

GAO Management News

Vol. 44, No. 20, Weeks of July 10 - 21, 2017

GAO Budget Request for Fiscal 2018

In his June 21 testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, Comptroller General Gene Dodaro asked Congress for \$618.2 million to fund GAO's operations in fiscal year 2018. This request ([GAO-17-604T](#), June 21) supports a staffing level of 3,100 full-time equivalent employees to help address congressional priorities and carry out the congressional watchdog agency's oversight mission.

Dodaro told senators that GAO has several priority areas that merit increased attention. They include identifying strategies and actions agencies can take to reduce government improper payments, which now total more than \$140 billion annually; closing a tax gap that now exceeds \$400 billion annually; and helping Congress determine the policy implications of complex and rapidly evolving science and technology.

"Last fiscal year alone, our work generated over \$63 billion in financial benefits and 1,234 program and operational improvements across government," Dodaro said. He said GAO expects to offset funding needs with \$27.5 million in reimbursements from program and financial audits and rental income, resulting in a net appropriation request of \$590.7 million.

Following his statement, Dodaro fielded questions on a range of topics. Responding to Chairman James Lankford's inquiry about GAO's Center for Excellence, Dodaro indicated that the Center is on track according to its 5-year plan. Senator Chris Van Hollen asked about GAO's work on the Washington Metro and the Department of Defense's and OMB's response to a recent report on Overseas Contingency Operations.

"What happens in flat funding?" Ranking Member Chris Murphy asked, wondering what would happen if GAO received the same appropriation in FY 2018 as it did the previous year. Dodaro replied, "In a flat funding scenario, we'd lose about 200 people because of normal attrition, without replacement." The CG compared that to college seniors leaving with no freshmen or sophomores coming in.

The Subcommittee has now completed all of its hearings with legislative branch agencies, and its next step will be to develop a bill that includes specific funding levels.

BIG Presentation Provides Tips for Career Development

Cynthia Dunn, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Director in the Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, came to GAO on June 20 to provide a number of tips for career growth in the federal government. Dunn's presentation—"Think "BIG": Where Do You Want to Be in the Next Five Years and How Do You Plan to Get There?"—was sponsored by the GAO chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG).

In a federal career spanning more than three decades, Dunn advanced by looking for the next challenge, learning new skills, and making incremental moves. She got her start in the federal government in 1980 as a GS-1 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She recalled how the GS-1 was the only open position and how eager she was to get a start.



Cynthia Dunn of the Internal Revenue Service presents her program "Think "BIG": Where Do You Want to Be in the Next Five Years and How Do You Plan to Get There?" sponsored by Blacks in Government (BIG), at GAO headquarters, June 20.

Rising steadily up the ranks at various federal agencies, Dunn eventually found her way to the IRS, and she has been in her present position since 2000. At IRS, she began as a GS-13 and is now a Senior Manager IR-01. She is the highest ranking African-American official in the Tax Exempt and Government Entities, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office and reports directly to the IRS Commissioner. She has worked in the EEO/Diversity/Civil Rights field since 1992.

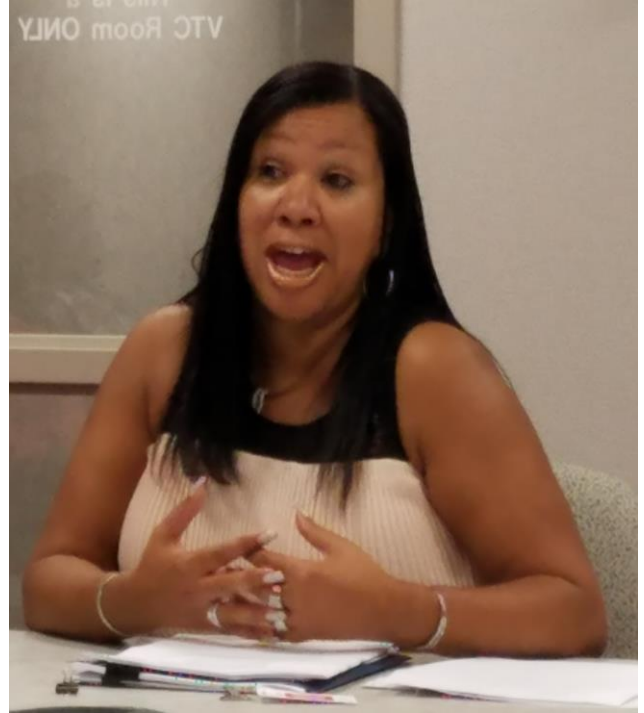
Dunn suggested employees start with a self-assessment of where they are in their life and career. "Ask yourself if you are happy with life decisions you've made and your current position. How does your job affect your home life? What is your ideal job? Have you taken steps toward achieving it? Are the goals you set realistic and where do you see yourself in five to 10 years?"

"Barriers may be preventing you from moving forward in your career," she said. People may have mobility barriers, be afraid of change, lack training or education, and may not be politically savvy. Dunn made several suggestions for overcoming barriers and discussed the importance of having a personal development plan.

"People tend to lose sight of their career path as the years go by. Before you know it, you would have worked 20 years and wish you would have had a plan," Dunn said. According to Dunn, examples of career aspirations include traditional career success, security, expertise, freedom, and balance.

Dunn provided her 10 tips on how to become a good leader:

- Keep your word
- Be fair and respectable to all
- Be a good communicator
- Be flexible
- Be Organized
- Delegate
- Set an example
- Be consistent
- Give praise
- Ask for help



Cynthia Dunn, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Director in the Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office, addresses GAOers at BIG presentation.

Her presentation included pointers on developing a career goal statement and Individual Career Learning Plan. She also discussed how to make the move into a leadership role. Dunn told attendees that they can acquire leadership skills by enrolling in agency leadership courses, undertaking shadowing assignments, participating in mentoring programs, and obtaining training using the Tuition Assistance Program.

The event was broadcast held via VTC, see [Presentation Slides](#) here.

From Here and There

NRE Semick Re-elected to Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Maryland Chapter Board

Dan Semick, a Certified Fraud Examiner in NRE, was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Maryland Chapter of the [Association of Certified Fraud Examiners](#) for a 2-year term beginning in July. The Maryland Chapter includes more than 500 of the 80,000 members of the professional organization. As the world's largest anti-fraud group the association provides training and education on every continent. The Maryland chapter is composed of accountants, auditors, investigators, law enforcement, attorneys, consultants, and educators. It provides training seminars and an annual conference with national speakers covering the latest topics in fraud prevention and detection.

Arrivals and Departures

Welcome to recently hired GAO employees:

ARM: Samuel J. Portnow

ASM: Nathan P. Foster, Cody J. Knudsen, Sean T. Sannwaldt

DCM: Christine L. James

FAIS: Cheryl Bassett

EWIS: Phillip J. Steinberg, Adam E. Windram

FMA: Charles V. Varga

FMBO: Raushan A. Robles

FMCI: Joshua T. Garties

HCO: Gracie D. Sayles

HSJ: Allison R. Gunn, Kenneth R. Lester

IO: Magdily Briosso, Connie V. Hall, Christy D. Smith

NRE: James I. McCully, McKenna C. Storey (Atlanta)

PI: Jazzmin R. Cooper

SI: Andrew C. Emmons, Samuel A. Gaffigan, Jesse T. Jordan, Daniel M. Mahoney (San Francisco), Jessica M. Walker

Good luck to recently retired GAO employees:

APQA: Christine Fishkin

ARM: Mitchell Karpman

FMA: Gregory Pugnetti

HC: Christine Brudevold

ISTS: Camille Adebayo

Goodbye and best wishes to employees leaving GAO:

HC: Laurie Fletcher Thurber

HSJ: Kristy Love

NRE: Nicole Dery

PA: Jessica Smith

PI: Kevin Egan

SPEL: Karen Zuckerstein

Mark Your Calendar

2017 National Intergovernmental Audit Forum & Cybersecurity Forum, July 18 – 19, GAO Headquarters

Two agendas will focus on the *State of Government Accountability* on July 18 and a meeting targeted towards the intergovernmental audit community on *Recognizing and Predicting Cyber Challenges* on July 19.

These meetings will focus on several timely and engaging topics, including: the future of public service, organizing for data analytics, human capital trends, state and local fiscal health, transforming government through innovation and collaboration, the evolution of cybersecurity auditing, key developments in cybersecurity and much more.

Major figures in intergovernmental audit community and in public administration will be featured, with speakers including:

- Suzanne M. Bump, Massachusetts State Auditor
- Stephen Goldsmith, Daniel Paul Professor of the Practice of Government, Harvard's Kennedy School
- Tracy Gordon, Senior Fellow, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center
- Theresa Grafenstine, Chair, ISACA International Board of Directors and Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives
- Elaine Howle, California State Auditor
- Donald F. Kettl, Professor and Former Dean of the School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
- Allison C. Lerner, Inspector General, National Science Foundation
- Eduardo Luna, San Diego City Auditor
- Peter W. Singer, Strategist and Senior Fellow, New America Foundation
- Kathleen S. Tighe, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Education

GAO speakers and moderators will include:

Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General
James-Christian Blockwood, SPEL
Naba Barkakati, Chief Technologist
Tim Bowling, APQA
Robert Dacey, Chief Accountant
Nancy Donovan, SPEL
Kristen Kociolek, FMA
Nick Marinos, IT
Chris Mihm, SI
Stephen Sanford, SPEL
Gregory Wilshusen, IT
Jenny Wong, SPEL



When: Tuesday, July 18 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:50 p.m.
5:00-6:30 p.m. Networking Event: Sixth Engine,
Wednesday, July 19 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm.

438 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001

Where: U.S. Government Accountability Office, 441 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20548

For registration information, please see: [NIAF and Cybersecurity Forum](#)

In existence for over 40 years, the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum is an association of audit executives from federal, state and local governments. Annual meetings provide the opportunity to exchange information on current and emerging issues, best practices, auditing standards and facilitate networking among members of the audit community. The organization's meetings are financed by participant registrations.

For more information, please contact Nancy Donovan, Director of Domestic Relations, Strategic Planning and External Liaison, U.S. GAO at donovann@gao.gov (202-512-7136)

In Memoriam

Natosha Mahoney passed away June 27. Natosha dedicated 37 years of her life to federal government service, the vast majority at GAO. For many years, she supported the Comptroller General's Front Office, serving lastly as the Chief Operating Officer's executive assistant. Natosha retired from GAO in March 2017.

Natosha will be missed by all those who had the privilege of working beside her. Her kindness, generosity, and commitment to excellence were hallmarks of her spirit. Her service was held July 1 in Hillcrest Heights, MD. Condolence cards can be sent to:

The Mahoney Family
2705 Hartford St. SE
Washington DC 20020

Paul Posner passed away July 5. He had worked in New York City before joining GAO in 1976. At GAO, he worked in intergovernmental relations and tax (where he was an Associate Director) before becoming Director for Federal Budget and Intergovernmental Relations Analysis and Managing Director for Goal I in Strategic Issues.



He led the first long-term fiscal simulation and other work on the long-term outlook, federal debt & debt management, budget formulation and execution and intergovernmental relations. In 2006 he became Director of the Public Administration Program and the Centers on the Public Service at George Mason University where he continued his research and work in the area of budget, budget process and federalism. He was called the ultimate “pracademic.”

A memorial fund has been established at the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government in Paul Posner's name. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the “Paul Posner MPA Student fund” at George Mason University.

Online donations can be made at <http://advancement.gmu.edu/posnerendowment>. Contact [Susan Irving](#) for more information.

Job Market

GAO is seeking applicants for the following position. Detailed information may be found at [USAjobs](#).

Counseling Psychologist, PT 02, closes 7/21

ASM Seeks AC-03 Executive Assistant – Apply by July 12

The Acquisition and Sourcing Management (ASM) team is seeking an AC-03 Executive Assistant. The vacancy announcement is open to internal applicants. The vacancy announcement and information regarding the position and eligibility may be found in USAJOBS (announcement no. [GAO-17-ASM-0303-01-MP](#)). The position is located in Headquarters. GAO will not pay relocation expenses. The announcement closes at 11:59 PM (ET) on 7/12/17.

How to Apply: You need a USAJOBS account in order to apply for this position. More details about applying for this opportunity can be found in the position's vacancy announcement.

Questions/Assistance: If you have questions regarding this vacancy announcement, contact [Jamila Jones](#), 202-512-4753.

Recent Reports, Testimony, and Legal Products

Public GAO products--reports, testimony, and legal decisions and opinions--are available on GAO's [website](#) as they are released. In addition, you may sign up for [daily e-mail alerts](#) about issued products. You may also subscribe to Twitter alerts for [reports](#) and [legal products](#). Use the [search engine](#) to locate older products.

Reports

Army Weapon System Requirements: Need to Address Workforce Shortfalls to Make Necessary Improvements.
[GAO-17-568](#), June 22

Army Contracting: Leadership Lacks Information Needed To Evaluate and Improve Operations.
[GAO-17-457](#), June 22

VA Health Care: Improvements Needed in Data and Monitoring of Clinical Productivity and Efficiency.
[GAO-17-480](#), May 23

Operational Contract Support: Actions Needed to Enhance Capabilities in the Pacific Region.
[GAO-17-428](#), June 23

Defense Management: DOD Has Taken Initial Steps to Formulate an Organizational Strategy, but These Efforts Are Not Complete.
[GAO-17-523R](#), June 23

Physician Workforce: Locations and Types of Graduate Training Were Largely Unchanged, and Federal Efforts May Not Be Sufficient to Meet Needs.
[GAO-17-411](#), May 25

Generic Drug User Fees: Application Review Times Declined, but FDA Should Develop a Plan for Administering Its Unobligated User Fees.
[GAO-17-452](#), May 25

Weapon Systems: Prototyping Has Benefited Acquisition Programs, but More Can Be Done to Support Innovation Initiatives.
[GAO-17-309](#), June 27

Operational Support Airlift: Fleet Sufficiency is Assessed Annually.
[GAO-17-582](#), June 28

FBI Laboratory: Chemistry and Trace Evidence Units Generally Adhere to Quality Standards, but Could Review More Examiner Testimonies.
[GAO-17-516](#), June 28

Telecommunications: Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program.
[GAO-17-538](#), May 30

Puerto Rico: Information on Trends and Challenges to Small Business Federal Contracting.
[GAO-17-550](#), June 29

Puerto Rico: Información sobre Tendencias y Retos de Pequeñas Empresas en el Ámbito de Contratación Federal.

[GAO-17-705](#), June 29

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Bureau of the Fiscal Service's Information Systems Controls.

[GAO-17-611R](#), June 29

Defense Science and Technology: Adopting Best Practices Can Improve Innovation Investments and Management.

[GAO-17-499](#), June 29

Critical Infrastructure Protection: DHS Has Fully Implemented Its Chemical Security Expedited Approval Program, and Participation to Date Has Been Limited.

[GAO-17-502](#), June 29

Small Business Administration: Government Contracting and Business Development Processes and Rule-Making Activities.

[GAO-17-573](#), June 30

Hospital Value-Based Purchasing: CMS Should Take Steps to Ensure Lower Quality Hospitals Do Not Qualify for Bonuses.

[GAO-17-551](#), June 30

Defense-Wide Working Capital Fund: Action Needed to Maintain Cash Balances within Required Levels.

[GAO-17-465](#), June 30

Inter-American Organizations: Efforts Ongoing for Quota Reform at the Organization of American States, but Reaching Agreement Will Be Difficult

[GAO-17-572](#), June 6

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[GAO-17-572](#), June 6

Chemical and Biological Defense: DOD Has Identified an Infrastructure Manager and Is Developing the Position's Roles and Responsibilities

[GAO-17-522R](#), July 7

Restricted Reports

Offshore Petroleum Discharge System: The Navy Has Not Mitigated Risk Associated with System Limitations.

[GAO-17-531C](#), June 22

Embassy Evacuations: State Should Take Steps To Improve Emergency Preparedness.

[GAO-17-560SU](#), June 28

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Bureau of the Fiscal Service's Information Systems Controls.

[GAO-17-591RSU](#), June 29

Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications: Installation of Systems at U.S. Strategic Command's New Headquarters Facility

[GAO-17-439RC](#), June 29

Congressional Testimony

Job Corps: Preliminary Observations on Student Safety and Security Data, by Cindy Brown Barnes, EWIS, before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

[GAO-17-596T](#), June 22

Legal Decisions and Opinions

Bid Protest Decisions

[Curtin Maritime Corporation](#), B-414335.2, May 5

[Innovation Associates, Inc.](#), B-414406, June 6

[Glock, Inc.](#), B-414401, June 5

[Tesla Laboratories, Inc.](#), B-414428, June 7

[Pinnacle Solutions, Inc.](#), B-414360, May 19

[Walker Development & Trading Group, Inc.](#), B-414453, June 21

[Chenega Federal Systems, LLC](#), B-414478, June 26

[IDIS, Corp.](#), B-414429, B-414429.2, June 12

[Made in Space, Inc.](#), B-414490, June 22

[Pontiac Flying LLC](#), B-414433, B-414433.2, B-414433.3, June 12

[Dell Services Federal Government, Inc.](#), B-414461, B-414461.2, June 21

[MSI-Tetra Tech](#), B-414517, B-414517.2, June 22

[GOV Services, Inc.—Costs](#), B-414226.2, June 26

[Right Direction Technology Solutions, LLC](#), B-414366.2, June 13

[R4 Integration, Inc.](#), B-414592, June 30

[Timberline Helicopters, Inc.](#), B-414507, June 27

[Global Aerospace Corporation](#), B-414514, July 3

[A-T Solutions, Inc.](#), B-413652.2, B-413652.3, B-413652.4, July 5

[Aurotech, Inc.](#), B-413861.4, June 23

[Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.](#), B-414410, B-414410.2, June 6

[Leidos Innovations Corporation](#), B-414289.2, June 6

[Valkyrie Enterprises, LLC](#), B-414516, June 30

Speakers' Platform

Kristen Kociolek, FMA, presented “An Update on What’s New with the Yellow Book” at the 2017 Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA., May 23.

FMCI’s Nadine Raidbard, Assistant Director, and Lisa Moore, Sr. Analyst, presented at the 2017 National Conference on Social Work and HIV in Atlanta, Georgia, May 27. The presentation summarized GAO’s work on federal housing programs for persons with HIV ([GAO-15-298](#), April 16, 2015). After the formal presentation, Nadine and Lisa engaged the audience of social workers in a lively discussion about the role of GAO, the impetus of GAO’s work, and ongoing challenges related to serving very low-income persons with HIV.

Cristina Chaplain discussed recent GAO findings and the Defense space budget at a forum held by the Mitchell Institute on Capitol Hill, June 16.

Nancy Kingsbury, ARM, participated in a panel discussion on “What can be done to successfully practice change management in an unstable future?” at a forum sponsored by the National Academy of Public Administration and Management Concepts in Washington, DC, June 29.

On the Air

Marie Mak, ASM, spoke with Federal News Radio about the team’s report on Army weapon system requirements ([GAO-17-568](#), June 22), June 26.

Seto Bagdoyan, FAIS, spoke with Federal News Radio about the FCC’s Lifeline Program ([GAO-17-538](#), May 30), July 5.

Mike Sullivan, ASM, appeared on NewsChannel 8’s “Government Matters” program to talk about the team’s body of work on DOD weapon systems acquisition issues, July 6.

About *Management News*

Management News is published biweekly by Public Affairs and distributed by email to GAO employees and by email subscription to GAO retirees. An archive of past issues is located on the intranet. Photo credit goes to [Chris Stone](#), GAO photographer.

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