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**‘ELITE GROUP’ OF FEDERAL AGENCIES RECOGNIZED FOR FISCAL
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

Record number of awards ‘evidence of continuing improvement’

Washington D.C. May 21, 2008—The highest standards of federal fiscal accountability reporting will be recognized today when the Association of Government Accountants’ (AGA) presents its prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) to 17 federal departments or agencies.

The CEAR is awarded to federal government entities whose Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) and the alternative PARs (known as Pilot Program Reports) achieve the highest standards of clarity in communicating financial information and demonstrating accountability.

The awards come at a time when government is widely perceived to be failing to close the gap between the type of government financial reporting that citizens expect and what they get, according to a poll released by AGA earlier this year.

“Given public perceptions about government fiscal accountability and transparency, the achievement of this year’s CEAR recipients is even more significant,” said Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, AGA’s Executive Director. “The agencies and departments being honored today truly represent an elite group within the government financial management community.”

“We are heartened by the unprecedented numbers of agencies and departments receiving the certificate and those who participated in the program,” he continued, “Seventeen awards is a record number, and we welcome it as evidence not only of continuous improvement, but also of a real commitment to accountability and transparency among federal government financial managers and their agencies.”

Of the 24 entrants for the 2007 Program, the following agencies/departments will receive the award:

U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. General Services Administration, U.S. Government Accountability Office, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Peace Corps, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Social Security Administration.

The CEAR Awards will be presented to the recipients at a dinner at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., Wednesday May 21, 2008. Clay Johnson, Managing Director, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, will deliver remarks.

For more information on the CEAR Program, and AGA's Government Accountability and Transparency Poll, visit www.agacgfm.org. ENDS.

About AGA: The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional association that serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and campaigning in the public interest to for higher standards of government accountability and transparency. www.agacgfm.org.

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