



From Alice S. Fisher, Chair of the National Procurement Fraud Task Force

I want to thank all of the members of the National Procurement Fraud Task Force for your energetic and enthusiastic participation in our kick-off meeting on November 9, 2006. We were pleased to have so many of you present as we launched this critical initiative. We had over 90 individuals in attendance including, among others, Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty, U.S. Attorneys from around the country and numerous federal Inspectors General. We discussed the short-term and long-term goals of the Task Force and how we can accomplish those goals. Many of you offered valuable suggestions that we are incorporating into our strategic planning. After our meeting I am more confident than ever that we can accomplish our mission of enhancing our efforts to prevent, detect and prosecute procurement fraud.

Our next Task Force meeting will be held on January 25, 2007. At that meeting each of our subcommittees will be asked to present a strategic plan to accomplish its particular mission. The Chairs for each of our subcommittees are aware that a draft of each strategic plan should be submitted to Steve Linick, the Director of the Task Force, and Brian Miller, the Vice-Chair of the Task Force, no later than January 12, 2007 and should be holding meetings in the coming weeks to begin formulating these plans. The contact information of the subcommittee Chairs and other key Task Force personnel are listed in the attachment to this message. I encourage each of you (or someone on your staff) to volunteer to participate on a subcommittee if you have not already. If you have not done so and would like to sign up for a committee, please contact Sarah Breen of GSA-OIG at sarah.breen@gsa.gov.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS ARE BEING FORMED

To date, the following US Attorneys Offices have agreed to lead regional procurement fraud working groups: Central District of California, Eastern District of Virginia (through which the District of Maryland and the District of Columbia are participating), Southern District of Florida, Northern District of Alabama, District of Connecticut (which will lead a New England regional group), Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Central District of Illinois; Northern District of Georgia, Northern District of Texas, Southern District of Texas and Western District of Washington.

Steve and Brian have been in contact with the U.S. Attorneys who will chair these groups and will be assisting them in setting up the groups. Steve and Brian will provide the Task Force with a point of contact for each of these groups as well as an update of their progress. Your support of these regional working groups is critical to the success of this Initiative.

WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE

The NPFTF's website is live and can be viewed at www.usdoj.gov/criminal/npftf. Among other things, the website lists all of the IG hotline numbers and contains press releases that have been disseminated in connection with recent procurement fraud cases. Please contact Steve if you have any additional information you believe should be added to the website.

REPORTING PROCUREMENT FRAUD CASES

One of our short-term goals is to maximize the deterrent impact of the initiative by jump-starting prosecutions of procurement fraud cases. The Task Force is in the process of prioritizing cases that should be pursued and that may need special attention or resources. Towards that end, we have, among other things, asked each IG to identify 2-3 of

their most significant matters/cases, which are pending prosecution with the Department. The cases we have received so far are illustrative of a wide variety of procurement fraud. I want to encourage those of you who have not submitted 2 or 3 of your most significant cases to do so. Please send that information to sarah.breen@gsa.gov <<mailto:sarah.breen@gsa.gov>> for compilation.

To the extent that you have a new procurement fraud matter that has not been referred to DOJ, feel free to contact Steve about how to proceed. If you find that you need resources or support to pursue specific procurement fraud cases, we are prepared to assist you.

LEO IS ONLINE

We have established a Special Interest Group (SIG) on the FBI's LEO System (Law Enforcement Online). This site will become a commonly accessible secure location for communication and information-sharing for IG offices and DOJ. The data collection form, which will be used to assemble an inventory of all procurement fraud cases across the federal government will also be available for completion and submission through the LEO site. Please make certain to contact Ron Benson, our LEO point of contact, for expedited access to and membership in the LEO network. He can be reached at robenson@leo.gov or 202-324-5402. Please be certain to let Ron know that you are a participant in the National Procurement Fraud Task Force. We hope that all IGs and OIG staff working on the Task Force will sign up for LEO.

Thank you again for the time, effort and resources you have already devoted to this important effort. Please contact me, Steve or Brian if you have issues you would like to discuss or if you have suggestions to improve our operations.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Regards,

Alice S. Fisher