

# Audit Committee News

## October 2006

### **Principal Representatives:**

John P. Higgins, Jr., IG/ED,  
Chairman  
Greg Friedman, IG/DOE  
Phyllis Fong, IG/USDA  
Gordon Heddell, IG/Labor  
Patrick O'Carroll, IG/SSA  
Harold Damelin, IG/Treasury  
Thomas Gimble,  
Acting IG/DOD

### **ECIE Representatives:**

Jane Altenhofen, IG/NLRB  
Ken Konz, IG/CPB

### **FAEC Council:**

Helen Lew, AIGA/ED

### **Highlights**

- IGATI Resurrected!
- FISMA Framework
- Working to Protect Sensitive Information
- Improving Peer Reviews

If you have any questions, please  
contact:

Kim Geier at 202-245-7020

**Next Audit Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, November 21 at 2:00 pm, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 8070

### **IGATI Resurrected!**

In light of the recent decision to dissolve the Inspector General Institute, and recognizing the need to provide specialized training to Federal auditors during FY 2007, the Audit Committee unanimously voted to reconstitute the Inspector General Auditor Training Institute (IGATI). IGATI has published its schedule of classes that will be given during the first quarter of FY 2007, and anticipates having the entire catalogue available on its web site by the end of October ([www.igati.gov](http://www.igati.gov)). Training will continue to be conducted at the Rosslyn location on a fee-for-services basis. The Audit Committee will resume discussions on long-term options for providing the best training available to Federal auditors.

### **FISMA Framework**

The Audit Committee approved the Federal Audit Executive Council's Information Technology Committee's (FAEC IT Committee) proposed framework for implementing the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). The FISMA framework will enhance the consistency, comparability and completeness of annual independent evaluations of agencies' information security program and practices while still giving individual OIGs the flexibility to implement a program that is appropriate to size and complexity of its agency. The framework are available on the web at <http://www.ignet.gov/pande/audit1.html#guide>.

### **Working to Protect Sensitive Information**

The PCIE's Information Technology (IT) Roundtable is working diligently to consolidate the results from the IG community's efforts to assess agencies' compliance with OMB Memorandum M-06-16, *Protection of Sensitive Agency Information*. The memorandum required agencies to take steps to ensure that personally identifiable and other sensitive information is safeguarded. The response rate to OMB's request was high, with 50 OIGs completing the data collection instrument that was developed by the FAEC IT Committee for the limited scope reviews. Due to the sensitive nature of the information being reported on, responses from two agencies have been sent directly to OMB. Responses from the remaining 48 agencies will be aggregated into a consolidated report and submitted to OMB by October 15, 2006.

### **Improving Peer Reviews**

The question has been raised whether there is a more efficient and effective means of performing external peer reviews for Federal audit organizations. Towards this goal, the Audit Committee will begin considering a range of options in the near future. We plan to develop a questionnaire that will solicit ideas for improving the external peer review process from the IG community.