

ASSOCIATION OF  
GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTANTS

# AGA

# NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 1987

## THURSDAY February 5, 1987 LUNCHEON MEETING TO FEATURE



DR JAMES E COLVARD  
Deputy Director  
Office of Personnel Management

Topic

*Changes in Government  
Employee Benefits*

at the

SAM RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
Room B-338, "C" and South Capitol Streets  
Near Capitol South Metro Station

Social	
Period	11:15
Luncheon	12:00
Cost	\$13.00 (Members with reservation) \$15.00 (Non-members and No Reservation)

For Luncheon Reservations Call 548-7040 (24 HOUR SERVICE)  
Telephone Reservations Accepted Thru February 3, 1987

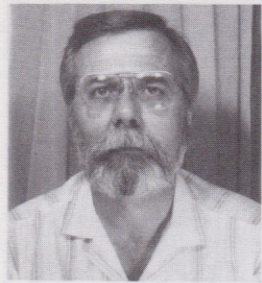
## NON MEMBERS WELCOME

*All Reservations Guaranteed*

Meeting Schedule: • Mar. 5 • Apr. 2 • May 7



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Gary Palmquist**

One of the pleasures of being President is the opportunity to pontificate in the President's monthly article. According to the Editors and the Chapter Board, I must make it perfectly clear that my comments are personal opinion and not Chapter philosophy.

In any event my thoughts are fairly mellow because I'm writing this during the holiday period at year end. Nevertheless, current events are influencing my thoughts. The ongoing Arms-R-Us scandal makes me wonder where are all the people who swore to execute the "laws" of the United States? It seems that the only thing people are executing are the "wishes" of the boss. Civil Service reform advocates must be very pleased with such "responsiveness" from the lower level, non-political, types. I think there are too many non-career bosses expressing "wishes" at all levels of government. I yearn for the old days when we had missions spelled out by law and the boss was concerned with that agenda. While I'm in the neighborhood, I'd like to take another shot at mid-level non-career appointees. I've seen very few who did anything but harm in the exercise of their power. Now there is a pay commission recommendation for big raises for top Federal positions. I'm not opposed to better salaries for Department Secretaries, Agency Heads, Judges, or Members of Congress. However, I can't believe higher salaries will improve the quality of other appointees. On the few occasions that I had reason to know, almost every non-career appointee to the SES level received much more money than they had previously earned. They were fortunate that SES has no qualification requirements. Those people didn't need more money to entice them into the Government.

Why is it that I keep harping on this subject? It is because I believe that the scandals and improprieties of government cannot occur without our complicity. As Accountants we are aware of most of the improper expenditures of the Government. In fact, we probably have to certify the expendi-

## Nominations Committee

by Terence J. Conway, President-Elect

The Chapter Nominating Committee has completed its deliberations for another year by proposing a slate of candidates for National and Chapter office. On the national scene, the committee nominated a Washington Chapter member, Mr. Ken Winne, JFMIP, as National Capital Regional Vice President-Elect. This nomination was accepted by the National Nominating Committee, and Mr. Winne is on the National slate.

At the Chapter level, the following names will be placed on the election ballot for the upcoming year, 1987-88:

President-Elect	Diane Bray	DoD
Treasurer:	Rolf Wold	DoT
Secretary:	Deatrice Russell	FMS
Director:	Lee Beatty	GAO
	Fernando Bren	JFMIP
	Sue Fields	NIH
	Bill Henderson	EPA
	Verne Isenberg	Agriculture
	Dan McGrath	FMS
	Russ Morris	FMS
	Joe Rothschild	HUD
	Adam Shaw	DoD
	Joyce Shelton	DoT
	John Simonette	GAO

This year, we will be electing seven Directors: five to replace Directors whose terms have expired, and two to fill vacancies on the board. Present Directors who will continue to serve during the 1987-88 year are: Loretta Shogren, Charles McAndrew, and Mike Merson.

Additional nominations for any of these positions may be submitted by petition signed by a least 50 chapter members in good standing. Any such petition must be filed with the Secretary no later than February 15. Ballots will be mailed to Chapter members with the April Newsletter.

ture of those funds. As Auditors, we see the weak controls and the abuse of power and could expose it if we were not listening to those who ask us to keep a lid on things. In these cases I urge you to Just Say No to your bosses who ask you to do something besides your duty of executing the laws of the Nation. We are a Nation of laws, not individuals.



**ASSOCIATION OF  
GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTANTS  
WASHINGTON  
CHAPTER  
EXECUTIVE  
BOARD 1986-1987**

**Officers**

*President*

Gary Palmquist, 233-2472

*President-Elect*

Terry Conway, DOD, 697-7296

*Secretary*

Jean Bowles, State, 524-1188

*Treasurer*

Vern Isenberg, Agriculture, 447-6090

*Past President*

Susan Lee, Financial Management  
Service, 535-9693

**Committees**

*Membership Services*

Daniel McGrath, Financial

Management Service, 566-3717

Ken George, ACTION, 634-9163

*Programs*

Loretta Shogren, Justice, 633-3291

*Newsletter*

Lee Beaty, GAO, 275-9417

Anna Wilson, JFMIP, 376-5415

Herb McLure, GAO, 275-4905

*Employment Referral*

Joyce Shelton, DOT, 366-1306

*Meetings*

Judith Boyd, Financial Management  
Service, 535-9693

*Cooperation with Professional and*

*Academic Organizations*

Joseph Rothschild, HUD, 426-6493

*Relations with National Office*

William Kendig, Interior, 343-4701

*Research, Professional Notes*

Charles McAndrew, Navy, 695-1070

*Awards*

Mike Merson, Financial Management  
Service, 436-6840

*Chapter Evaluation*

Ronald Lynch, Arthur Anderson,  
862-3324

*Chapter Recognition*

Judith Parson, Treasury, 566-9420

*Education*

Diane Bray, DOD 695-0839

Doris Chew, JFMIP, 376-5415

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKER THIS MONTH  
Dr. James E. Colvard**

Nominated by President Reagan, and sworn into office as Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on August 27th, 1986, Dr. James E. Colvard is responsible for working closely with the Director in formulating and executing civil service personnel policies. Those policies guide the efforts to recruit, train, and develop a work force comprised of 2.1 million Federal employees.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Colvard served as the Director of Civilian Personnel Policy/Equal Employment Opportunity for the Navy, a position he entered upon the disestablishment of the Naval Material Command, in which he was the Deputy Chief of Naval Material for five years.

From 1974 to 1980, Dr. Colvard was the Technical Director of the Naval Surface Weapons Center, which was created by merging the Naval Ordnance Laboratory and the Naval Weapons Laboratory, where he held several key executive positions. Earlier in his career, from 1958 to 1969, Dr. Colvard was a physicist at the Naval Ordnance Test Center, and later a manager at the Naval Weapons Center, both in China Lake, California. He also gained private sector experience from 1961 to 1962, working for the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University.

Following enlisted naval service, Dr. Colvard earned a B.A. in physics from Berea College in 1958, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1973, and a Doctor of Public Administration from the University of Southern California in 1982.

In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Colvard has received numerous awards for his professional excellence, including the Michelson Laboratory Fellowship Award for Management from the Naval Weapons Center in 1968, the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 1977 and 1986, and the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 1983. He was elected to the National Academy of Public Administration in 1985. Moreover, in both 1980 and 1985, he received the highest civilian award in government, the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives.

Born in Robbinsville, North Carolina in 1932, Dr. Colvard is married to the former Joy Helen Alexander of Asheville, North Carolina. They are the parents of a daughter, Belinda, and live in King George County, Virginia.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

If you hurry you can still register for the February 9-10 AGA Capital Region Professional Development Seminar at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. For details or to obtain a brochure call the AGA National Education Department on 684-6931.

This year's Joint Financial Management Improvement Program Conference is scheduled for March 19 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. See article elsewhere in this issue.

Also on your calendar circle March 5, the date of Washington Chapter's March luncheon meeting which will feature as speaker the Comptroller General of the United States, Charles A. Bowsher.

Price Waterhouse Partner Frank Austin will provide insights on consulting at Northern Virginia Chapter's February 17 monthly dinner meeting at the Ramada Inn (I-395 and Seminary Road) in Alexandria. Call JoEllen Kowalski, 275-9412, for details and reservations.

The Washington Chapter is preparing a FERS (Federal Employment Retirement System) Workshop for March 27, 1987, designed specifically to help you decide whether to stay in the old retirement system or switch to the new one. If you would like to attend, please call Diane Bray for more details on 695-0839. Call right away!



## ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSONS

Below is a current list of Washington Chapter Assistant Membership Chairpersons (AMC's). AMC's play an important role in the Chapter's recruitment program by introducing new colleagues to the many benefits of AGA membership. Dan McGrath and Ken George, Membership Services Co-Chairpersons, are aggressively seeking additional persons to serve as AMC's. Can you help? Give Dan or Ken a call (566-3717 and 634-9163, respectively).

Joseph Adams	Interior	435-6130
Anita Byrd	Labor	523-8291
Julia Carson	SEC	272-3159
Bob Clark	State (AID)	632-0166
Fiona Cughenour	Air Force	767-5598
Celeste DiFiore	VA	523-4118
Sue Fields	HHS (NIH)	496-3417
Terry Garret	Interior	343-5027
Dave Gellman	U.S. Courts	633-6194
Philip Giza	Treasury (FMS)	436-6132
James Golden	DOT	472-5052
Virginia Hall	NSF	357-7754
Dave Holland	Interior	343-2377
Lonnie Hunter	Treasury(PublicDebt)	287-4356
Florence Imburg	NSF	357-7835
Vern Isenberg	Agriculture (FHA)	447-6090
Barbara Jackson	Labor	523-8385
Jack Johnson	EPA	382-5145
Delores Jones	GSA	566-1192
Lenwood Keyes	Treasury (FMS)	566-5551
Robert Lane	Treasury (FMS)	566-9634
Elizabeth Levitt	State	524-1188
Jean Lewis	Navy	695-7954
Joseph Lokeman	Treasury (FMS)	566-8632
John Martin	GSA	523-5124
Herb McLure	GAO	275-4905
Elena Pappas	Price Waterhouse	524-1188
Ronny Parkerson	Agriculture	475-3204
ChristyPoindexter	HHS	245-6041
Ron Schwartz	HUD	933-3222
Helen Sherman	Energy	252-4860
Fred Smith	Treasury (FMS)	376-0951
Luise Summersett	GAO	634-5215
Neil Tierney	Arthur Young	828-7000
Leo Warring	Treasury (FMS)	634-5577
Rolf Wold	DOT	426-3504
Charles Zlamal	JFMIP	376-5415

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VITA)

By PAULA RUBIN,  
PUBLIC SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR

You may be interested in volunteering for the VITA program.

The VITA program was established by the Internal Revenue Service in 1969 to provide free income tax assistance at community locations to lower income, elderly, handicapped and non-English speaking taxpayers who are unable to prepare their own returns or pay for professional assistance.

IRS provides instructors and training materials free of charge. Training is usually on Saturdays and covers the preparation of Forms 1040A, 1040EZ, and the basic 1040. CPA's are not required to be tested or take training. A special toll-free telephone number is available for volunteers to call for volunteers to call for technical assistance while at the VITA site.

*THERE IS NO LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS VOLUNTEER WORK. Returns are not signed by volunteers. The VITA stamp is used in the signature block designated for preparer.*

The VITA program is an excellent vehicle for concerned groups like ours to maintain our association with each other, provide a valuable service to the community, and create enormous goodwill for our organization and the profession. The work is very rewarding.

For more information, call me on 535-9693.

## RELOCATION FIRM SUPPORTS PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

By Joe Rothschild, Chairperson for Cooperation with Professional and Academic Organizations

The Public Employees' Roundtable (PER), of which AGA Washington Chapter is a member, recently announced an arrangement with the nation's largest home relocation management service, Homequity, Inc., to help strengthen the "voice" of the 25 member Roundtable by sponsoring a multi-media communications package.

"PER has an important story to tell," said Kevin Russell, Vice President of Homequity's Washington office. "Public employees at all levels — federal, state, and local — make innumerable contributions to our national well-being. We understand how important it is to maintain quality service in both business and government, and we want to do our part to help PER do just that in the public sector."

(Continued on page 5)



# GAO ISSUES DRAFT SYSTEMS STANDARDS

By Virginia B. Robinson

GAO has published an exposure draft of a third appendix to title 2 of the General Accounting Office *Policy and Procedures Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies*. When issued in final form, this appendix will prescribe accounting system standards and requirements for both manual and automated systems that agency heads must observe in establishing, maintaining, and reporting on their systems of accounting and internal control as required by 31 U.S.C. 3512. All interested public and private sector officials are invited to comment on the draft document.

The proposed standards, along with discussion material intended to aid the interpretation and implementation of the standards, are based on applicable systems requirements from the 1978 version of title 2, certain traditional ADP system life cycle concepts, and current technology. They are also based on consultation with officials in a number of federal agencies and private firms. The proposed standards are relatively broad so as to survive the passage of time and changes in technology. The standards will apply to systems of accounting that are under development, under major revision, or that are operating. They are intended to promote to the maximum extent possible the use of systems that will provide the information needed for effective and economical management of the government's resources and operations and to assess management's stewardship.

Copies of the document may be requested from GAO's Distribution Section at FTS 275-9780. Ask for the "Exposure Draft of Appendix III, Title 2, Policy and Procedures Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies."

*Virginia Robinson is an Associate Director in GAO's Accounting and Financial Management Division responsible for accounting systems policy, and is a past President of AGA Washington Chapter.*

(Continued from page 4)

The package will consist of three major parts:

1. The PER video — for highlighting the mission and recent activities of the Roundtable.
2. Public service announcements — for nationwide distribution during Public Service Recognition Week (May 4-10, 1987).
3. An updated PER brochure — for membership recruitment, fundraising, and general information.

Homequity, in business since 1955, serves many of the world's largest corporations as well as several major federal agencies.

# ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS

By Maria Moy, Treasury FMS

A constant driving force behind Treasury's payment efforts is to ensure the effective use of available payment mechanisms and accommodate the needs of all Federal agencies. The Payments Management Division (PMD), Field Operations, Financial Management Service (FMS), is responsible for establishing payment policy, and converting payment activity from checks to electronic funds transfer (EFT) systems.

Recently, FMS issued Treasury Financial Manual Bulletin No. 86-05, announcing general policies for using EFT. The two EFT payment mechanisms are the Automated Clearing House (ACH) System and the Treasury Financial Communications System (TFCS). The ACH System is a batch processing system especially suited for large volumes of payments like salary and recurring benefit items. However, over the next few years, it will also become the principal disbursing mechanism for all Federal payments because of its low processing costs.

In comparison, the TFCS is a transaction-by-transaction processing system that can transfer funds virtually instantaneously. It is designed for high-dollar, low-volume, and highly time sensitive items. Today, it is used for letter-of-credit payments, emergency payments and certain high dollar vendor and miscellaneous items.

FMS's policy is that vendor payments should be made by the ACH, and efforts are underway to convert the large volume of vendor items now made by check or TFCS, to the ACH System.

FMS is also looking at a new EFT arrangement that involves establishing direct interface between Treasury disbursed agencies and the Federal Reserve. Such an arrangement is being implemented with the Department of Education for certain grant/program payments. PMD is also working with the Department of Health and Human Services on a similar application. Direct access is only being considered for those applications where FMS cannot provide the level of service that a particular agency requires and where such an arrangement is beneficial to the Federal government as a whole. Policy related to expanded use of this technique is currently being developed and will be issued in the future.

PMD will be working with agencies on developing and executing individual EFT conversion plans and strategies. For further information please call Maria Moy on (202) 634-5773.



# INS' DIAS SYSTEM

By Loretta J. Shogren

The Directives and Instructions Access System (DIAS) is a user friendly, full text, interactive, on-line access, menu driven system. It uses the "Inquire" text feature and macros specifically designed for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. It is maintained at the Department of Justice Data Center on an Amdahl 5860, under OS/MVS with CICS. IBM System-36 is used for the uploading and downloading maintenance procedures.

For those of you who feel I have been writing in a foreign language, relax, that's all I know in computerese. Now in English, the problem we had was updating about 1,500 pages of manuals each year and getting those updates to more than 100 different locations. About 900 of these 1,500 pages were distributed to 9,000 employees to be filed in their individual copies of the Service Law Books. Immigration has complicated laws, regulations to implement those laws, and interpretations and operations instructions that tell our officers what to do and how to do it. All this information is maintained in loose-leaf notebooks called the "Law Books". Each officer received a copy when he or she entered training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and has been expected to maintain the manual by filing the updates received.

We're talking about a lot of paper: 900 pages times 9,000 copies comes to 8,100,000 pages to file each year. It takes about 67,500 work hours to file, plus another 10 hours each year to audit the books to assure they have all the correct pages. That's a total of 157,500 work hours.

We needed a system that was easy to use or "User Friendly". The INS officers are law enforcement oriented, and not familiar with computers or their jargon. The system also had to get the information out quickly and tell the officers what the changes were. We also wanted a history of all changes made.

The Infodata team analysed our text requirements, spent many hours talking with us and finally came up with a design that met our needs. This part of developing a system is hard work and takes time. However, I feel that the time and effort spent up front by both the systems analysts and the user group is most important.

Just about a year ago, DIAS went into production. Every word that is in the hard-copy Service Law Books is now accessible by terminals throughout the country. The system is updated within 24 hours of an authorized change while it takes six to eight weeks to get hard copy changes to the field offices.

DIAS has three data bases — one for the current Law Books text, another for the historical text of revised material and a third for the message feature. Every update affects all three data bases. The existing text is moved to historical, the current text is revised, and a message is sent telling all users what material has been revised and providing a short description of the change.

The update capability is password protected and restricted to the Office of Policy Directives and Instructions in Washington, D.C.

While access to DIAS is not restricted, access to the Data Center does require a password. Many of the Service officers have passwords which are used to access another INS systems through CICS and need not request a specific password for DIAS. Once into the system, the user finds than menus, options and prompt lines on the screen tell him what to do. The main menu or first screen requires two decisions. The first choice the user must make is which data base to access: Message, current Law Books Text or Historical Text. Then if either current or historical text is chosen, the user must make a second choice and choose between a "Structured" search or an "Unstructured" search.

A structured search looks through the data for a specific piece of information such as part of the Code of Federal Regulations or a section of the Law. To use the structured search, you must know the format of the Law Books or use the Table of Contents to find the specific section you wish to see. Each significant part or section of the text begins with a key line. These key lines appear at the start of each record and within the record to indicate internal division of a section. For example: in the Code of Federal Regulations, the text is structured with paragraph designations. Keys were inserted in the text to allow the structured retrieval of a specific paragraph or an entire part. Approximately 2,500 key lines were added to the Law Books text to allow the user to request 8 CFR 223a.5(b)(2) or any other specific paragraph.

In an unstructured search, all that is needed to begin a search is a "keyword". This process is similar to going to the index to find where your subject matter is located. A keyword can be either numeric or alpha. For example, either "223.1" or "orphans" can be keywords. Both words and numbers in the Law Book have the potential of being keywords. Keywords can be connected with any one of six connectors. The user doesn't need to remember these connectors, because each time an unstructured search is requested, the screen tells you how to enter your search, what connectors are available, and what they mean. You may continue to build an unstructured search of up to eight words with various connectors.

(Continued on page 7)



DIAS has been designed so that anyone who is willing to devote two to three hours at a terminal and will read the screens can easily learn to use the system. Everything you need to know is right there.

As I said earlier, DIAS became a production system with on line access to Immigration's Law Book last October. We plan to add the Administrative Manual to the system in the next six months. The design of this addition has been completed. We found that analysis and design was again required because the structure of the Administrative Manual was completely different than the structure of the Law Books. When tailoring the Inquire Text feature for ease of use, the organization of the material determines the design of the structured access.

We will add a new menu up front — which requires a choice between the Administrative Manual and the Law Books. The system has the flexibility to add other manuals, if and when the need is identified, by adding to the first menu.

DIAS has met INS needs. The most important need was that the system be "User Friendly". We believe this system can be used by anyone regardless of prior computer training. Our next requirement was for speed in distributing changes. This has also been accomplished. Revised text is placed in the system using a batch update. Within 24 hours of authorization, the new text is available at all field locations. The message data base can be updated on-line. When the need exists, a message concerning any changes can be sent immediately.

We now have over a year of updated text in our history file and find it a valuable research tool.

Many of our officers are excited about the time saved doing research with DIAS and are anxious to see it grow.

*Loretta Shogren is the Director of INS' Office of Policy Directives and Instructions. INS is a component of the Department of Justice. Located in Washington, D.C., the Office is responsible for the control and publication of the Service Laws, Regulations, Operations Instructions and Administrative Procedures. This amounts to approximately 8,000 pages of text made available to more than 100 offices and 12,000 employees. In addition, the Office is responsible for the control of all field reports requested by the Central Office and the control, management and design of the 1,000 forms used by INS.*

*Mrs. Shogren has been with INS for eight years. She is active in the Washington Chapter of AGA where she is currently Director of Programs.*

## RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICE

By  
William L. Kendig

During 1975, our organization changed its name from the Federal Government Accountants' Association (FGAA) to the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). Some long-time members hold membership certificates issued by the FGAA. Some of those members have requested information concerning how they can get an AGA certificate. The AGA National Office has informed me that those members who wish to replace their FGAA certificates with AGA certificates should submit their FGAA certificates to the National Office at the following address:

Association of Government Accountants  
National Office  
727 South 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Attention: Mr. Kenneth Sullivan

The FGAA certificate will provide the date of initial membership, which is no longer available because some National Office records from years ago were destroyed. Upon receipt of the FGAA certificate, a new AGA certificate will be issued free of charge and the new AGA certificate will be sent to the member.

Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Kenneth Sullivan, AGA's Director of Association Services, on (703) 684-6931.

## JFMIP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) has announced that this year's annual financial management conference "Financial Management Reform: A Key to Better Government" will be held March 19 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The conference will cover many of the significant issues affecting financial managers in the public sector today. The morning plenary session will highlight budgetary reforms, including topics such as biennial budgeting, line-item veto, balanced budget amendment, and capital budgeting. The afternoon plenary session and workshops will emphasize the modernization of financial management systems and central agencies will discuss how other agencies can improve public services, while operating more efficiently in a business-like manner.

The fee for the conference is \$75 and the hotel is near the Metro Center subway stop. Registration deadline is March 5. For information on registration procedures call Tom Tate, Tom Uttley, Ed Murphy, or Sam Smith on 632-5600.



## DID YOU KNOW . . .

By Charles McAndrew

This month we are featuring the U.S. Air Force Accounting and Finance Center (Denver Colorado). In particular, we will discuss their efforts in the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) area, mainly Section 4 of the act.

—The Air Force has one primary General Accounting and Finance System (GAFS) with 26 major associated systems and 36 subsystems. Other corollary systems (payroll, stock fund, etc.) interface with this primary system. Altogether, GAFS and other financial systems constitute the Air Force integrated Financial Management System (FMS). The integrity and efficiency of each FMS component depend to a large extent on the diligence and integrity of the system operators and users. While the Air Force has guidelines for use, directions for systems review, and well developed internal controls, they still rely on the individuals using and operating the systems.

—Their early reviews of financial management systems in 1983 identified 19 material weaknesses (instances of nonconformance with GAO requirements) in five accounting systems. Currently, three material weaknesses in two systems remain. In order to ensure that accounting systems continue to meet the GAO requirements, the Air Force is pursuing a rigorous campaign to review all systems in detail over a 5-year period, completing the initial review cycle in 1988. The requirements for detail and general reviews are in the Air Force and Regulations (AFR). In order to comply with the DOD guidance for accounting systems evaluations, an annual "general" review is required for each system or system segment not being reviewed in "detail" that year. Through these reviews,

operating personnel and system managers have an opportunity to check out all operating aspects of their systems.

—To ensure objectivity in this effort, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center will request the Air Force Audit Agency (AFAA) to conduct detail transaction tests of at least two systems each year. This will be in addition to any tests done during scheduled system evaluations. The results of the AFAA tests will be used in preparing the annual FMFIA statement of systems compliance sent by the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense. It will add a significant measure of confidence that Air Force systems are designed and operated as intended and required.

—The Air Force implemented the DOD instructions in 1985 and 1986 through letter directives and very detailed instructions or "how to" packages, which are incorporated in AFR 170-29, Principles, Standards, and Policies of the Air Force Financial Management Systems, released in November 1986.

—The Air Force emphasizes that it uses its FMFIA guidelines all of which originated from GAO Accounting Principles and Standards, OMB Circulars A-123 and A-127, DOD's Directive on Financial Management Systems, and the DOD Accounting Manual.

—Any questions, please call Bill Hysom, FMFIA Coordinator, AFAFC, AUTOVON 926-7541 or commercial (303) 370-7541.

—Don't forget to call me on 695-1070 with your financial management, systems development projects or innovations, audit techniques, or similar items of interest.

### NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPTER  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044

DECEMBER 1986

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