR/THIRD-PARTY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SERVICES (310544)	L2 GAO-05-362	04/22/05
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S (FAA) ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (310284)	L2 GAO-05-266	04/27/05
CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP) UPDATE 2004 (310731)	L2 GAO-05-577	04/28/05
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE ITS FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS RELATED SYSTEMS (192141)	L2 GAO-05-381	04/29/05
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE: PREPAREDNESS OF U.S. FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA (350488)	L2 GAO-05-203C	05/04/05
STATE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMS TO PROTECT U.S. OFFICIALS OUTSIDE EMBASSY COMPOUNDS (320214)	L2 GAO-05-642	05/09/05
AUDIT OF ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY OF DOD EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM (192105)	L2 GAO-05-277	05/13/05
SECURITY OF MAJOR FEDERAL AGENCY WIRELESS NETWORKS IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA (310534)	L2 GAO-05-383	05/17/05
MIGRATION TO INTERNET PROTOCOL VERSION 6 (310474)	L2 GAO-05-471	05/20/05
THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT: EXECUTIVE BRANCH PAPERWORK CLEARANCE PROCESSES (310707)	L2 GAO-05-424	05/20/05
PORNOGRAPHY ON PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS (310735)	L2 GAO-05-634	05/25/05

ENGAGEMENT TITLE (CODE)	PRODUCT CODE / REPORT NUMBER	DATE ISSUED
SECURITY OF FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDINGS, PARK FACILITIES, AND OTHER VISIBLE BUILDINGS USED BY THE PUBLIC (543059)	L2 GAO-05-367	05/25/05
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S (DHS) EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE-SECTOR CYBERSECURITY (310543)	L2 GAO-05-434	05/26/05
TASERS (601268)	L2 GAO-05-464	05/26/05
EXPENDITURE OF FEMA FUNDS PROVIDED TO PROJECT LIBERTY (190128)	L2 GAO-05-514	05/31/05
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FALLING PRODUCTION OFFSETS RISING OIL AND GAS PRICES (360676)	R2 GAO-06-786R	06/21/06
EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL PAY (450488)	R2 GAO-06-708	06/21/06
IMPROPER PAYROLL PAYMENTS DESERTER ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SOLDIERS (192180)	R2 GAO-06-848R	07/28/06
ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS REQUIRING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS (CFO) ACT AGENCIES TO OBTAIN AUDIT OPINIONS ON THEIR INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING (195089)	R2 GAO-06-255R	09/06/06

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MANAGERIAL COST ACCOUNTING PRACTICES AT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SURVEY (197012)	R2 GAO-06-1002R	09/21/06
MILITARY OPERATIONS: BACKGROUND SCREENINGS OF CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES SUPPORTING DEPLOYED FORCES MAY LACK CRITICAL INFORMATION, BUT U.S. FORCES TAKE STEPS TO MITIGATE THE RISK CONTRACTORS MAY POSE (350732)	R2 GAO-06-999R	09/22/06
ADDITIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO POOR PERFORMERS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (450425)	R3 GAO-05-812R	06/29/05
UPDATE OF MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET ANALYSES (320403)	R3 GAO-06-466R	02/21/06
MANAGEMENT REPORT: OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE TIMELINESS OF IRS LIEN RELEASES (196022)	R4 GAO-05-26R	01/10/05
FY2004 ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTROLS AT THE BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT (198314)	R4 GAO-05-168SU	02/25/05
MANAGEMENT REPORT: REVIEW OF IRS'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OVER RESIDUAL REMITTANCES RECEIVED AND SHIPPED AFTER CLOSING A RECEIPT SUBMISSION PROCESSING FUNCTION (196024)	R4 GAO-05-319R	03/10/05
INFORMATION SYSTEM (IS) CONTROLS AT AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT PROCEDURES (310535)	R4	03/25/05
INFORMATION SYSTEM (IS) CONTROLS AT AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH FINANCIAL MARKETS & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT, HOMELAND SECURITY, TAX ADMIN. & JUSTICE ISSUES: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS & RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES (310538)	R4	03/31/05
INFORMATION SYSTEM (IS) CONTROLS AT AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH ACQUISITION SOURCING, DEFENSE CAPABILITES, AND INTENATIONAL AFFAIRS: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT PROCEDURES (310539)	R4	03/31/05
INFORMATION SYSTEM (IS) CONTROLS AT AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND INCOME SECURITY: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT PROCEDURES (310536)	R4	04/07/05
INFORMATION SYSTEM (IS) CONTROLS AT AGENCIES ASSOCIATED WITH HEALTH CARE: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT PROCEDURES (310537)	R4	04/07/05
FY 2004 ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTROLS AT THE BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT (PUBLIC VERSION) (198361)	R4 GAO-05-467R	04/18/05
MANAGEMENT REPORT: IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED IN IRS' INTERNAL CONTROLS (196035)	R4 GAO-05-247R	04/27/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198363)	R4 GAO-05-396R	06/09/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S FY04 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198365)	R4 GAO-05-587R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198367)	R4 GAO-05-588R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198368)	R4 GAO-05-589R	06/23/05

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REVIEW OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSURANCE CORPORATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198369)	R4 GAO-05-590R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198370)	R4 GAO-05-591R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198371)	R4 GAO-05-592R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198372)	R4 GAO-05-593R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198373)	R4 GAO-05-594R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198386)	R4 GAO-05-606R	06/23/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198376)	R4 GAO-05-596R	07/14/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198377)	R4 GAO-05-597R	07/14/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198380)	R4 GAO-05-600R	07/14/05
REVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198384)	R4 GAO-05-604R	07/14/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198375)	R4 GAO-05-595R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198378)	R4 GAO-05-598R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS' FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198379)	R4 GAO-05-599R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198381)	R4 GAO-05-601R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198382)	R4 GAO-05-602R	07/22/05
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REVIEW OF THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198387)	R4 GAO-05-607R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198388)	R4 GAO-05-608R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198389)	R4 GAO-05-609R	07/22/05
REVIEW OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION'S FY 2004 MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION LETTER (198390)	R4 GAO-05-610R	07/22/05

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2005 CFS AUDIT: REVIEW OF AGENCIES' RESTATEMENTS OF FY 2003 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IN FY 2004 (198364)	R4 GAO-05-814R	09/20/05
FINANCIAL AUDIT: RESTATEMENTS TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S (NRC'S)FY 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (198394)	R4 GAO-06-30R	10/27/05
FINANCIAL AUDIT: RESTATEMENTS TO THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S (GSA'S) FISCAL YEAR 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (198396)	R4 GAO-06-70R	12/06/05
FINANCIAL AUDIT: RESTATEMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S (NSF'S) FISCAL YEAR 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (198399)	R4 GAO-06-229R	12/22/05
FINANCIAL AUDIT: RESTATEMENTS TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S (USDA'S) FY 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (198397)	R4 GAO-06-254R	01/26/06
FY 2005 ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION SECURITY CONTROLS AT THE BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT (BPD) (198408)	R4 GAO-06-286RSU	02/27/06
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTROLS ASSESSMENT AT THE BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT (PUBLIC VERSION) FOR FY2005 (198417)	R4 GAO-06-522R	03/16/06
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APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES: FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES (196032)	R5 GAO-06-197R	11/04/05
APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES: HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXCISE TAXES (196033)	R5 GAO-06-198R	11/04/05
APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES: AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND EXCISE TAXES (196034)	R5 GAO-06-199R	11/04/05
GUIDANCE FOR AUDITING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE AND VETERAN BENEFITS PAYABLE (FEVBP) CORRESPONDENCE TO INSPECTORS GENERAL (198454)	R5 GAO-06-768R	06/29/06
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EFFECTIVE INTERNAL CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION IS KEY TO IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TESTIMONY (195064)	T2 GAO-05-321T	02/16/05
ACTIVE DUTY MEDICAL EXTENSION HEARING (192156)	T2 GAO-05-322T	02/17/05
FEDERAL ROLE IN FUNDING THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (542057)	T2 GAO-05-358T	02/18/05
PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION: STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS LIMIT AGENCY'S ABILITY TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM RISK (130477)	T2	03/02/05
OBSERVATION ON FINAL DHS HUMAN CAPITAL REGULATIONS (450391)	T2 GAO-05-391T	03/02/05
PLANNING GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S (GSA) FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICE (FTS) PLANNING FOR ITS GOVERNMENTWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACQUISITION (310728)	T2 GAO-05-361T	03/03/05

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TESTIMONY ON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: INEFFICIENT ERROR-PRONE PROCESS RESULTS IN TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT PROBLEMS FOR MOBILIZED SOLDIERS (192160)	T2 GAO-05-400T	03/16/05
MEETING ENERGY DEMAND IN THE 21ST CENTURY (360551)	T2 GAO-05-414T	03/16/05
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AGENCIES NEED TO VALIDATE SAMPLING ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN NEGATIVE RESULTS (460575)	T2 GAO-05-493T	04/05/05
FEDERAL AGENCIES INFORMATION SECURITY (IS) LEGISLATION PROGRESS (310556)	T2 GAO-05-483T	04/07/05
HUMAN CAPITAL: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM REGULATIONS (350688)	T2 GAO-05-517T	04/12/05
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ASSESSMENT OF THE ALLOCATION FORMULA OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (450403)	T2 GAO-05-622T	04/26/05
UPDATE OF FEDERAL AGENCY CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP) PLANNING ACTIVITIES (310734)	T2 GAO-05-619T	04/28/05
ENERGY MARKETS: UNDERSTANDING CURRENT GASOLINE PRICES AND POTENTIAL FUTURE TRENDS (360579)	T2 GAO-05-675T	05/09/05
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OVERSEEING THE U.S. FOOD SUPPLY: STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE OVERLAPPING INSPECTIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (360571)	T2 GAO-05-549T	05/17/05
SUBSTANTIAL WASTE AND INEFFICIENCY IN DOD'S EXCESS PROPERTY REUTILIZATION PROGRAM (192164)	T2 GAO-05-729T	06/07/05
SUSTAINED LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO ADDRESS LONG-STANDING FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS TESTIMONY (192170)	T2 GAO-05-723T	06/08/05
TESTIMONY -- REDUCING BURDEN MAY REQUIRE A NEW APPROACH (310737)	T2 GAO-05-778T	06/14/05
FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY: FURTHER ACTIONS NEEDED TO ADDRESS LONG-STANDING AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS (543140)	T2 GAO-05-848T	06/22/05
TESTIMONY: MIGRATION TO INTERNET PROTOCOL VERSION 6 (IPV6) (310491)	T2 GAO-05-845T	06/29/05
CHALLENGES IN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS (290479)	T2 GAO-05-863T	06/30/05
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HR TESTIMONY ON IMPROPER PAYMENTS 2004 PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS (PAR'S) (195068)	T2 GAO-05-907T	07/20/05
HOMELAND SECURITY: AGENCY RESOURCES ADDRESS VIOLATIONS OF RESTRICTED AIRSPACE, BUT MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED (350731)	T2 GAO-05-928T	07/21/05
NUCLEAR SECURITY: ACTIONS NEEDED BY DOE TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF WEAPONS-GRADE NUCLEAR MATERIAL AT ITS ENERGY, SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT SITES (360616)	T2 GAO-05-934T	07/26/05
FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS INITIATIVES AND REFORM OPPORTUNITIES (450435)	T2 GAO-05-939T	07/27/05
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BORDER SECURITY: STRENGTHENED VISA PROCESS WOULD BENEFIT FROM ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY STATE AND DHS (320385)	T2	09/13/05
SURVEY OF MANAGERIAL COST ACCOUNTING PRACTICES AT DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (197010)	T2 GAO-05-1031T	09/21/05
TESTIMONY OF HOMELAND SECURITY: DHS MUST PLACE A HIGHER PRIORITY ON MITIGATING TERRORIST THREATS TO THE ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEM (460576)	T2 GAO-06-90T	09/26/05
UPDATE ON HHS'S EFFORTS TO DEFINE AND IMPLEMENT HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) STANDARDS (310803)	T2 GAO-05-1054T	09/29/05
WORKING FOR AMERICA ACT OF 2005 (450448)	T2 GAO-06-142T	10/05/05
REBUILDING IRAQ: ENHANCING SECURITY, MEASURING PROGRAM RESULTS, AND MAINTAINING INFRASTRUCTURE ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS (320390)	T2 GAO-06-179T	10/18/05
RESERVE FORCES: ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S ROLE, ORGANIZATION, AND EQUIPMENT NEED TO BE REEXAMINED (350748)	T2 GAO-06-170T	10/20/05
TESTIMONY ON FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NASA'S INTEGRATED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (192194)	T2 GAO-06-216T	10/27/05
CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON SECURITY OF EXPLOSIVES STORAGE FACILITIES (440462)	T2 GAO-06-182T	10/31/05
CFO ACT OF 1990: DRIVING THE TRANSFORMATION OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (195075)	T2 GAO-06-242T	11/17/05
PUBLIC HOUSING SYSTEM TESTIMONY (250281)	T2 GAO-06-419T	02/15/06
SEPTEMBER 11 WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM (290526)	T2 GAO-06-481T	02/28/06
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2010 CENSUS: PROGRESS REPORT ON PLANNING, TESTING, AND FUTURE CHALLENGES (450472)	T2 GAO-06-465T	03/01/06
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT: NEW APPROACHES MAY STRENGTHEN INFORMATION COLLECTION AND BURDEN REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS (TESTIMONY) (310753)	T2 GAO-06-477T	03/08/06
MANAGING SENSITIVE INFORMATION: DOE AND DOD COULD IMPROVE THEIR POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT (350822)	T2 GAO-06-531T	03/14/06
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FEDERAL AGENCIES INFORMATION SECURITY (IS) LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS (310572)	T2 GAO-06-527T	03/16/06
HOMELAND SECURITY: BETTER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES COULD ENHANCE DHS ABILITY TO ALLOCATE INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES (440492)	T2 GAO-06-462T	03/28/06
BEST PRACTICES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S (DHS) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (195080)	T2 GAO-06-553T	03/29/06
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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: CHALLENGES CONTINUE IN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF THE IMPROPER PAYMENTS INFORMATION ACT (195084)	T2 GAO-06-581T	04/05/06
HURRICANE KATRINA: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE USE OF AN ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (350844)	T2 GAO-06-600T	04/06/06
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YUCCA MOUNTAIN: QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES FACING DOE'S PLANNED NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY (360683)	T2 GAO-06-550T	04/25/06
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CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP) AND THE USE OF TELEWORK (310762)	T2 GAO-06-740T	05/11/06
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FEDERAL ACTIVITIES FOR WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER HEALTH MONITORING AND TREATMENT UPDATE (290562)	T2 GAO-06-1092T	09/08/06
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEXT GENERATION NUCLEAR PLANT (360763)	T2 GAO-06-1110T	09/20/06
HUMAN CAPITAL: TRENDS IN EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL PAY SUGGEST A REEXAMINATION OF THE TOTAL COMPENSATION PACKAGE (450532)	T2 GAO-06-1116T	09/20/06
NONPROLIFERATION: ASSESSING U.S. POLICY TOOLS FOR COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION (320450)	T2 GAO-06-1128T	09/26/06
REBUILDING IRAQ: CONTINUED PROGRESS REQUIRES OVERCOMING CONTRACT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES (120594)	T2 GAO-06-1130T	09/28/06
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(198356)		
ASSESSMENT UPDATE: AGENCY CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP) PLANS (310395)	W2	02/28/05
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GAO FORUM ON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MODERNIZATION (540095)	W2 GAO-05-333SP	04/13/05
FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM ACTIVE DUTY MEDICAL EXTENSION HEARING (192166)	W2	04/15/05
CENSUS BUREAU'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(IT)MANAGEMENT: SYSTEMS, POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES (310471)	W2	04/20/05
CHALLENGES OF NAS MODERNIZATION (540106)	W2	06/03/05
LEADING PRACTICES OF PRIVATE-SECTOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE (CIO) (310465)	W2	07/01/05
H.R. 2123 INCONSISTENCY WITH THE SINGLE AUDIT ACT (195067)	W2	07/13/05
HAZARDOUS RAIL SHIPMENTS (601257)	W2	08/11/05
POST HEARING QUESTIONS ON WORKING FOR AMERICA ACT (450456)	W2	12/01/05
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT (PRA) -- ACTIVE COLLECTIONS INVENTORY ANALYSIS (310749)	W2	01/14/06
CENSUS BUREAU INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MAJOR ACQUISITIONS FOR THE 2010 DECENNIAL CENSUS (310496)	W2	01/30/06
GOVERNMENTWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRANSITION PLANNING (310741)	W2	03/24/06
HEARING QUESTIONS FOR TESTIMONY ON HURRICANE KATRINA INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (350857)	W2	04/06/06
STATUS OF AGENCIES' ALTERNATE FACILITIES AND TELEWORK PLANS FOR USE IN CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP) PLANNING (310738)	W2 NA	04/13/06
REPORTING OUR FINDINGS ON THE STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS OF REQUIRING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS ACT AGENCIES TO OBTAIN AUDIT OPINIONS ON THEIR INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING (195078)	W2	05/02/06
INDEPENDENT COUNSEL: BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL DAVID M. BARRETT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2005 (196074)	W3	12/08/05
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE YELLOW BOOK AUDIOSEMINAR FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT'S (AICPA) GOVERNMENT AUDIT QUALITY CENTER, WASHINGTON, D.C. - JULY 11, 2006 (194589)	W3	07/11/06
BRIEFING ENTITLED "AUDITOR'S RESPONSE TO ABUSE" FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM'S WINTER MEETING, ORLANDO, FLORIDA - FEBRUARY 4, 2005 (194452)	W5	02/04/05

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HARMONIZATION OF AUDITING STANDARDS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA), BENTLEY COLLEGE, WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS - MARCH 15, 2005 (194448)	W5	03/15/05
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS (AICPA) 2005 GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING VIDEOTAPE, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY - MARCH 21, 2005 (194483)	W5	03/21/05
YELLOW BOOK AND SARBANES-OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF ACCOUNTANCY (NASBA)'S OFFICER'S TRAINING CONFERENCE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - MARCH 23, 2005 (194451)	W5	03/23/05
YELLOW BOOK BRIEFING FOR NEW MEXICO'S ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA) CHAPTER, ALBUQUERQUE, NM - MARCH 31, 2005 (194469)	W5	03/31/05
ATTESTATION PRIMER FOR NEW MEXICO'S ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA) CHAPTER, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO - APRIL 1, 2005 (194470)	W5	04/01/05
BRIEFING ON GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS RECENT AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS, MISSOURI SOCIETY OF CPA'S, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI - APRIL 20, 2005 (194493)	W5	04/20/05
DEVELOPMENT OF GAO COMMENTS ON DOD SERVICE AUDITOR'S DRAFT AUDIT PROGRAM FOR REVIEWING BUSINESS SYSTEMS (192158)	W5	04/21/05
UNIQUE RISKS IN GOVERNMENT AUDITS BRIEFING FOR MISSOURI SOCIETY OF CPA'S, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI - APRIL 21, 2005 (194494)	W5	04/21/05
YELLOW BOOK BRIEFING FOR MARYLAND'S ASSOCIATION OF CPAS GOVERNMENT AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONFERENCE, COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND - APRIL 22, 2005 (194449)	W5	04/22/05
SARBANES OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF CPA'S GOVERNMENT AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONFERENCE, COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND - APRIL 22, 2005 (194450)	W5	04/22/05
"WHERE IS INTERNAL CONTROL REPORTING HEADED?" BRIEFING FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - APRIL 28, 2005 (194507)	W5	04/28/05
SARBANES OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE INTERAGENCY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, SAINT MICHAELS, MARYLAND - MAY 2, 2005 (194491)	W5	05/02/05
YELLOW BOOK AND "AUDITOR'S RESPONSE TO ABUSE" BRIEFING FOR THE MID MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MISSOURI - MAY 4, 2005 (194482)	W5	05/04/05
PUBLIC SECTOR AUDITING: STRUCTURE AND STANDARDS BRIEFING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (ICGFM), MIAMI, FLORIDA - MAY 5, 2005 (194508)	W5	05/05/05
YELLOW BOOK/CHALLENGES FACING AUDITING PROFESSION BRIEFING FOR THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF CPA'S GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE, WICHITA, KANSAS - MAY 11, 2005 (194480)	W5	05/11/05
PRESENTATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS(AGA)/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AUDITORS, COMPTROLLERS, AND TREASURERS (NASACT) AUDIOSEMINAR, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA - MAY	W5	05/11/05

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11, 2005 (194484)		
MEETING THE CHALLENGES FACING THE ACCOUNTABILITY PROFESSION BRIEFING FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHAPTER, ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA), LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - MAY 11, 2005 (194492)	W5	05/11/05
ATTESTATION PRIMER BRIEFING FOR THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF CPA'S GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE, WICHITA, KANSAS - MAY 12, 2005 (194481)	W5	05/12/05
INDEPENDENCE BRIEFING FOR THE OREGON SOCIETY OF CPA'S, EUGENE, OREGON - MAY 16, 2005 (194454)	W5	05/16/05
YELLOW BOOK/SARBANES-OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF CPAS, TROY, MICHIGAN - MAY 17, 2005 (194455)	W5	05/17/05
YELLOW BOOK (FIELD WORK AND REPORTING STANDARDS) WORKSHOP FOR STATE OF ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDITORS, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - MAY 23, 2005 (194471)	W5	05/23/05
ATTESTATION PRIMER BRIEFING FOR STATE OF ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDITORS, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - MAY 24, 2005 (194472)	W5	05/24/05
EXPLORING SARBANES-OXLEY TYPE GOVERNANCE REFORMS PANEL DISCUSSION IN JAPAN WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH KOBE UNIVERSITY (194513)	W5	06/04/05
YELLOW BOOK BRIEFING FOR THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CPA'S NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE, TAMPA, FLORIDA - JUNE 6, 2005 (194485)	W5	06/06/05
OMB CREDIT TRAINING: AUDITING SUBSIDY ESTIMATES (190143)	W5	06/07/05
YELLOW BOOK BRIEFING FOR THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CPA'S NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA - JUNE 7, 2005 (194486)	W5	06/07/05
FORENSIC AUDITING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR BRIEFING FOR THE MID ATLANTIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM (MAIAF), OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND - JUNE 8, 2005 (194512)	W5	06/08/05
IMPACT OF SARBANES OXLEY ACT PRESENTATION FOR TENNESSEE SOCIETY GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING CONFERENCE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - JUNE 9, 2005 (194487)	W5	06/09/05
YELLOW BOOK FINANCIAL BASICS AND FORENSIC AUDITING FOR TENNESSEE SOCIETY GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING CONFERENCE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - JUNE 9, 2005 (194488)	W5	06/09/05
STANDARDS UPDATE BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL STATE AUDITOR'S ASSOCIATION (NSAA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA - JUNE 10, 2005 (194489)	W5	06/10/05
"WHERE IS INTERNAL CONTROL REPORTING HEADING?" BRIEFING FOR THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE AND GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, FAIRFAX, VA - JUNE 17, 2005 (194509)	W5	06/17/05
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE BRIEFING FOR THE NEW ENGLAND GRADUATE ACCOUNTING STUDIES CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE - JUNE 22, 2005 (194511)	W5	06/22/05
YELLOW BOOK/SARBANES-OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF CPAS (NESCPA), LINCOLN,	W5	06/24/05

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NEBRASKA - JUNE 23-24, 2005 (194464)		
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS' ETHICS EXPOSURE DRAFT ON FINANCIAL INTERESTS (194553)	W5	06/24/05
GAO LETTER TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD(FASB) & THE AUDITING STANDARDS BOARD (ASB) OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPA'S (AICPA)RE: GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES(GAAP)HIERARCHY (194554)	W5	06/27/05
YELLOW BOOK BRIEFING FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (PDC), ORLANDO, FLORIDA - JULY 12, 2005 (194490)	W5	07/12/05
SARBANES OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (ASSHTO), SEATTLE, WASHINGTON - 07/26/05 (194473)	W5	07/26/05
INTERNATIONAL AUDITING AND ASSURANCE STANDARDS BOARD (IAASB) EXPOSURE DRAFT (ED) OF PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF AUDITING ON GROUP AUDITS - GAO LETTER OF COMMENT (194557)	W5	08/02/05
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE - ADDRESSING RISKS IN GOVERNMENT AUDITING BRIEFING FOR THE BIENNIAL FORUM OF CENTRAL REGION GOVERNMENT AUDITORS, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS - AUGUST 8, 2005 (194518)	W5	08/08/05
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS - "TOWN HALL MEETING" SESSION FOR THE BIENNIAL FORUM OF CENTRAL REGION GOVERNMENT AUDITORS, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS - AUGUST 8, 2005 (194519)	W5	08/08/05
FORENSIC AUDITING IN PUBLIC SECTOR - A CASE STUDY PRESENTATION FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE(GFMC), BETHESDA, MARYLAND - AUGUST 10, 2005 (194516)	W5	08/10/05
INTERNATIONAL AUDITING AND ASSURANCE STANDARDS BOARD (IAASB)EXPOSURE DRAFT ON MODIFICATIONS TO THE OPINION IN AUDITOR'S REPORT AND ON EMPHASIS OF MATTER PARAGRAPHS AND OTHER MATTERS-GAO COMMENT LETTER (194555)	W5	08/10/05
BRIEFING FOR THE WESTERN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM (WIAF) ON INTERNAL CONTROLS, HONOLULU, HAWAII - AUGUST 22, 2005 (194514)	W5	08/22/05
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE BRIEFING FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS PACIFIC RIM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, HONOLULU, HAWAII - AUGUST 25, 2005 (194515)	W5	08/25/05
INDEPENDENCE BRIEFING FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA) AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS (ASMC) CONFERENCE, HONOLULU, HAWAII - AUGUST 26, 2005 (194517)	W5	08/26/05
GAO LETTER TO AUDITING STANDARDS BOARD (ASB) OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPA'S (AICPA) RE: PROPOSED SUITE OF AUDITING STANDARDS ON AUDIT RISK (194558)	W5	08/31/05
YELLOW BOOK/SARBANES-OXLEY BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AUDITORS, COMPTROLLERS AND TREASURERS (NASACT), TRAINING DIRECTORS FORUM, NIAGRA FALLS, NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 (194520)	W5	09/13/05
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE ON FINANCIAL AUDITS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS BRIEFING FOR THE JOINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUMS OF THE NY/NJ FORUM AND THE MID-ATLANTIC FORUM, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ	W5	09/29/05

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- SEPT. 29, 2005 (194521)		
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE/CPE REQUIREMENTS BRIEFING FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (AICPA), LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - OCTOBER 17 -18, 2005 (194522)	W5	10/18/05
INDEPENDENCE STANDARD BRIEFING FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (AICPA) GOVERNMENTAL AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT TRAINING PROGRAM, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - OCTOBER 17 - 18, 2005 (194523)	W5	10/18/05
PANEL ON GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (AICPA)'S NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL TRAINING CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - 10-19-2005 (194525)	W5	10/19/05
FORENSIC AUDITING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR PRESENTATION FOR FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF PHILADELPHIA BANK AUDITORS, PHILADELPHIA, PA - OCTOBER 20, 2005 (194526)	W5	10/20/05
INTERNAL CONTROL IN PERFORMANCE AUDITS BRIEFING FOR TEXAS STATE AUDITOR'S GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE, AUSTIN, TEXAS - NOVEMBER 1, 2005 (194527)	W5	11/01/05
FORENSIC AUDITING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR FOR THE TEXAS STATE AUDITOR'S GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE, AUSTIN, TEXAS - NOVEMBER 1, 2005 (194528)	W5	11/01/05
AUDITORS PREPARING PERFORMANCE REPORTS: WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, PORTLAND, OREGON - NOVEMBER 15, 2005 (194530)	W5	11/15/05
GAO LETTER TO AICPA RE: PROPOSED REVISION TO STANDARD ON COMMUNICATION OF INTERNAL CONTROL RELATED MATTERS NOTED IN AN AUDIT, REVISIONS TO SAS 60 (194565)	W5	11/15/05
GAO LETTER TO INTERNATIONAL AUDITING AND ASSURANCE STANDARDS BOARD (IAASB) ON PROPOSED STANDARDS ON AUDITOR'S REPORT ON OTHER HISTORICAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND ON SUMMARY AUDITED FINANCIAL STATE (194566)	W5	11/15/05
FORENSIC AUDITING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR BRIEFING FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY COMPTROLLERS CHAPTER, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND - NOVEMBER 17, 2005 (194529)	W5	11/17/05
ATTESTATION STANDARDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG) CONFERENCE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA - DECEMBER 7, 2005 (194531)	W5	12/07/05
IMPACT OF SARBANES OXLEY ON YELLOW BOOK AUDITS PRESENTATION FOR THE ALABAMA SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (CPAS), BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA - DECEMBER 7, 2005 (194532)	W5	12/07/05
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE PRESENTATION FOR THE GEORGIA SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (CPAS) 2005 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING CONFERENCE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA - DECEMBER 12, 2005 (194533)	W5	12/12/05
THE FY 2005 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CFS) OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AUDIT (198319)	W5	12/14/05
GAO WILL PROVIDE COMMENTS TO COMMITTEE OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS (COSO) OF THE TREADWAY COMMISSION ON DRAFT GUIDANCE ON INTERNAL CONTROLS FOR SMALL PUBLIC COMPANIES (194535)	W5	01/23/06

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YELLOW BOOK REQUIREMENTS AND UPCOMING CHANGES BRIEFING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S (DOD) INTERNAL AUDIT AND INTERNAL REVIEW CONFERENCE, ARLINGTON, VA - JANUARY 24, 2006 (194536)	W5	01/24/06
YELLOW BOOK EXEMPTIONS/PROVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE FEDERAL AUDIT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, ROSSLYN, VIRGINIA - JANUARY 26, 2006 (194539)	W5	01/26/06
IMPLEMENTING INTERNAL CONTROLS - STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BRIEFING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S 3RD ANNUAL CONF.ON FINANCIAL REPORTING, JEKYLL, ISLAND, GA. (194541)	W5	02/01/06
YELLOW BOOK UPDATE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BRIEFING FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA) MONTGOMERY PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPTER DINNER, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND - FEBRUARY 8, 2006 (194537)	W5	02/08/06
YELLOW BOOK EXEMPTIONS/PROVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS (AGA), ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - MARCH 15, 2006 (194540)	W5	03/15/06
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET'S CIRCULAR A-123: STRENGTHENING INTERNAL CONTROL BRIEFING FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANT'S (AGA), ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - MARCH 15, 2006 (194542)	W5	03/15/06
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS TOWN HALL FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANT'S (AGA) SOUTHEASTERN REGION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - MARCH 17, 2006 (194543)	W5	03/17/06
YELLOW BOOK PREVIEW OF THE 2006 REVISION BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ACCOCIATION OF STATE COMPTROLLERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - MARCH 22, 2006 (194538)	W5	03/22/06
ETHICS IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION FOR KPMG'S PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRY FORUM, CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA - APRIL 11, 2006 (194544)	W5	04/11/06
2006 YELLOW BOOK AND ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENTS BRIEFING FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA - APRIL 25, 2006 (194545)	W5	04/25/06
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS ARTICLE FOR THE FEDERAL TIMES, ARTICLE WILL BE DATED APRIL 26, 2006 (194549)	W5	05/02/06
YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS PRESENTATION FOR THE SINGLE AUDIT ROUNDTABLE, WASHINGTON, DC - MAY 3, 2006 (194551)	W5	05/03/06
YELLOW BOOK INDEPENDENCE STANDARD BRIEFING FOR THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING UPDATE CONFERENCE, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK - MAY 10, 2006 (194546)	W5	05/11/06
ANTICIPATED REVISIONS TO THE YELLOW BOOK PRESENTATION FOR OKLAHOMA'S SOCIETY OF CPAS GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA - MAY 11, 2006 (194575)	W5	05/11/06
SARBANES OXLEY LEGISLATION AND YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE UTAH SOCIETY OF CPAS, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - MAY 18, 2006 (194547)	W5	05/18/06

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ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK CHANGES PRESENTATION FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS (NALGA), SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA - MAY 23, 2006 (194583)	W5	05/23/06
EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE YELLOW BOOK PRESENTATION FOR THE 16TH BIENNIAL FORUM OF GOVERNMENT AUDITORS, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA - MAY 24, 2006 (194585)	W5	05/24/06
GOVERNANCE AND AUDITING REFORMS PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE 16TH BIENNIAL FORUM OF GOVERNMENT AUDITORS, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA - MAY 25, 2006 (194586)	W5	05/25/06
GAO LETTER TO AICPA RE: PROPOSED REVISION TO STATEMENT ON AUDITING STANDARD (SAS) ON AUDITOR'S COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (SAS 61) (194607)	W5	05/31/06
SARBANES-OXLEY ACT'S IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT AUDITS PRESENTATION FOR THE AIRPORT COUNCILS INTERNATIONAL, MONTREAL, CANADA - JUNE 5, 2006 (194584)	W5	06/05/06
GAO UPDATE BRIEFING FOR MOSS ADAMS, CPA FIRM, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON - JUNE 8, 2006 (194548)	W5	06/08/06
ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS PRESENTATION FOR THE NATIONAL STATE AUDITOR'S ASSOCIATION, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - JUNE 8, 2006 (194576)	W5	06/08/06
EXPOSURE DRAFT: GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS, 2006 REVISION (194574)	W5 GAO-06-729G	06/09/06
ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS PRESENTATION TO VERMONT STATE AUDITORS OFFICE, MONTPELIER, VERMONT - JUNE 14, 2006 (194577)	W5	06/14/06
ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS PRESENTATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA - JUNE 19, 2006 (194578)	W5	06/19/06
GAO PRESENTATION ON "TONE AT THE TOP; DOES IT REALLY MATTER AND HOW CAN I TELL?", BEFORE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, SAN DIEGO, CA - JUNE 21, 2006 (194550)	W5	06/21/06
AUDIO CONFERENCE DISCUSSING IMPLICATIONS OF THE 2006 YELLOW BOOK BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITY BUSINESS OFFICERS, WASHINGTON, D.C. - JUNE 22, 2006 (194587)	W5	06/22/06
ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS PRESENTATION FOR THE NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF CPA, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - JUNE 23, 2006 (194579)	W5	06/23/06
SARBANES-OXLEY AND OTHER CHANGES IMPACTING AUDITORS PRESENTATION FOR NEBRASKA'S SOCIETY OF CPA'S, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - JUNE 23, 2006 (194580)	W5	06/23/06
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE YELLOWBOOK AUDIO SEMINAR FOR THOMPSON'S SINGLE AUDIT INFORMATION SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC - JULY 11, 2006 (194591)	W5	07/11/06
YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS LIVE BROADCAST IN DALLAS TEXAS, DISCUSSING THE ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK CHANGES - JULY 19, 2006 (194581)	W5	07/19/06
ANTICIPATED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS PRESENTATION FOR THE FEDERAL AUDIT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA - JULY 24-25, 2006 (194582)	W5	07/25/06

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2006 YELLOW BOOK SPEECH FOR THE AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA - JULY 25, 2006 (194588)	W5	07/25/06
GAO LETTER TO INTERNATIONAL AUDITING AND ASSURANCE STANDARDS BOARD (IAASB) ON REVISED PROPOSED STANDARDS ON AUDIT OF GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (194608)	W5	07/31/06
FY 2006 REVISIONS TO THE YELLOW BOOK BRIEFING FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING ACADEMICS CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC - AUGUST 4, 2006 (194593)	W5	08/04/06
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION FOR THE 16TH ANNUAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE, WASH., D.C. 8-10-06 (194605)	W5	08/10/06
FY 2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AUDITORS, COMPTROLLERS, AND TREASURERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OMAHA, NEBRASKA - AUGUST 21, 2006 (194595)	W5	08/21/06
PRESENTATION ON THE FEDERAL AUDIT ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS'S (AICPA) NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING UPDATE CONFERENCE, WASH., D.C. 8-22-06 (194592)	W5	08/22/06
FY 2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT'S (AICPA) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC - AUGUST 21 & 22, 2006 (194594)	W5	08/22/06
FY 2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG) CONFERENCE, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK - AUGUST 23, 2006 (194604)	W5	08/23/06
BUILDING PUBLIC TRUST PRESENTATION BEFORE THE TENNESSEE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY SENIOR MANAGEMENT RETREAT, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE - AUGUST 28, 2006 (194614)	W5	08/28/06
2006 YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS (IIA) 2006 GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC - SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2006 (194596)	W5	09/07/06
FINANCIAL STATEMENT UPDATE: PROGRESS AND ISSUES PRESENTATION FOR THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS 25TH ANNUAL GOVERNMENT AUDITING CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 7, 2006 (194615)	W5	09/07/06
2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AUDITORS, COMPTROLLERS, AND TREASURERS' OFFICER TRAINING CONFERENCE - HELENA, MONTANA - AUGUST 21, 2006 (194597)	W5	09/12/06
2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (CPA'S), WASHINGTON, DC - SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 (194598)	W5	09/16/06
2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS'S (AICPA) GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING & AUDITING CONFERENCE, DENVER - SEPTEMBER 18 - 19, 2006 (194599)	W5	09/19/06
INTERNAL CONTROLS GONE BAD CASE STUDY BEFORE THE TEXAS ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE, AUSTIN,	W5	09/20/06

ENGAGEMENT TITLE (CODE)	PRODUCT CODE / REPORT NUMBER	DATE ISSUED
TEXAS - SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 (194613)		
2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM, PORTLAND, OREGON - SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2006 (194600)	W5	09/21/06
2006 PROPOSED YELLOW BOOK REVISIONS BRIEFING FOR THE TEXAS ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE, AUSTIN, TEXAS - SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 (194601)	W5	09/21/06
INTERNAL CONTROLS IN A PERFORMANCE AUDIT PRESENTATION FOR THE TEXAS ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE, AUSTIN, TEXAS - SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 (194602)	W5	09/21/06
GAO LETTER TO AUDITING STANDARDS BOARD OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS RE: PROPOSED STANDARD ON A FIRM'S SYSTEM OF QUALITY CONTROL (194645)	W5	09/29/06

Appendix II

Appendix II		
		Direct Savings and Financial Benefits
Amount	Agency/Program	
\$32,365,000	Adjustments to TSA's Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriated Monies for TSA's Secure Flight	
\$40,451,302	ATF's Monitoring of Costs and Benefits Strengthens Its Seat Management Program	
\$303,618,198	Cancellation of TSA's computer-assisted passenger pre-screening system (CAPPS) II Program	
\$82,585,978	Cost Reductions Associated with Eight New Embassy Construction Projects	
\$42,385,735	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service's Reutilization Initiatives Reduce Costs over \$42 Million in First Three Months of Implementation	
\$123,869	DOD Reutilizes New, Unused Biological Safety Cabinets and Laboratory Equipment	
\$107,463,899	DOD Termination of Legacy Systems Through Implementation of Standard Procurement System	
\$81,844,000	Education Improves Debt Collection by Using DCIA Wage Garnishment	
\$163,579,220	HHS Reduces Improper Payments in its Head Start Program	
\$2,329,000	Improving State/USAID Construction	
\$53,700,000	Increased DOD Third-Party Collections	
\$80,251,297	Interior Uses Enterprise Architecture to Avoid Costs Through Enterprise Software Licenses and Hardware Procurement Consolidation	
\$20,197	IRS Recovers Improper Refund	
\$1,922,137,081	IRS's Improved Methodology for Selecting Cases Results In Increased Collections	
\$2,191,286,000	Postal Rates Increased to Fund Escrow Account	
\$9,658,365	Postal Service Implements Reverse Auction Overtime Function	
\$478,390,000	Reducing Expenditures at the Idaho National Laboratory by Clarifying DOE's Authority to Dispose of Radioactive Tank Waste	
\$59,248,888	State Department Sale of Excess Property	
\$363,538,794	The National Archives and Records Administration's Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Acquisition Budget Reduced	
\$439,208,179	USDA Reduces Improper Payments in its Food Stamp Program	
\$6,454,185,002	Total	

*Source: GAO - List of FY2006 Financial Benefits Resulting from GAO Work
Where House Government Reform Committees Are One of the Requestors*