



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: [opa@nrc.gov](mailto:opa@nrc.gov)

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

---

No. 09-057

March 24, 2009

## NRC EMPLOYEE RECOGNIZED AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN THE FEDERAL 100 AWARDS



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Paul Ricketts, a senior level information technology security officer in the Office of Computer Security, was recognized in *Federal Computer Week's Federal 100* awards as an "Agent of Change" for his accomplishments in government information technology (IT).

"I am honored to receive this recognition," said Ricketts. "This award is really for the outstanding team of talented NRC staff who are dedicated every day to carrying out the agency's mission to protect people and the environment."

Ricketts will be honored at an event March 25 at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, Va. The *Federal 100* recognizes individuals from government, industry and academia who significantly influenced how the federal government buys, uses or manages information technology. *Federal 100* winners are recognized for their risk-taking, vision and pioneering spirit in the federal IT community. The winners are nominated by *Federal Computer Week* readers and selected by an independent panel of judges for their contributions to the development, acquisition or management of federal IT.

Ricketts was cited, among other accomplishments, for his distinguished service in overseeing the agency's compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). He applied his in-depth knowledge and experience in developing, implementing and maintaining information security policies, procedures, controls, and tools to support the certifications and accreditation of the agency's systems, contingency plan development and testing, security categorizations, annual control testing plans of action, and milestone tracking and remediation.

“Paul Ricketts’ contributions to the NRC mission have been significant,” said Roy Zimmerman, director of the Nuclear Security and Incident Response Office. “This was clearly demonstrated by his subject matter expertise and the positive collaborative working relationship he established with my staff during the certification and accreditation of systems within my office.”

Patrick Howard, the NRC chief information security officer, said Ricketts ensured the certification and accreditation of 13 information systems within the first seven months of his assignment. Additionally, “he made certain that contingency plans for 100 percent of the NRC’s major systems were prepared and tested, and improved the quality of system security documentation to allow the agency to eliminate the material weakness that was declared in a September 2007 Inspector General Report.” Howard added, “Paul continues to provide authoritative advice and counsel to me and to agency leadership on programmatic, infrastructure, and administrative aspects of IT security.”

Ricketts has more than 27 years of experience in the information technology industry, most recently from his role at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Prediction, where he served as the information technology security officer. While there, he developed and managed the organization’s information security program and represented management on all information security related issues. Prior to joining NOAA, he worked at the Bureau for Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as a supervisory IT specialist in charge of enterprise operations and systems disaster recovery management.

He has a master’s degree in information technology and is a certified information systems security professional. He is also an adjunct faculty member of Prince George’s Community College, where he has been teaching computer information systems and engineering technology courses for more than 10 years.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov) also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.