United States General Accounting Office

GAO

Accounting and Information Management Division

August 1998

Audit Oversight and Liaison Issue Area

Active Assignments

GAO/AA-98-25(3)

161017

Foreword

This report was prepared primarily to inform Congressional members and key staff of ongoing assignments in the General Accounting Office's Audit Oversight and Liaison issue area. This report contains assignments that were ongoing as of August 17, 1998, and presents a brief background statement and a list of key questions to be answered on each assignment. The report will be issued quarterly.

This report was compiled from information available in GAO's internal management information systems. Because the information was downloaded from computerized data bases intended for internal use, some information may appear in abbreviated form.

If you have questions or would like additional information about assignments listed, please contact David Clark, Director, on (202) 512-9489; or Theodore Barreaux, Associate Director, on (202) 512-9489.

Contents

FINANCIAL CONDITION & PERFORMANCE-AO&L

TITLE: **UNVOUCHERED EXPENDITURES OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT UNDER P.L. 95-570 (911744)**

KEY QUESTIONS : P.L. 95-570 authorizes the President and Vice President to expend appropriated funds for certain purposes notwithstanding the provisions of any other law and to be accounted for solely on their certificate. The statute authorizes us to verify that these expenditures are related to the purposes authorized.

TITLE: **REVIEW OF THE CIVIL WAR TRUST COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM (911835)**

KEY QUESTIONS : We are required to perform a one-time audit of commemorative coin proceeds received by the Civil War Trust. The Trust received about $5.9 million to be used in preserving historically significant Civil War battlefields. (1) Did the Trust receive all the coin proceeds sent to it from the Mint? (2) Did the Trust properly account for coin proceeds? (3) Did the Trust use coin proceeds for authorized purposes?

TITLE: **INFORMATION ON COSTS INCURRED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES RELATED TO CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING INVESTIGATIONS (911836)**

KEY QUESTIONS : GAO has been asked to obtain information on costs of congressional campaign fundraising investigations. Specifically, they are interested in the number of inquiries made during calendar year 1997 and the related costs incurred by Executive Branch Agencies in responding to these inquiries.

TITLE: **REVIEW OF THE ATLANTA CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PROPERTIES (911840)**

KEY QUESTIONS : We are required to perform a one-time audit of commemorative coin proceeds received by the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Properties. According to its records, the U.S. Mint transferred about $24.1 million in coin proceeds to the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Properties during calendar years 1995 and 1996. Those funds, less coin program expenses incurred by the Olympic Properties, were to be distributed equally to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, Inc. and the United States Olympic Committee. (1) Did Olympic Properties receive all the coin proceeds transferred to it by the Mint? (2) Did Olympic Properties properly account for coin proceeds? (3) Did Olympic Properties use coin proceeds for authorized purposes?

TITLE: **REVIEW OF COIN PROCEEDS DISTRUBUTED TO THE ATLANTA COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES (911847)**

KEY QUESTIONS : We are required to perform a onetime audit of the commemorative coin proceeds received by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. (1) Did the Olympic Games receive all coin proceeds required by law? (2) Did the Olympic Games properly account for coin proceeds? (3) Did the Olympic Games use the coin proceeds for authorized purposes?

TITLE: **FINANCIAL AUDIT: INDEPENDENT COUNSEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1998 (911848)**

KEY QUESTIONS : GAO is required by law to audit the 6-month expenditure statements of independent counsels. This audit will cover the 6-month period ended March 31, 1998. (1) Are the statement of expenditures reliable? (2) Are there internal control weaknesses over safeguarding of assets, financial reporting, or compliance with applicable laws and regulations? (3) Is there noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations?

TITLE: **FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATION: JEWISH WAR VETERANS (911875)**

KEY QUESTIONS : The federal government has provided charters to a number of patriotic, civic-improvement, charitable, and educational organizations. Approximately 80 of these "federally chartered corporations" are required under 36 U.S.C. 1102-1103 to obtain an annual financial audit. The corporations are required to have an annual audit by an independent public accountant and submit the audit report to the Congress. Based on a long-standing agreement, GAO has reviewed the annual financial statements of the Federally Chartered Corporations. We will summarize our review of the financial statements of the Jewish War Veterans.

TITLE: **FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATION: LEGION OF VALOR (911876)**

KEY QUESTIONS : The federal government has provided charters to a number of patriotic, civic-improvement, charitable, and educational organizations. Approximately 80 of these "federally chartered corporations" are required under 36 U.S.C. 1102-1103 to obtain an annual financial audit. The corporations are required to have an annual audit by an independent public accountant and submit the audit report to the Congress. Based on a long-standing agreement, GAO has reviewed the annual financial statements of the Federally Chartered Corporations. We will summarize our review of the financial statements of the Legion of Valor.

TITLE: **FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATION: NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INC (911877)**

KEY QUESTIONS : The federal government has provided charters to a number of patriotic, civic-improvement, charitable, and educational organizations. Approximately 80 of these "federally chartered corporations" are required under 36 U.S.C. 1102-1103 to obtain an annual financial audit. The corporations are required to have an annual audit by an independent public accountant and submit the audit report to the Congress. Based on a long-standing agreement, GAO has reviewed the annual financial statements of the Federally Chartered Corporations. We will summarize our review of the financial statements of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc.

TITLE: **FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATION: WOMEN'S ARMY CORP VETERANS ASSOCIATION (911878)**

KEY QUESTIONS : The federal government has provided charters to a number of patriotic, civic-improvement, charitable, and educational organizations. Approximately 80 of these "federally chartered corporations" are required under 36 U.S.C. 1102-1103 to obtain an annual financial audit. The corporations are required to have an annual audit by an independent public accountant and submit the audit report to the Congress. Based on a long-standing agreement, GAO has reviewed the annual financial statements of the Federally Chartered Corporations. We will summarize our review of the financial statements of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association.

TITLE: **FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATION: MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS (911879)**

KEY QUESTIONS : The federal government has provided charters to a number of patriotic, civic-improvement, charitable, and educational organizations. Approximately 80 of these "federally chartered corporations" are required under 36 U.S.C. 1102-1103 to obtain an annual financial audit. The corporations are required to have an annual audit by an independent public accountant and submit the audit report to the Congress. Based on a long-standing agreement, GAO has reviewed the annual financial statements of the Federally Chartered Corporations. We will summarize our review of the financial statements of the Military Order of the World Wars.

TITLE: **FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (919167)**

KEY QUESTIONS : Federal agencies' financial statements have not consistently identified and reported the extent to which nearly $300 billion in Federal financial assistance (FFA) to State and local governments was spent in violation of laws or regulations. We will identify the FFA programs that are material to Federal agency financial statements and are at risk of having significant invalid payments due to noncompliance by nonfederal entities. Working with agencies and other interested parties, we will recommend approaches for determining the extent of invalid payments for these programs.

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK - AO&L

TITLE: **DATA RELATED TO THE ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, WORKLOAD, AND POLICY ISSUES ON THE INSPECTOR GENERAL (911874)**

KEY QUESTIONS : There are 57 Inspectors General (IG)--27 presidential and 30 designed federal entity (DFE). In the past there have been discussions, articles, and studies, regarding the IGs organizational makeup, type of work performed, independence from agency management, and etc. The primary objective of this assignment is to analyze, summarize and report on the views of the IGs on such issues. The IGs views were obtained through the use of two questionnaires. What is the IGs organizational structure, and staff and workload mix? What are the views of the IGs on current policy issues?