

The Joseph H. Sherick Award

Tina W. Jonas

Tina W. Jonas has served with distinction as the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer since July 2004. In that capacity, Ms. Jonas significantly contributed to supporting the Department by providing financial oversight and accountability for the Department's military and civilian members. Additionally, she ensures that financial policies, processes, and systems provide the needed support for millions of civilian, military, and retired military personnel and their families. The Department of Defense financial management environment is probably the most complex and diverse in the world. Its Fiscal Year 2007 financial statements included \$1.5 trillion in assets, \$2.1 trillion in liabilities, and \$622 billion in Net Cost of Operations. To be responsible for providing services to thousands of locations at the right place, at the right time, in the right amount, and at such magnitude is a testament to the confidence placed in her by the Department's senior leaders.

Ms. Jonas' most notable contribution to the work of the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General includes her formation of the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Directorate. This directorate is responsible for providing centralized coordination of the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness initiative; a regularly updated, written plan with stated objectives and milestones; a defined process with protocols for making decisions; a tool for tracking progress; and oversight groups consisting of participants from across the Department of Defense to guide the decision making process. Under her direction, the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness plan was developed in 2005. This plan brings to the forefront the extensive efforts by the Department to modernize and improve its business and financial operations with the goal of obtaining an unqualified opinion on the Department's financial statements. As a result, the Department's financial managers are developing and updating corrective action plans, and refining the Department's roadmap to correct deficiencies and achieve proper financial reporting. Success of the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness plan rests with each financial manager's efforts to identify all major financial management problems, develop corresponding action plans, and fully implement the corrective actions. Periodic updates and constant monitoring of this plan have increased awareness of what is needed to provide accurate, reliable and timely financial information.

Due in large part to the efforts of Ms. Jonas, the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General considers the following Department of Defense financial management efforts to be successes: implementation of integrated organizational structures and processes to address financial management improvement, assignment of accountability to Department of Defense managers, Department of Defense improvement initiatives at the entity and line item level, and self assessment of controls over financial reporting related to the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123. The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General considers these to be critical steps in establishing a cultural/ingrained structure that will enable Department managers to identify internal control weaknesses and effectively plan for resolution of those weaknesses and that will hold Department managers accountable for improving internal controls over financial reporting. For these and her many other contributions, I take great pleasure in awarding Tina W. Jonas the Joseph H. Sherick Award.