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Speech before the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT)

Program for Newly Elected Members of Congress

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DECEMBER 5, 2002

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The background of the slide is a photograph of the United States Capitol building at night, illuminated with warm yellow lights. In the foreground, the silhouette of the Statue of Freedom is visible against the dark sky.

PROGRAM *for* **NEWLY** ELECTED
MEMBERS *of* **CONGRESS**

JFK School of Government
Cambridge, Massachusetts
December 5, 2002

DAVID M. WALKER
Comptroller General of the United States

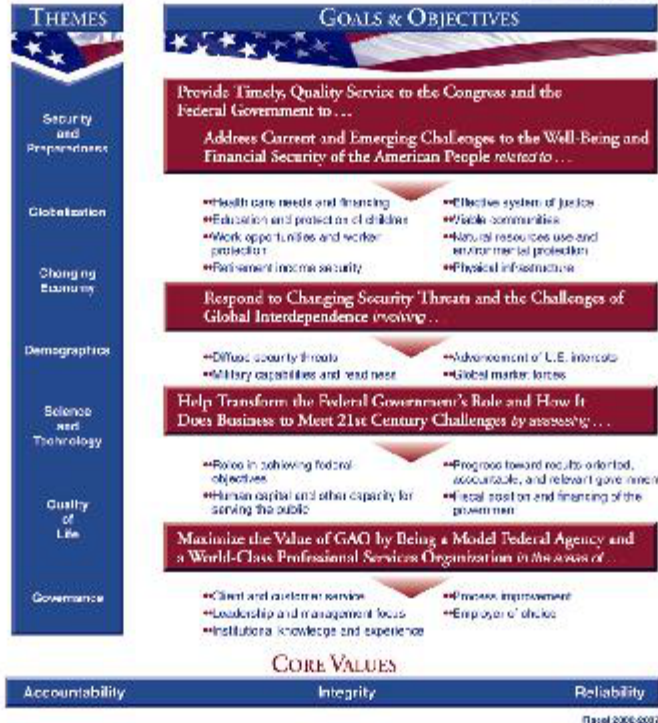


SERVING THE CONGRESS GAO'S STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK



MISSION

GAO exists to support the Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people.



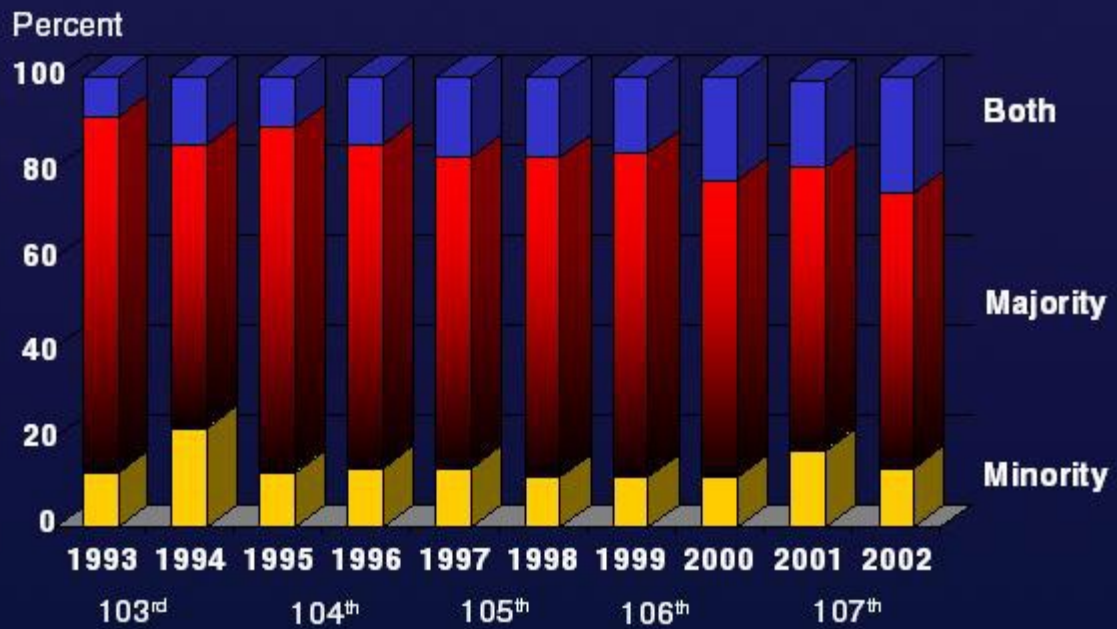


The Nature of GAO's Work





Sources of Requested Work During Congressional Sessions



Note: As of 11-18-02



Annual Performance Measures (1998 and 2002)

Performance measure	Actual	
	FY 1998	FY 2002
Financial benefits (billions)	\$19.7	\$37.7
Other benefits	537	906
Past recommendations implemented	69%	79%
Return on investment (ROI)	58:1	88:1
Financial benefits per employee (millions)	\$6.1	\$11.7
Timeliness	93%	96%



GAO's High Risk List	High Risk Areas	Year Designated High Risk
	Addressing Governmentwide High-Risk Areas	
	Strategic Human Capital Management	2001
	Information Security Weaknesses	1997
	Ensuring Major Technology Investments Improve Services	
	FAA Air Traffic Control Modernization	1995
	IRS Tax Systems Modernization	1995
	DOD Systems Modernization Efforts	1995
	Providing Basic Financial Accountability	
	DOD Financial Management	1995
	Forest Service Financial Management	1999
	FAA Financial Management	1999
	IRS Financial Management	1995
	Reducing Inordinate Program Management Risks	
	Medicare	1990
	Supplemental Security Income	1997
	Earned Income Credit Noncompliance	1995
	Collection of Unpaid Taxes	1990
	DOD Infrastructure Management	1997
	DOD Inventory Management	1990
	U.S. Postal Service Long-Term Outlook and Transformation	2001
	HUD Single-Family Mortgage Insurance and Rental Housing Assistance Programs	1994
	Student Financial Aid Programs	1990
	Asset Forfeiture Programs	1990
	Managing Large Procurement Operations More Efficiently	
	DOD Weapon Systems Acquisition	1990
	DOD Contract Management	1992
	Department of Energy Contract Management	1990
	NASA Contract Management	1990



GAO's 2002 Reports

Selected Topics

Food Safety	Private Pensions
Performance-Based Budgeting	Social Security
Military Transformation	Prescription Drugs
School Vouchers	Aviation Safety
Restructured Energy Markets	Welfare Reform
Securities Regulation	Army Readiness
Election Reform	Water Quality
Information Security	Nuclear Waste
FBI Reorganization	Export Controls
Nursing Homes	Tax Administration
Space Station	Drug Control
Homeland Security	



Social Security Reform through Primary Dimensions

■ Financing Sustainable Solvency

This criterion evaluates the extent to which the proposal achieves sustainable solvency, including how the proposal would affect the economy and the federal budget.

■ Balancing Adequacy and Equity

This criterion evaluates the balance struck between the twin goals of income adequacy (level and certainty of benefits) and individual equity (rates of return on individual contributions).

■ Implementing and Administering Reforms

This criterion evaluates how readily such changes could be implemented, administered and explained to the public.



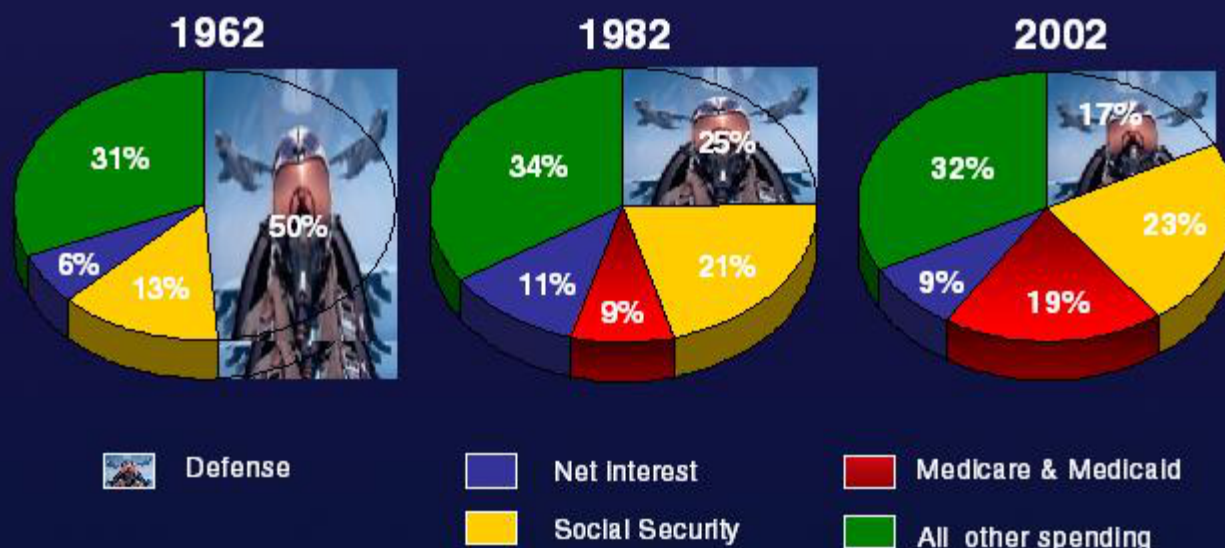
GAO/IGs Comparison 2002

	GAO	IGs
Number of entities	1	58*
Reporting lines	Congress	Agency head/Congress
Number of FTEs	3,200	9,000 (estimated)
Budget authority (2002)	\$432 million	\$1 billion (estimated)
Financial benefits (2002)	\$37.7 billion	\$28 billion (estimated)
Selected observations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government-wide scope ▪ Horizontal focus ▪ Primarily congressionally requested engagements ▪ More strategic and longer range issues ▪ More financial audits, program evaluations and policy analyses ▪ Performance/Accountability and High Risk List 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agency scope ▪ Vertical focus ▪ Primarily self-initiated engagements ▪ More tactical and immediate issues ▪ More investigations ▪ Management challenges lists

*29 PAS appointments and 29 agency head appointments



Composition of Federal Spending By Budget Function

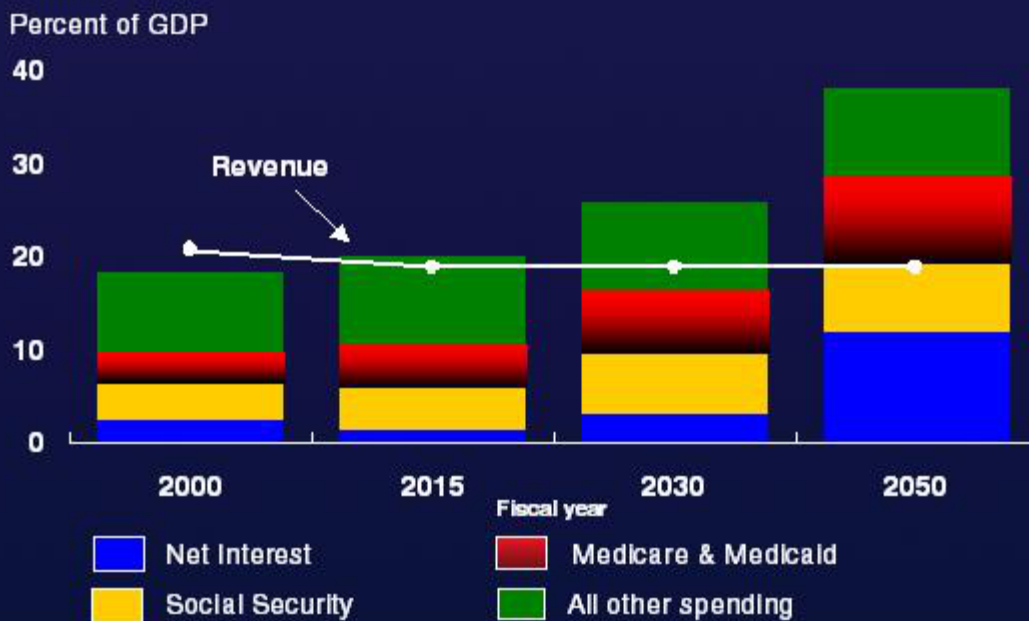


Source: Budget of the United States Government, FY2003, Office of Management and Budget, and Final Monthly Treasury Statement for FY2002, Department of Treasury.



Composition of Spending as a Share of GDP

Assuming Discretionary Spending Grows with GDP and the Tax Cuts Do Not Sunset

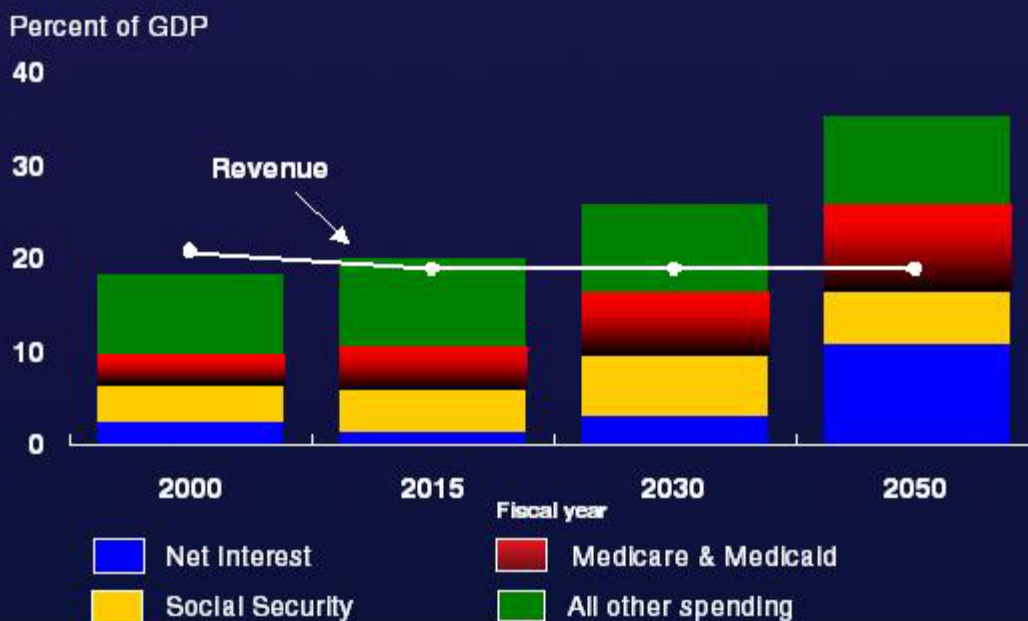


Source: GAO's August 2002 Analysis



Composition of Spending as a Share of GDP

Assuming Discretionary Spending Grows with GDP, the Tax Cuts Do Not Sunset, and Payable Social Security Benefits after 2041



Source: GAO's August 2002 Analysis



Federal Resources for Health Care by Policy Tool -- FY2000



Source: *Budget of the United States Government, FY 2002*, Office of Management and Budget.



Performance is Determined by Several Tools & Actors Empowered by Them

Percent of Total Federal Resources for the Education and Labor Budget Function, Fiscal Year 2000

