OCFO OCIO connections

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OCFO / OCIO Calendar

May 2009 – July 2009

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|---|---|
| Memorial Day Observed | 5/25 |
| Father's Day | 6/21 |
| Summer begins | 6/21 |
| Independence Day | 7/4 |

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# DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS RECOVERY ACT

*Jon Holladay, CFO (Acting)*

As I assume the position of Acting Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), I see the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or Recovery Act, as a great opportunity for all of us. The Recovery Act is designed to jump-start our economy. It includes measures designed to, among other things, modernize our nation's infrastructure and address challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. What does that mean to us? The Recovery Act will allow USDA to show the job it can do in prudently spending taxpayer dollars. It also will allow the Department to provide food assistance monthly to about 32 million people and offer operating cash flow to new, disadvantaged, and struggling farmers. In using these funds, it is important that we improve accountability and transparency, measure and report progress in a timely fashion, and provide methods for the public to provide feedback on the effort. Each and every one of us has a duty to make sure that USDA successfully demonstrates its ability to serve the public and make vital contributions to the nation's economic recovery. With your participation, I am certain that we can make all of this possible. For more information on the Recovery Act and what it means to USDA, visit http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/?navid=USDA_ARRA.

I look forward to collaborating with you in this new era of our nation.

*Chris Smith, CIO*

I am pleased to be leading OCIO as the Chief Information Officer of USDA in these exciting times. We have worked hard to transform ourselves into a responsive, innovative, agile, and efficient organization. Over the last few years, OCIO has been building the very qualities needed to advance President Obama's and Secretary Vilsack's initiatives concerning IT modernization, transparency in government spending, and efficiency in the delivery of government programs.

OCIO is helping the Department maximize the impact of its $28 billion portion of the Recovery Act stimulus funds. USDA agencies are now distributing ARRA funds through diverse programs across the country. They use OCIO networks, database management, security, technical support, and ongoing technology improvements. The public can track ARRA projects and post comments on an interactive map (www.usda.gov/recovery/map) produced by the Forest Service and hosted by OCIO.

Individuals can apply for program grants using Grants.gov, a system developed with OCIO, OCFO and other agencies, and USDA is deploying an electronic transaction system to streamline secure payments to citizens participating in agency programs.

I'm extremely proud of how we are leveraging our partnerships and technology in new ways that improve USDA mission delivery and increase program efficiency.

# EMS Improves Communications at USDA

The Enterprise Messaging System (EMS) brings integrated, intuitive communications tools to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). EMS has been architecturally designed to migrate away from the different e-mail platforms of each agency and office within USDA to a consolidated and unified messaging system.

Kelly Stelmach (EMS Project Manager), Dave Williams (Lead Architect), and Chris Kendrick (Architect), frequently meet with agency representatives to design the System on shared needs while addressing agencies' unique requirements.

EMS is based on Microsoft's Exchange Server 2007. It offers improved internal communication, a modernized e-mail system, better document storage, and enhanced security throughout the Department for more than 130,000 people using a centralized system of collaborative technologies.

The approach to develop enterprise messaging for the current USDA systems lays the framework for transitioning into the next generation of technology. Williams remarked, "We are considering, refining, and integrating several design components into what we have so all of USDA can benefit right away." During the past 6 months, the EMS team, comprised of members from all International Technology Services divisions, has been working diligently to test the environments, build the network, provide documentation, initiate an ongoing test pilot both locally and overseas, and ascertain metrics and numbers. Behind the scenes, the EMS team is busy ensuring everything is in place to make smooth transitions.

Before a smooth transition can take place, each agency must ensure that applications integrated within their current system will integrate with EMS. Agencies must also ensure their networking environments are validated to prevent the transmission of any existing security vulnerabilities. It might be considered minor, but e-mail and attachments are a large contributory factor to the security vulnerability of an agency. A more secure measure for file transfers will be Instant Messaging, a component of Microsoft Office Communications Server (OCS), or placing a document on a SharePoint site for collaboration.

EMS will provide a centralized and efficient communications tool for USDA. The EMS team continues to meet with agency representatives to better understand their needs and technical designs, and provide a seamless interface to the new system. These robust communication tools will contribute to USDA becoming one of the nation's most communications-efficient and cost-effective Departments.

**Enterprise Messaging Components and Improvements**

***E-mail improvements include:***

- Easier to manage content;
- Enhanced client management and capabilities;
- Streamlined, robust, and responsive infrastructure; and
- Consistent message retention and discovery at the Departmental level.

***OCS communications tools for conferencing and collaboration include:***

**LiveMeeting Conferencing.** LiveMeeting 2007 is the core conferencing tool with OCS.

- Teleconferencing/Presentations combine: voice, through telephone or a computer equipped with a microphone and speakers; presentations such as PowerPoint; access to viewing a presenter's desktop (to view how an application is used or to comment and edit a file in real time); or even to use an application on another participant's computer.
- Desktop Video adds the capability of seeing other participants without requiring specialized videoconferencing studios.
- Real-time comments allow all participants to contribute ideas and analysis that is shared by everyone, including white boarding.
- Meeting assessment tools can also be incorporated to conduct surveys, track decision points, and document what the conference achieved.

***Instant Messaging (IM).*** In the USDA OCS environment, IM groups can be organized to keep teams informed and interacting as needed. For example, a team is developing guidelines for a new service. The guidelines require internal review within a week's time. The team uses IM as follows:

- A "lead" assembles the team IM list.
- Once topics are presented for comments each afternoon, IM alerts everyone and allows them to respond in a timely manner.
- Everyone can see how the guidelines are developing.
- Comments are consolidated at the end of the week.
- Finished guidelines are placed in SharePoint.

***Presence. Who's in, Who's out, and Who's available.*** This is an updated and useful tool that lets an employee inform others of his or her availability or location (such as "at the office but in a meeting"; "traveling but available"; "available by BlackBerry, but not online"; etc.). This can help solve the frustration of not knowing where people are when one must communicate with them.

***SharePoint Collaboration space.*** This provides a virtual common area for works in progress. Organized by teams or projects, documents are placed in a space for retrieval by authorized participants. A document is checked out, updated by a participant, saved as a newer version, and replaced for review and editing by others until completed.

***Improved document storage and greater security.*** These features include:

- An online collaboration space to store and work on documents,
- A centralized location for scheduling (previously managed by public folders),
- A safer way to maintain documents, and
- Blogs, Wikis, and Calendars.

# The TMACO – Key to Telecommunications for USDA

by Paul Jurasin

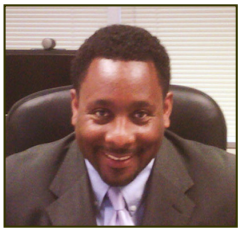
Did you know that each agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a TMACO (tuh-MAH-ko)? What's a TMACO? A TMACO is a Telecommunications Mission Area Control Officer who ensures that your telephone is working, the Internet is up and running, and you can move files from one location to another. This is a big responsibility that goes unnoticed as long as things are going well.

Departmental Regulation 3300-1 requires that each agency "designate a senior management official or a single point-of-contact to serve as the Telecommunications Mission Area Control Officer (TMACO) to coordinate optimization and consolidation of telecommunications services internally, with OCIO, and with other agencies." That is the regulatory reason that TMACOs exist and what they do in general.

*The Agency TMACO* is designated within each mission area/agency and is empowered to control the ordering and to provide oversight when ordering network (access) services. The TMACO's role includes the following:

- Serves as liaison between telecommunications vendors and agency programs;
- Appoints ordering officials known as Designated Agency Representatives (DARs);
- Serves as a conduit between OCIO and the agency regarding telecommunications needs;
- Validates telecommunications services and billing;
- Coordinates the mission area/agency's efforts to achieve the goals of the Telecommunications Network Stabilization and Migration Program (TNSMP);
- Reviews telecommunications service and equipment acquisitions to ensure that they are supported by documented business needs, that proper technical analysis has been completed, and that service aggregation alternatives have received thorough consideration;
- Maintains the appropriate records for telecommunication services and equipment justifications that provide the basis for National Telecommunications Services and Operation's assessment of current and future telecommunications management issues and initiatives;
- Serves as the signature authority to approve the ordering of network (access) and telecommunications services and equipment;
- Facilitates the engineering of network access arrangements guaranteeing that they meet mission area/agency business requirements, comply with USDA regulations, and fit within the Department's information technology architecture;
- Provides telecommunication recommendations and operational guidance to the DARs;
- Maintains cost/benefit analyses and all other documentation pertinent to the agency's decision for implementing telecommunications services and equipment; and
- Ensures the most cost-effective solution for program delivery and agency compliance within USDA standards of operations.

Hundreds of TMACOs work daily to ensure agency personnel can communicate efficiently, effectively, and with fiscal responsibility. Two agency TMACOs are featured below:



**Glenn Jones**, TMACO for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), focuses on eliminating waste and improving the efficiencies of his agency's telecommunications processes. Jones said, "Eliminating redundancy and unneeded services within the agency while implementing newer, more cost effective technologies saves APHIS thousands of dollars per year."

**Angela Emrich,** TMACO for the Grain Inspectors, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), has worked with GIPSA's wireless telecommunications vendors to combine their services into a single account. The Agency will gain cost efficiencies and simpler billing statements. Emrich stated, "By implementing clear, common sense processes, significant cost and efficiency gains can be realized." GIPSA will save more than $30,000 per year.

# 508 Accessible Documents

by Steve Spector and ITS 508 Team

International Technology Services (ITS) electronically publishes or distributes various documents, from official reports to simple PDF (portable document file) announcements or invitations. These documents are distributed to a broad readership at the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), some of whom use assistive technology (tools such as JAWS Screen Reading Software). These tools translate a document's text and read it aloud. When there are photos or other visual elements, the tools look for alternative text (*alt text*) that describes the images or graphics. Documents that can be read properly by assistive tools are considered accessible. Should a document have pictures without accompanying alt text or other problems that prevent the assistive tools from reading it correctly, it is inaccessible and may result in a 508 complaint from anyone who is inconvenienced.

Consequently, documents posted to the Web or e-mailed to many people need 508 remediation, a review and optimization process that ensures equal accessibility to all. Sandi Davenport, Business Planning Branch/Infrastructure Governance Division (IGD), recalls the origins of this 508 effort at ITS. She states, "Shortly after ITS was created in November 2004, a 508 compliance team was formed to make sure our electronic documents and forms, such as the ITS policies and directives issued by IGD, were accessible to employees who rely on assistive technology."

508 refers to Section 508, a 1998 amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that requires Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. This includes access to information delivered through EIT— such as documents posted on the Web or broadcast to many people through e-mail.

## What Does 508 Compliance Mean in Practice?

Menelaos Kotsis, a contractor with the ITS 508 support team, says, "Accessibility for electronic documents focuses on readability by assistive software tools used by the USDA. To be read correctly, the tool must recognize the proper reading order of text, images, boxes, tables, and other elements. Non-text elements must have alt text descriptions." In Word documents, that reading order depends on formatting.

"It is relatively easy to prepare a 508 accessible document in Word," Ken Johnson, another 508 team member, emphasizes. "The key is using the proper formatting styles. Many Word documents appear to be nicely formatted …but writers often use normal style for everything, bolding it to make headings, changing font size for tables, etc. This is actually a lot of extra work and causes many problems. Writers should simply use Word's catalogue of format styles."

Adobe Acrobat is a software tool that has been on the forefront of 508 accessibility. It converts Word and other document formats into PDFs. After a document is converted, Acrobat has an accessibility feature that organizes the headings, text, tables, and visual elements into tags. The formatting styles in the original document help Acrobat establish the correct reading order of all the content. The ITS 508 Remediation process includes reviewing the reading order and quality of alt text, making corrections when necessary, and ensuring that readability is optimized for both Word and PDF documents.

508 accessibility is important for all documents. The resources below can help USDA fulfill its 508 commitment and go from complaints to compliance.

## Useful 508 Resources

- The USDA TARGET Center: http://www.da.usda.gov/oo/target/abouttarget.html
- OCIO 508 Coordinator: Howard Baker (for policy questions), howard.baker@usda.gov
- ITS has established an e-mail address to centralize receipt of requests from ITS staff for 508 remediation of documents: RA.DCWASHING2.ITS-508-Documents
- Section 508.gov – http://www.section508.gov/index.cfm
- DR4030-001: Section 508 Implementation – Final Guidance http://www.ocio.usda.gov/directives/doc/DR4030-001.htm
- OCIO Section 508 Reference Manual (2003), http://www.ocio.usda.gov/508/doc/USDA_Section_508_Reference_Manual_2003.doc
- NRCS' Defining 508 PowerPoint, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/itd/NITS/508-Rehabilitation-Act.ppt
- Adobe's How to Create Accessible Adobe PDF Files, http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/pdfs/accessbooklet.pdf
- Section 508 in Plain English (by Breakthough Design), http://www.gobdg.com/blog/2009/03/18/section-508-compliance-in-plain-english/

## USDA's 2009 FMT: An Overwhelming Success! by Lourdes Landrum and Annette Broussard

On the morning of May 6, hundreds of USDA financial managers and financial personnel arrived at the Washington Convention Center eagerly anticipating USDA's 2009 Financial Management Training (FMT). This year's theme, *USDA Financial Management – Accountable, Efficient, and Transparent*, articulated the vision and goals shared by Jon Holladay, the Department's Acting Chief Financial Officer, and John Brewer, Associate Chief Financial Officer, Financial Operations (ACFO-FO).

The annual FMT, hosted by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), ACFO-FO, serves as a platform for the OCFO to communicate strategic plans and objectives to key USDA financial managers and their financial partners. This year's FMT presented a variety of informative and educational plenary sessions which included discussions on the Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI), the new USDA accounting system; opportunities and responsibilities presented by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and USDA's compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Also, the Department of Treasury outlined the new way that agencies will use the Government-wide Treasury Account Symbol Accounting Trial Balance System (GTAS) to report on adjusted trial balance information that combines budgetary and proprietary accounting information.

Attendees were able to choose eight of the twelve timely and instructive breakout sessions offered. Breakout session topics included: Update on the National Finance Center's Systems and Services, FMMI Deployment 1 – *What's Left to be Done,* and FMMI Deployment 2 – *Getting Ready for FMMI Implementation*. Additionally, the new USDA Travel Relocation Resource Center, to be centrally operated by ACFO-FO, Controller Operations Division (COD), was introduced to the financial community. Attendees at the 2½ days of informative and educational training were eligible to earn Continuing Professional Education credits.

USDA agencies are facing many new challenges in implementing a new accounting system supported by new software, based on new policies and ever-changing regulations. Other new systems on the agenda, such as GovTrip (the USDA travel system) and the Corporate Property Automated Information System – Personal Property, are examples of USDA's continuing efforts to meet and embrace change. FMT featured discussions on these and other systems to ensure the promotion of sound financial systems and program decisions.

Attendees departed the 2009 FMT even more enthusiastic and motivated than when they arrived, with a clear vision of where the Department is going and how it is going to get there.

Powerpoint presentations of the 2009 FMT sessions will soon be available on the COD Web site at: http://cod.nfc.usda.gov/.

## NITC Invests in ITIL Training by Donald Burrell, Connie O'Conner, and Bruce Pacot

The National Information Technology Center (NITC) is posturing itself in today's competitive information technology (IT) environment by enhancing and expanding the quality of its workforce via Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) certifications. The NITC team is committed to excellence in providing world-class leadership through innovative, reliable IT services and solutions in support of our valued customers.

The ITIL is a set of concepts and policies for managing IT infrastructure, development, and operations that has led to a number of standards, including ISO/IEC 20000. The ITIL documentation gives guidance on the provisioning of quality IT services and environmental facilities needed to support IT. ITIL was developed to provide international standards implementing best practices for IT Service Management.

*ITIL Service Manager Certification Program:* The ITIL contains a comprehensive description of the process involved in managing IT services. This certification program consists of three courses: ITIL Service Management Training and Certification, ITIL Service Management – IT Service Support, and ITIL Service Manager Review and Certification Testing. The Manager's Certificate in IT Service Management is an international certificate recognized by the Central Computer and Telecommunication Agency (CCTA) and the IT Service Management Forum (itSMF). Lyndon Henry, Eric Kirkendall, William Morales, and Scott O'Hare have achieved this certification.

*ITIL Practitioner Certification Program:* This certification program focuses on the implementation, management, and optimization of integrated processes required for achieving service and support within an IT infrastructure and related IT services. Judy Alvarado, Leslie Arndt, Kirk Carson, Buren Crawford, Eric Kirkendall, Rachel Mecham, and Scott O'Hare have received their certification.

*ITIL Refresh – ITIL Version 3 Foundation:* This is a major refresh representing an important evolutionary step in ITIL. The refresh has transformed ITIL Version 2 Foundation from providing a great service to being the most innovative and best in class. At the same time, the interface between old and new approaches is seamless. Rich Barr, Joyce Cheng, Brian Fields, Judy Gabriel, George Lovelace, William Morales, and Bruce Pacot have received their certification in ITIL Version 3 Foundation.

*ITIL Version 2 Foundation:* This is a certification program concentrating on the comprehensive framework which IT processes are composed within an IT company. The Foundation Certificate in IT Service Management (ITIL Foundation) is proof that the person possessing the certificate understands various processes and relations between them. There are 12 main areas that the ITIL Foundation focuses on for Service Support and Service Delivery. The NITC has more than 50 people certified in ITIL Version 2 Foundation.

## Third Annual Cyber Security Awareness Expo by Shana Lee

The Office of the Chief Information Officer sponsored the Third Annual USDA Cyber Security Awareness Expo on April 22-23, 2009, in the Patio Area of the Jamie L. Whitten Building in Washington D.C. This year's theme, *Protect It Like Your Own*, emphasized the need for all employees to join the fight to prevent, protect and safeguard information across USDA from cyber intruders.

In keeping with the theme, Kathleen A. Merrigan, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, noted that although she is a proponent of the use of technology to inform and communicate, its use carries with it significant responsibilities. Deputy Merrigan highlighted the billions of dollars lost from the economy through identity theft and other computer-enabled crimes. She emphasized that USDA must protect its information accordingly.

Charles T. McClam, Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) for Policy and Architecture, moderated the keynote speeches during the opening ceremony as speakers commented on various areas of information technology (IT). Throughout the Expo, guest speakers provided

Photo: Cyber security vendors display their services at the Whitten Patio.

presentations on various topics such as Incident Handling, Creating a Secure Password, and OCIO Security Tools Project. The 48 vendors who attended the Expo also contributed to the Expo's success, as many were also presenters. The Expo presentations are available at: http://www.ocionet.usda.gov/ocio/security/expo_info.html.

## You Could Have Been Phished

**Subject: Restoring your Webmail service ASAP**

Your Webmail service is about to be restored. You must confirm username and password by clicking on this link:
**Agency Support Webmail Team**

***GOTCHA @ oh-no!!***

***This is a phishy e-mail!*** Please don't reply back to a message like this for any reason, even to tell them that you're no one's fool. Forward it, and any other suspicious e-mail, to spam.abuse@usda.gov. If you aren't sure what to do, contact your IT security team.

*Phishing* is a malicious attempt to redirect someone reviewing e-mail or browsing the Web. It utilizes a disguised Internet link sent in an e-mail or on a Web page. When this link is clicked, it will open up a spoofed Web page that appears legitimate, but it is actually crafted to trick you into revealing your personal information or download malicious software to your computer.

To test any link you consider suspicious, park or hover your mouse pointer over the link or *from* information and it will reveal the actual address. For instance, the "Webmail Team" example above has a link called ***GOTCHA@oh-no!!***

The key is that what you see may be a disguise for a malicious code or Phishing ploy; it may be a good disguise or an obvious fake. Either way, the link you may be about to click on could be a ***Hyperlinked Trap*** that downloads malicious software or takes you to a hijacked page. Using the Internet requires us all to be wary, verify any suspicious links, report phishiness to the appropriate IT Security team, and, remember, any request for your password is suspect.

## Did You Receive Your Travel Card Statement?

Several International Technology Services (ITS) employees have reported that they have not received their monthly U.S. Bank travel card statements. Please be aware that the U.S. Bank statements are arriving in plain white envelopes with no markings indicating that U.S. Bank is the sender. Some recipients may be assuming that the blank envelopes are "junk mail" and may be discarding the statements without opening them. ITS has forwarded this issue to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer for possible corrective action. Recipients will be alerted of any changes made by U.S. Bank as soon as they have had an opportunity to research the issue.

**Mr. J. Doe**
**101 Main Street**
**Somewhere, USA**

Some ITS employees enjoyed the convenience of paying their previous government travel card accounts via an online system. U.S. Bank offers a similar online payment system. Online payments can be made directly to U.S. Bank at: https://access.usbank.com. The "Organization Short Name" is OCIO followed by the User ID and Password created when you visited the U.S. Bank Web-Base Training site. After viewing your statement, you can click on the "E Pay" button. If you require assistance, please contact U.S. Bank Cardholder Support at 1-888-994-6722.

Questions or comments on this information should be forwarded to Diana Mack at diana.mack@ocio.usda.gov.

## OCFO and OCIO Among CFC Honorees

by Stewart Small, photos by Ndidi Mojay

"We want to remove the fear of sharing at a time the nation needs it the most." Those were the words of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack when he thanked and congratulated employees for their participation in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Secretary Vilsack made his comments during an awards ceremony at USDA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on March 25, 2009.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign.

More than 300 CFC campaigns take place domestically and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal, and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits worldwide.

USDA was among 150 Federal agencies to participate in the CFC. The Department raised more than $1.89 million and increased CFC participation among its employees by 3 percent, compared to 2007 numbers. Overall, the campaign raised more than $62.7 million.

USDA recognized the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) during the awards ceremony.

Albert Rotundo, Associate Director CFC of the National Capital Area (far left) and John Crew, USDA CFC Campaign Manager (far right) present the CFC Merit Award to OCIO's (second from left) Stacy Riggs and Bernadette McGhee.

(Center group, from left) OCFO's Sharon Pierre, Juanda Rogers, and John Brewer accepted the CFC Honor Award.

### *Staff Recognition*

#### ☆ 2009 Length of Service Recipients ☆

45 Years - Elizabeth W. Rafferty

35 Years - Dennis L. Jack, Susan Lauga, Suzanne Smith, Loretta Thomas

30 Years - Franklin Arnold, Mercedes Bardell, Betty Bomani, Terre Duffy, Brenda Jefferson, Sylvia Mitchell, James Parker, Yolanda Plazola

25 Years - Thomas Bakken, Wade Edwards, Tammy Lawless, Linda Muchow, Eugene Pecoraro, Claudia Thompson

20 Years - Tammy Alphonse, Lisa Bickham, Eleanora Fleetwood, Eric Harris, Mayme Johnson, Carlos Metaxas, Jr., Ronald Rockel

15 Years - George Bridges III, Victor Cserer, Philip Rudolph, James Slattery

10 Years - Demetria Bateman, Jeng Mao, Tammy Rathbun ,Richard Schieffer

5 Years - Scott Hawkins, Myles Roeling, Bradley Worch

#### ☆ Recent Promotions ☆

Veronica Bailey, COD
Valarie Burks, OCIO
Cloreece Cain, COD
Anna Ceasar, COD
Regina Delay, COD
Ronald Delay, ITSD/OB
James Jones, COD
Angela Kindon, COD
Patrice Kunzli, COD
Nicole Letort, GESD
Rae Ann Martino, COD
Marlene Miller, GESD
Andrea Morrison, COD
Eugene Pecoraro, COD
Daniel Perez, ITS/TSD/E-NY
Marlene Romain, COD
Chris Smith, OCIO
Josie Stovall, GESD
Annette Totty, COD
Brian Walker, ITS/TSD/C-LA
Yolanda Wallace, COD
Julie Whitney, ITSD/DBMB

#### ☆ Recent Hires ☆

Al Baker, ITS/IGD/FMB
Shannon Blue, COD
Deborah A. Brown, ITSD/OB
Ronelda Brown, COD
Michael Brukiewa, ITS/TSD/ERB
Terry Cannon, COD
Natasha Copeland, COD
Benjamin Coumerilh, ITS/TSD-CRB
Barbara Frye, COD
Tameshia Hasten, COD
William Layne, ITS/TSD/W-CA
John Moore, ITS/TSD/C-IL
William Turner III, ITS/IGD/PMB
Nicholas Wenger, ITS/TSD/C-MN
Tony T. Williams, ITSD/OB
Stephen Wondell, ITS/IDD/SDB
Chad Yanez, GESD

#### ☆ Retirements ☆

Judy Davi, COD
Peggy Fricke, ITS/TSD/C-MO
Darwin Johnson, ITS/TSD/LO-KC
Irish McCray, COD
Sandra Williams, COD
Donald Wright, ITS/TSD/C-IL


**Connections Communications Team**

Sheila W. Greene, Editor-in-Chief

Steve Spector, Communications Analyst/L-3


**Points of Contact**

**OCFO**

Front Office / Financial Policy & Planning - Stewart Small

Financial Operations - Patrice Kunzli

Financial Systems - Ann Adam

National Finance Center - Michelle Bergeron

**OCIO**

Front Office - Judy Chamberlain

Technology Planning, Architecture and eGov - Leah Krynicky

Cyber Security - Evelyn Davis

National InformationTechnology Center - Bruce A. Pacot

Washington Communications and Technology Services - Yvonne Winston

*To e-mail a POC, just click on his or her name.*

# WWII Veterans Honor Flight Network (HFN)

by Bruce Pacot

## Time is of the Essence!

Based on recent 2008 statistics, we are losing World War II (WWII) veterans at the rate of approximately 1,000 per day. Honor Flight Network (HFN) is committed to do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our veterans and help our senior heroes travel absolutely **FREE** to visit WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The mission of the HFN is to "transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices" and the goal is "helping every single veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit THEIR memorial."

With the continued support of grateful Americans, by the end of the 2009 flying season in November, HFN will have transported more than 42,165 veterans of World War II, Korea and Viet Nam to see the memorials built to honor their suffering and sacrifice to keep this great nation free and a world leader.

**Schedules of flights, contacts, and information about this great program are available on line at** http://www.honorflight.org.

## World War II Registry

The memory of America's World War II generation is preserved within the physical memorial and through the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry. Names in the Registry will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.

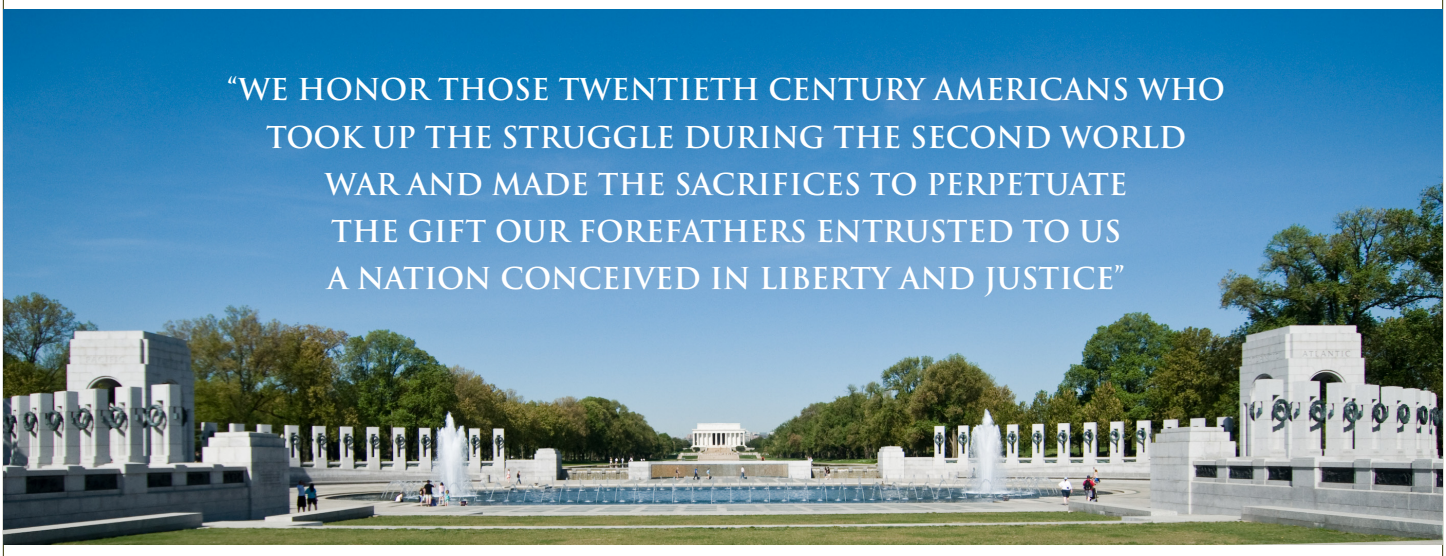
The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win WWII. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are: buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries; memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing; listed on official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); or honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.

You can register people by going to:

www.wwiimemorial.com

Select *World War II Registry* and select *click here*.

Go to the banner and select *Register an Honoree* and input the requested information.




*REMEMBER ALL VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25TH*