



Merit Systems Protection Board

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 23, 2007

THAI CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETS TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTING A MSPB IN THAILAND

Today, the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) met with Tassanee Thammasit, the Deputy Secretary General of the Thai Civil Service, and other Thai representatives to discuss an ongoing effort to implement a Merit Systems Protection Board in the Thai Civil Service.

Chairman Neil A. G. McPhie said, "The Board's role, as the guardian of merit through adjudication of individual appeals from personnel actions, is well documented in the Federal system. We are honored that our colleagues from Thailand have thought so highly of our system, that they have modeled many aspects of it into their own system. We will continue to offer our experiences and insights to better enable them to create a system that will work well in their culture."

During the last few years, various representatives of the Thai Civil Service Commission, including Secretary General Preecha Vajrabhaya, have visited the MSPB. They have spoken with MSPB staff about the Board's structure and operations with the idea of creating a similar body in Thailand to replace their Administrative Court system for adjudication of Civil Service Appeals. In 2005, they introduced legislation to create the Thai Merit System Protection Board and so named it. In July of 2005, Chairman McPhie and MSPB Director of Policy and Evaluation, Steve Nelson, were guests of the Thai Civil Service Commission in Bangkok. They spoke with the Civil Service Commissioners about the Commissioners' plans to modify their appeals system and create a separate body for hearing appeals. They also met with Thai senior executives

of various departmental offices. Chairman McPhie recalled, “I stressed the importance of creating an independent body, that would not turn over when there was a change in administration. Such independence and continuity of operation is a key ingredient to maintaining a merit based system.”

The MSPB is an independent, quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from personnel actions taken against them, protecting the integrity of the civil service and other Federal merit systems, and conducting studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch. To learn additional information about the initiative with the Thai Civil Service, please e-mail steve.nelson@mspb.gov; or call (202) 653-6772, extension 1332, or write to: Merit Systems Protection Board, Office of Policy and Evaluation, 1615 M Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20419.