

Federal Times Sept. 6, 2004

## 10 agencies cited for quality financial reports

A government accountability group will recognize 10 agencies for high-quality reporting of their financial and program performance.

The agencies receiving the top honor — the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting — are the Education, Interior, Labor and State departments; Federal Aviation Administration; Government Accountability Office; General Services Administration; Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Patent and Trademark Office and Social Security Administration.

This year, 18 agencies submitted their fiscal 2003 Performance and Accountability reports for review by the Association of Government Accountants, an Alexandria, Va., professional association.

Factors that led to top ratings included letters from agency heads certifying the reliability of the reports' data, highlights of agencies' most important performance goals and measures, and updates on agencies' status in the president's management agenda.

Performance and accountability reports used to be due from each agency within five months of the end of a fiscal year. Beginning this year, agencies have to generate the necessary material within 45 days.

"With extremely tight timeframes, the [certificate] program's rigorous review will be even more valuable," said Harold Steinberg, certificate program director.

### HONORS

## ON THE MOVE

### GOVERNMENT

#### ■ IT ACQUISITION DIRECTOR

The General Services Administration has named Patricia Pierson, a procurement and management expert, to direct the Information Technology Acquisition Center in GSA's Federal Supply Service.

Since January, Pierson has guided IT Acquisition Center reorganization plans, which are designed to improve effectiveness and efficiency and provide federal customers worldwide with nearly \$20 billion a year in IT products and services.

Previously, Pierson was FSS director of business support in the Office of Enterprise Planning.

She replaces Roy Chisholm, who became the first IT Acquisition Center director in 1995 and oversaw its annual business volume growth from \$1.6 billion to \$17 billion. Chisholm plans to retire after a 47-year federal career.

#### ■ CHANGES AT VA

Scott Cragg is the new chief architect in the Veterans Affairs Department's chief information officer's office, where he is responsible for information technology enterprise architecture.

He comes to VA from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, where he had been CIO since 2001. Previously, he worked for the Housing and Urban Development Department and the Navy.

Also at VA:

Darin Selnick is director of the new Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The center will identify barriers that limit faith-based and other community

organizations from delivering services to veterans and propose initiatives to remove those barriers, including new procurement procedures, intern and outreach activities.

An Air Force veteran, Selnick is a California state commander for the National Veterans and a former member of the group's National Executive Committee. He joined VA in 2001 as a special agent assigned to VA's Learning University.

David Wells is director of a national cemetery to be built in Pasco County, Fla., and scheduled to be completed in August 2005. Wells has been the architect at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell since 1995. He was previously director of national cemeteries in Mass., Dayton, Ohio, and Culpeper, Va. Wells joined VA's National Cemetery Administration in 1988 as a work ployee at the Knoxville, Tenn. Cemetery. In 1989, he entered the director training program.

#### ■ IRS PROMOTIONS

Donald Rocen has been selected acting deputy chief counsel for the IRS.

He will direct about 1,000 attorneys in the IRS operating divisions specializing in specialized areas and oversee the Chief Counsel's nationwide tax nontax legal services and management support programs.

Rocen joined the Office of Chief Counsel in May as special counsel to Chief Counsel Donald Korb after serving in the chief counsel's office of PricewaterhouseCoopers since 1989.

Jonathan Zelnick has been selected senior counsel and will be a primary adviser on abusive tax transactions.

# POINTS AND MILES FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY TRAVELERS!

Legislation now allows all Federal employees to retain frequent flyer miles and hotel points earned on official travel.

(The travel rewards program for people who don't have time for a travel rewards program.)

## Join Priority Club® Rewards now.

It's easier to enjoy the rewards of travel when you're with Priority Club Rewards. You'll get more great rewards to choose from. More places to earn them. And a lot less restrictions than with other programs.

We're always coming up with great new point-earning opportunities.

To learn more about our program, call 1-888-211-0874 or visit [www.priorityclub.com](http://www.priorityclub.com)

