



United States Merit Systems Protection Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2004

MSPB CHAIRMAN WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM

During testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization on March 2, 2005, Neil A.G. McPhie, Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, advised the congressional panel that the Board is pleased that the Department of Homeland Security has decided to retain the services of the Board for the adjudication of employee appeals. In his written statement, Chairman McPhie stated further: "We are confident that we will provide the same high quality of services for which we have become known, even in the compressed timeframes mandated by the DHS appeals system. I believe that, when DHS conducts its evaluation at the end of the regulatory two year period, its officials, managers and line employees will see that retention of the Board as an independent neutral adjudicatory body was the right decision."

The hearing, entitled "The Countdown to Completion: Implementing the New Homeland Security Personnel System," was conducted to examine the scope and significance of the changes from the current system and determine how the new regulations may affect Federal employees working at DHS. As the Board is an independent, adjudicatory body responsible for providing an impartial review of employee appeals, MSPB Chairman McPhie limited his comments to the impact on the Board's operations and resources. At the conclusion of his remarks, Chairman McPhie advised the panel that: "We look forward to working with DHS to ensure the success of its new personnel system."

The Board is an independent, non-partisan quasi-adjudicatory agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from management action taken against them and for protecting the integrity of the civil service and other Federal merit systems. The Board also conducts studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch.

This Press Release may be downloaded from the Board's website at www.mspb.gov.

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