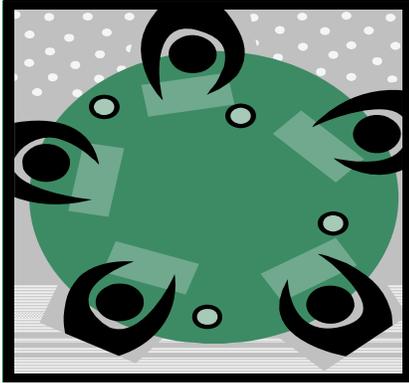


# Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

March 2006



## INSPECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**JOHNNIE FRAZIER**  
IG Commerce, Chair  
**CHRISTINE BOESZ**  
IG NSF  
**CARL CLINEFELTER**  
IG FCA  
**GLENN FINE**  
IG Justice  
**GORDON HEDDELL**  
IG Labor  
**HOWARD KROGARD**  
IG State  
**DANIEL LEVINSON**  
IG HHS



## MEETINGS

February I&E Roundtable Meeting. Thanks to the Veterans Affairs IG for hosting the meeting.

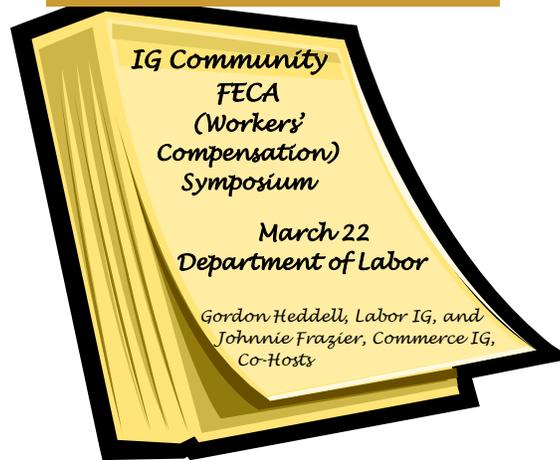
The next I&E Committee and Roundtable meeting will be held jointly, mid-June at the State Department OIG. Details will be sent via email.

**FECA Symposium - March 22**

## FEDERAL IGS' SYMPOSIUM: BUILDING A COORDINATED APPROACH TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION—MARCH 22

A half-day symposium—The Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) Program: Building a Coordinated Approach to FECA-Related Work—is scheduled for March 22, 2006. Co-hosted by Labor IG Gordon Heddell and Commerce IG Johnnie Frazier, the symposium will address some of the challenges facing the IG community in reviewing the FECA program.

## RE M I N D E R



According to DOL OIG, government costs for FECA have escalated (\$1.4 billion in 1990 to \$2.3 billion in 2004), and an estimated \$6.4 million in FECA overpayments in 2004 have prompted federal agencies and the IG community to find ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of this program.

Various IGs are already pursuing pro-

jects in the area. Interior, Labor, US Postal Service, Veterans Affairs, Education, Social Security Administration and Commerce OIGs have completed or are in the process of doing FECA work in their respective agencies. Already, we have seen tremendous results, and even greater benefits will be realized as the OIGs, throughout the IG community, work closely together to share fraud indicators, best practices, patterns/cases of abuse, and areas of management neglect or mismanagement.

Some of the discussion topics will include the following:

- A presentation by the Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Program (OWCP)
- Key findings and recommendations from recent federal IG work on FECA
- Balancing a growing interest in FECA-related audit and evaluation work with the tightened budgets and growing workloads of IGs and DOL's OWCP.
- A presentation on the proposed protocol and best practices for conducting IG FECA-related work.

Due to limited space, DOL OIG is requesting each agency limit its participants to five representatives. To register, visit <http://www.oig.dol.gov/registerFecaSymposium.htm>.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS OIG HOSTS I&E ROUNDTABLE'S FEBRUARY MEETING

Over 30 members attended the I&E Roundtable's meeting February 16. The meeting was hosted by the Veterans Affairs Inspector General. Deputy IG Jon A. Wooditch spoke to the Roundtable members. He highlighted VA's healthcare inspection program and its unique capabilities to review VA's medical programs and facilities. VA inspection teams include doctors, nurses, and other healthcare specialists.

He noted that having an I&E unit perform these types of evaluations can often speed up the review process and provides the additional expertise that the Congress mandated to perform these reviews.

Other items discussed by Roundtable members included the draft disaster preparedness guide, the workers' compensation symposium, the IG Institute, the PCIE Skillsoft pilot, and OIG involvement in hurricane recovery and Iraqi IG training efforts. For copies of the meeting minutes, please contact [ereuther@oig.doc.gov](mailto:ereuther@oig.doc.gov).

### GET THE SCOOP!

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact Erin Reuther at 202-482-4069 ([ereuther@oig.doc.gov](mailto:ereuther@oig.doc.gov)) or Jill Gross at 202-482-2754 ([jgross@oig.doc.gov](mailto:jgross@oig.doc.gov)).

## BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR REVIEWING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

At the February 16 I&E Roundtable meeting, Jim Seacord and Jennifer Carmichael, DIA OIG, submitted the disaster preparedness working group's latest draft for the Roundtable's review. Upon completion of the Roundtable's final review, the working group plans to present the draft to the I&E Committee at its next meeting.

Thanks to the many I&E Roundtable members that participated in the project: Defense Intelligence Agency OIG, the project lead, and the OIGs of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Farm Credit Administration; the Federal Communications Commission; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; the Federal Election Commission; the Government Printing Office; the U.S. Small Business Administration; and the National Reconnaissance Office.

An excerpt from the I&E Committee's draft Guide for Inspectors General on the Evaluation of Agency Emergency Preparedness under the National Incident Management System Framework follows:

*These I&E Committee emergency preparedness guidelines are the product of the cumulative lessons and insight of the membership of the Roundtable, as well as other com-*

*ponents of the Inspector General community and its President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency. The guidelines are advisory. However, we believe that they can be useful in the OIG planning process and support the federal goal incorporated into the Homeland Security Act of 2002 of creating a better integrated, more uniform program for response to natural or terrorist-initiated incidents that threaten the lives of employees or the continuity of federal, state, local or private sector operations.*

*Recent experience with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita reinforce the importance of all-event emergency preparedness. As the nation seeks to understand what did not go well in the response to Katrina and Rita, Inspectors General are focused anew on the lessons to be taken from those natural disasters and to prepare ourselves to respond more effectively to the next inevitable event, whatever it is and wherever it may occur.*

Johnnie E. Frazier, Chair  
Inspection and Evaluation  
Committee

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

DOD OIG is holding a combat/command training course for OIG projects that involve these issues. The one-week course will be offered 3-4 times per year and should provide a solid orientation into reviewing combat and command programs. Please contact Brem Morrison at [wmorrison@dodig.osd.mil](mailto:wmorrison@dodig.osd.mil) for more information.