



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

JUL 8 2004

The Honorable Peter G. Fitzgerald
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Management,
The Budget, and International Security
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6250

Dear Chairman Fitzgerald:

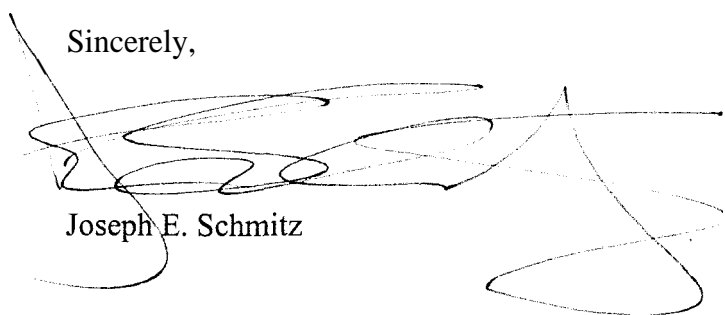
Thank you for your invitation to testify today's "Oversight Hearing on the Federal Government's 2003 Financial Statement: Improving Accountability of American Taxpayers' Dollars."

Being neither an accountant nor an auditor by background, I have endeavored as Inspector General to hire, train, and promote the very best accountants and auditors available to enable the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense to serve as an engine of positive change *vis-à-vis* the Department of Defense's satisfaction of the constitutional duty to publish "a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money." At the same time, I have endeavored to develop close working relationships with the Auditors General of the Military Departments, "with a view toward avoiding duplication and insuring effective coordination and cooperation" (IG Act, Section 8(c)(9)).

Deputy Inspector General Gene Reardon is the best I have. Having reviewed his prepared testimony to your committee today, I would only reiterate that all of the professional auditors who serve in the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense are committed to do whatever we can to assist the Department in satisfaction of the constitutional duty to publish "a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money" (U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 9).

Of course, should you have any questions or concerns not addressed at your hearing today, I would be glad to address such questions or concerns in follow-up correspondence or testimony.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Schmitz