



United States Merit Systems Protection Board

Contact: Arlin Winefordner
(202) 653-6772, ext. 1162
V/TDD 1-800-877-8339
(Federal Relay Service)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 10, 2004

MSPB CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), which began operations on January 11, 1979, is recognizing the 25th anniversary of its establishment by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. MSPB has 1883 on its official seal because the agency history dates back to the Pendleton Act, the landmark reform legislation known as the Civil Service Act of 1883. The Board is the successor agency to the former U.S. Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the MSPB's three-member Board evolved directly from the CSC's three-commissioner structure. Capping a year-long celebration of the agency's many accomplishments, a ceremony was held Wednesday, November 10, 2004, at the Great Hall of the Sumner School near the MSPB's Washington DC headquarters at 1615 M Street, N.W. The ceremony was followed by a reception. The eight MSPB regional and field offices also held similar ceremonies across the country.

As part of his presentation at the celebration, Acting Chairman Neil A. G. McPhie stated, "This year is particularly rewarding for us as we celebrate our 25th year of operation, and the 26th anniversary of the Civil Service Reform Act (CSRA). During these past 25 years, we have been honored to serve as the independent bipartisan protector of the merit systems for Federal employees. The Board's role in protecting the merit system is essential to assuring the American people that their civil servants are well qualified to perform their work and able to serve the public free from management abuse and partisan political pressure. The Board has two statutory missions – to provide the over 1.8 million Federal employees the opportunity for independent adjudication of appeals of personnel actions; and to conduct studies of the civil service to ensure that employees are managed in accordance with the merit principles. Over this 25 year time period, the Board has handled over 200,000 initial

appeals, 35,000 petitions for review (PFR), and published approximately 95 merit systems studies.”

This year the MSPB continued to improve efficiency in processing appeals through implementation of two major electronic case processing and filing systems including the web-based “e-Appeal.” These technological changes will help improve our timeliness, and make filing an appeal and communicating with the Board easier for appellants and agencies. The Board also completed and approved six merit systems studies and four Issues of Merit newsletters. The topics of these reports range from a review of automated hiring initiatives to a report on what is on the minds of stakeholders in Federal human resources management.

The Board is an independent, quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from personnel actions 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 and reviews significant actions of the Office of Personnel Management.

-end-