



Department of Defense
Office of the Inspector General

Information Release

INFORMATION RELEASE
(703) 604-8324

August 31, 2004

IG Personnel Discuss Data Mining at the GSA SmartPay Conference

Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General (OIG DoD) personnel from both the Auditing and Investigations components were featured speakers at the 2004 General Services Administration SmartPay Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 24-27. The OIG DoD is considered to have the premier subject matter experts on exploitation related to government-issued credit cards.

Over the course of the three-day conference, approximately 2,100 conference attendees participated in one of six sessions and a roundtable discussion to learn about government credit cards from an audit and investigative perspective; the importance of electronic data analysis and fraud indicators; and, when used properly, how data mining and other computer-assisted auditing techniques curtail fraud, misuse, and abuse of government purchase, travel, and fleet cards.

OIG DoD instructors stressed the significance of placing these risk management techniques in the hands of DoD management, Approving Officials (AO), and Agency Program Coordinators (APC) in order to foster continuous monitoring and improvement in the use of government-issued credit cards. In addition, data analysis and computer-assisted auditing techniques serve as excellent internal controls to reduce risk and provide reliable financial information to the public.

Pro-active efforts such as these benefit U.S. taxpayers by improving the methods used to monitor appropriated funds. They also help the OIG DoD maintain vital working relationships with DoD management, APC and AO's from other federal agencies and commercial entities such as Visa, Bank of America, Citibank, Bank One, and US Bank.

-OIG-