

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Through its policy of fair and equal treatment of the media, the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) upholds GAO's core values of accountability, integrity, and reliability. OPA seeks to enhance GAO's credibility through transparency in its dealings with the Congress, the press, and the public. OPA also adds value to finished products by facilitating the broadest public exposure of GAO's message.

KEY CONTACTS

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Jeff Nelligan

STAFF

Susan Becker
Laura Kopelson
Ned Griffith
Rose Bethea

PHONE
(202) 512-4800

E-MAIL ADDRESS
Nelliganj@gao.gov

MAILING ADDRESS
U.S. General Accounting Office
Office of Public Affairs
Room 7149
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

DESCRIPTION OF

our work

On a daily basis, OPA (1) coordinates the public release of reports and testimony, (2) builds strong working relationships with reporters, (3) supports the efforts of congressional press staff to release GAO work, (4) monitors press coverage of GAO reports and advises agency officials of the need to correct factual errors or other misinterpretations in news stories, and (5) issues guidance and conducts media training to help GAO officials effectively respond to press inquiries.

To publicize the agency's work, OPA compiles "Today's Reports" — a daily list of issued reports and testimony that is posted on GAO's web site and e-mailed to thousands of subscribers. Interested parties can receive this service by visiting GAO's web site (www.gao.gov) and following the directions under "To Order GAO Products." OPA also supervises the production of a monthly publication — Month in Review — that summarizes all publicly released reports and testimony. OPA is available to prepare speeches, brochures, and special press announcements. Our publication "A Reporter's Guide to GAO" provides suggestions on how the media can access and keep abreast of GAO's work.

In addition, OPA manages internal communications through a weekly newsletter — "Management News" — and daily clippings that are distributed throughout the agency.

IMPACT OF

GAO is one of the most often cited agencies in the federal government, according to Lexis-Nexis news service surveys of the American media. By making GAO products more visible, OPA helps to increase the impact of the agency's work in terms of legislative actions, improvements in government operations, and financial benefits for taxpayers.