

GAO

Accounting and Information
Management Division

August 1998

**Consolidated Audit and
Computer Security Issue
Area**

Active Assignments

Foreword

This report was prepared primarily to inform Congressional members and key staff of ongoing assignments in the General Accounting Office's Consolidated Audit and Computer Security issue area. This report contains assignments that were ongoing as of August 17, 1998, and presents a brief background statement and a list of key questions to be answered on each assignment. The report will be issued quarterly.

This report was compiled from information available in GAO's internal management information systems. Because the information was downloaded from computerized data bases intended for internal use, some information may appear in abbreviated form.

If you have questions or would like additional information about assignments listed, please contact Robert Dacey, Director, on (202) 512-3317.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the success of any business or organization. The text then goes on to describe various methods and techniques for organizing and storing these records effectively. It mentions the use of ledgers, journals, and other accounting tools to ensure that all financial data is captured and preserved correctly. The document also touches upon the legal implications of record-keeping, noting that accurate records are often required for tax purposes and to protect against potential disputes or audits. Finally, it concludes by reiterating the value of diligent record-keeping as a foundation for sound financial management and decision-making.

Contents

	Page
OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK - CACS	
• HRA 27:EDP CONTROLS AT HEHS AGENCIES: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES.	1
• HRA 27: ASSESSMENT OF DOD'S PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING EDP GENERAL CONTROLS RECOMMENDATIONS.	1
• HRA:27 UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT-WIDE INFORMATION SECURITY CHALLENGES.	1
<i>New</i> • HRA 27:ASSESSMENT OF EDP CONTROLS SUPPORTING KEY FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.	1
<i>New</i> • HRA 27:ASSESSMENT OF EDP GENERAL CONTROLS THAT SUPPORT KEY FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.	2
<i>New</i> • U.S. GOVERNMENT FY 1998 CFS AUDIT PLANNING AND ISSUES RESOLUTION.	2
<i>New</i> • HRA 27: FY 1997 EDP CONTROLS AT VA AUDITS: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES.	2
<i>New</i> • HRA 27: EDP CONTROLS AT DOE: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES.	2
<i>New</i> • HRA 27:EDP CONTROLS AT EPA: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES.	2
<i>New</i> • HRA 27: FY 97 REVIEW OF EDP CONTROLS AT THE IRS.	3

The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country. It is noted that the economy is in a state of depression, and that the government is facing a serious financial crisis. The report also discusses the political situation, and the role of the various political parties.

The second part of the report deals with the social situation. It is noted that the standard of living is low, and that there is a high level of unemployment. The report also discusses the social services provided by the government, and the role of the various social organizations.

The third part of the report deals with the international situation. It is noted that the country is in a state of isolation, and that it is facing a serious international crisis. The report also discusses the role of the various international organizations, and the role of the country in the world.

The fourth part of the report deals with the future of the country. It is noted that the country is facing a serious future, and that it is in need of a new government. The report also discusses the role of the various political parties, and the role of the people in the future of the country.

Consolidated Audits and Computer Security

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK - CACS

TITLE: HRA 27:EDP CONTROLS AT HEHS AGENCIES: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES (919137)

KEY QUESTIONS : The 1994 Government Management Reform Act (GMRA) requires GAO to audit the FY 1997 government-wide consolidated financial statements. The adequacy of agencies' (such as the Departments of Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, and the VA) audit of Electronic Data Processing (EDP) controls, and the effectiveness of these controls directly affect our audit efforts at these agencies. Q1. What is the nature and extent of EDP control audits performed by the Inspector General? Q2. What is the effectiveness of EDP controls, as shown by agency audits/reviews and our own analysis and selected testing of controls.

TITLE: HRA 27: ASSESSMENT OF DOD'S PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING EDP GENERAL CONTROLS RECOMMENDATIONS (919159)

KEY QUESTIONS : In financial management review of the Navy and of DOD's Military Retirement Trust Fund, GAO tested EDP general controls at selected DOD data centers and found extensive control weaknesses. The recommended corrective actions require a high level of coordination among DOD components, e.g. between military services and defense agencies. (1) What corrective actions have been taken? (2) Is DOD focusing on the fundamental issues we have raised?, (3) Is DOD's plan for addressing our recommendations reasonable and likely to be effective, and (4) What barriers has DOD encountered in their efforts to address our concerns? We will also assess the Defense Information Systems Agency's process for overseeing security in the megacenters.

TITLE: HRA:27 UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT-WIDE INFORMATION SECURITY CHALLENGES (919161)

KEY QUESTIONS : Since 1993, GAO and IG audit reports have identified serious information security (IS) weaknesses at a growing number of federal agencies. This evidence has increased significantly since mid-1996 as both GAO and IGs have stepped up their audit efforts in this area. In September 1996, we recommended that OMB and the CIO Council take a stronger leadership role in improving IS governmentwide (AIMD-96-110). (1) What is the current status of federal information security? (2) What actions can agencies take to address their IS problems? (3) What actions have the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the CIO Council taken to address federal IS problems?

TITLE: HRA 27:ASSESSMENT OF EDP CONTROLS SUPPORTING KEY FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (919231)

KEY QUESTIONS : Under the Government Reform Act, GAO subjected the FY 97 federal consolidated financial statements to audit. As part of that work, we assessed EDP general controls supporting key financial applications of the Department of Veterans Affairs. We determined if EDP general controls protected data and applications programs from unauthorized access, prevented the introduction of unauthorized changes to application and systems software, segregated the responsibilities for security, applications programming, systems programming, computer operations and quality assurance, ensured recovery of computer processing operations in case of a disaster or other unexpected interruption, and provided for an adequate computer security planning and management program.

Consolidated Audits and Computer Security

TITLE: HRA 27:ASSESSMENT OF EDP GENERAL CONTROLS THAT SUPPORT KEY FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (919232)

KEY QUESTIONS : Under the Government Reform Act, GAO subjected the FY 97 federal consolidated financial statements to audit. As part of that work, we assessed EDP general controls supporting key financial applications of the Department of Veterans Affairs. We determined if EDP general controls protected data and applications programs from unauthorized access, prevented the introduction of unauthorized changes to application and systems software, segregated the responsibilities for security, applications programming, systems programming, computer operations and quality assurance, ensured recovery of computer processing operations in case of a disaster or other unexpected interruption, and provided for an adequate computer security planning and management program.

TITLE: U.S. GOVERNMENT FY 1998 CFS AUDIT PLANNING AND ISSUES RESOLUTION (919243)

KEY QUESTIONS : The Consolidated Financial Statement (CFS) audit is mandated by the Chief Financial Officer's Act (CFO), as expanded by the Government Management Reform Act of 1994. The CFS audit will be performed using a combination of assignments, including Agency and Line Item specific assignments. This CFS assignment will be used for overall project management and supervision, including development of the overall Audit Approach Plan and resolution of government - wide audit and other technical issues.

TITLE: HRA 27: FY 1997 EDP CONTROLS AT VA AUDITS: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES (919277)

KEY QUESTIONS : The 1994 Government Management Reform Act (GMRA) requires GAO to audit the FY 1997 government wide consolidated financial statements. VA is one of 24 agencies included in this audit. The adequacy of VA's audit of EDP controls, and the effectiveness of these controls directly affect our audit at this agency. What is the effectiveness of EDP controls, as shown by agency audits/reviews and our analysis and selected testing of controls? What is the nature and extent of EDP control audits performed by the IG?

TITLE: HRA 27: EDP CONTROLS AT DOE: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES (919296)

KEY QUESTIONS : The 1994 Government Management Reform Act requires GAO to audit the FY 1997 government wide consolidated financial statements. The adequacy of the Department of Energy's audit of EDP controls, and the effectiveness of these controls directly affect our audit efforts at the Department of Energy. Q1 What is the nature and extent of EDP control audits performed by the IG? Q2 What is the effectiveness of EDP controls, as shown by agency audits/reviews and our analysis and selected testing of controls?

TITLE: HRA 27:EDP CONTROLS AT EPA: THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND RELATED IG AUDIT PROCEDURES (919297)

KEY QUESTIONS : The 1994 Government Management Reform Act requires GAO to audit the FY 1997 government wide consolidated financial statements. The adequacy of the Environmental Protection Agency's audit of EDP controls, and the effectiveness of these controls directly affect our audit efforts in the Environmental Protection Agency. Q1 What is the nature and extent of EDP control audits performed by the IG? Q2 What is the effectiveness of EDP controls, as shown by agency audits/reviews and our analysis and selected testing of controls?

Consolidated Audits and Computer Security

TITLE: HRA 27: FY 97 REVIEW OF EDP CONTROLS AT THE IRS (919298)

KEY QUESTIONS : The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) relies extensively on computerized information systems to process over 100 million tax returns annually; account for over \$1.6 trillion in revenue; calculate interest, penalties, and tax refunds; and protect sensitive taxpayer data. Previous reviews have identified serious and widespread security weaknesses over IRS computer systems. Congress is interested with the status of IRS's actions to correct such weaknesses. Q1 What is the status of IRS efforts to correct or mitigate previously identified computer security weaknesses?

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
5555 S. UNIVERSITY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637
TEL: 773-936-3700
WWW.PHYSICS.UCHICAGO.EDU

PHYSICS 439
LECTURE 10
SPECIAL RELATIVITY
PART 1
THE LORENTZ TRANSFORMATION
AND THE ADDITION OF VELOCITIES
THE RELATIVITY OF SIMULTANEITY
LENGTH CONTRACTION
TIME DILATION
THE TWIN PARADOX
THE RELATIVITY OF SIMULTANEITY
LENGTH CONTRACTION
TIME DILATION
THE TWIN PARADOX
