

# Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

April 2002

## Inspection and Evaluation Committee Members

**JOHNNIE FRAZIER**  
Commerce, Chair  
**CHRISTINE BOESZ**  
NSF  
**CLARK KENT ERVIN**  
State  
**GLENN FINE**  
Justice  
**RICHARD GRIFFIN**  
VA  
**GORDON HEDDELL**  
Labor  
**GEORGE OPFER**  
FEMA  
**JANET REHNQUIST**  
HHS  
**STEPHEN SMITH**  
FCA

### I&E Committee Meetings

will be held quarterly and will usually rotate among IG members. Richard Griffin (VA) will host the next meeting. Date to be announced.



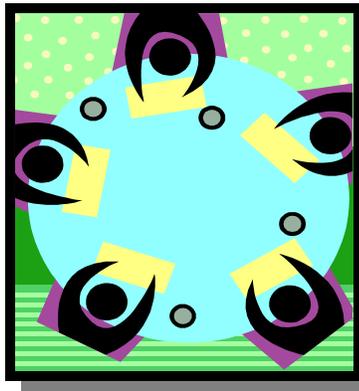
### Next Roundtable Meeting:

April 25, 2002

9:30 a.m.

Dept. of Veterans Affairs

## I&E COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 27, 2002



Inspector General Johnnie Frazier, Chair of the Inspection and Evaluation Committee, welcomed new Committee members from the Departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Justice, as well as from the Farm Credit Administration, and thanked returning members (Labor, VA, FEMA, and NSF) for their continuing commitment. He gave special thanks to George Grob, Chair of the I&E Roundtable, for the Roundtable's outstanding contributions to the work of the Committee over the years.

Committee members discussed ways to promote information sharing among the IG community on crosscutting issues such as emergency preparedness, bioterrorism, grant management, procurement, deemed exports, best I&E practices, and other areas of mutual interest.

## COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Before hearing reports on current and proposed projects, Johnnie welcomed suggestions from Committee members for future work and encouraged them to be alert to ideas for possible areas of focus from other PCIE members.

Committee members agreed that each I&E project should have a specific lead, and will decide who among them will head up outreach activity, web site redesign, and other pending and proposed activities.

### Project Updates

**Travel Cards.** The I&E Roundtable is preparing a "best practices" report to aid IG oversight of the federal travel card program. The report, which is based on OIG travel card work to date, is being prepared under Gordon Heddell's (Labor) leadership.

### Child Support Enforcement.

The I&E Committee examined compliance with child support laws among employees at the FBI and HHS. The Justice OIG completed and issued a report on its findings regarding enforcement activities at the FBI. The HHS OIG issued the report regarding activities within that agency.

**Training.** Roundtable Chair George Grob reported on upcoming training sessions for inspectors and evaluators at the IG Auditor Training Institute. Sessions on effective writing and evaluation techniques and analysis have been scheduled for select weeks in May through September. Committee members gave some consideration to the idea of reviving the former PCIE Professional Development Committee.

In recent months more than 120 OIG staff members from various agencies took advantage of training sponsored by the Committee and Roundtable in such areas as effective writing, statistics, questionnaire design, and evaluation skills and analysis. Visit <http://www.igati.org/> for more information.

**I&E Web Site.** Committee members discussed plans to revamp the I&E web page to provide more comprehensive and timely information on I&E matters, expand the scope of relevant links, and enhance user access. Volunteers to make the changes are needed! Contact Debbie Holmes at (202) 619-2085 ([dholmes@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:dholmes@oig.hhs.gov)). The Committee currently

uses the PCIE web site: <http://www.ignet.gov/pande/iande.html>

## **\*\*Special Project\*\***



### **Purchase Card Guide**

**A Practical Guide to Reviewing Government Purchase Card Programs.** Johnnie reported that the draft guide is complete and has been circulated to Committee members for final review and comment. He gave special thanks to Lorraine Lewis and her staff at the Department of Education OIG for taking the lead in developing this project. He hopes to have the guide published and ready for distribution to the entire IG community shortly.

This timely reference has been a high priority for the I&E Committee because of its focus on so critical an area for IG review. Purchase card expenditures represent a huge and ever-growing area of federal spending. Governmentwide, purchase cardholders spent \$13.7 billion in FY 2001—a 12 percent increase over the previous year. The guide's practical features (questionnaires, templates, sample reports) promise to enhance the review process.

Johnnie commented that he views the guide as an indispensable tool for enabling IGs to more effectively tar-

get their efforts for preventing as well as detecting waste, fraud, and abuse.

**Internal IG Reviews.** Johnnie reminded Committee members that as a first step in this effort, they should assess purchase and travel card programs within their own offices before turning their eyes agencywide.

**Congressional and Media Attention.** The guide's arrival is well timed, as scrutiny of the purchase card program is intensifying. Past abuses of the program have received widespread attention in the media and sparked congressional interest. The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee plans to hold hearings on the purchase card program this spring, and has expressed interest in reviewing both the guide and the results of related OIG and other evaluations. The House Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations recently held hearings on the program.

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact: Jessie Rickenbach at (202) 482-0231

[JRickenbach@oig.doc.gov](mailto:JRickenbach@oig.doc.gov)

OR

Jill Gross at (202) 482-2754

[JGross@oig.doc.gov](mailto:JGross@oig.doc.gov)