



JUN 20 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Otto J. Wolff
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

Suzanne Hilding
Chief Information Officer

Judith J. Gordon
Judith J. Gordon
Assistant Inspector General for Systems Evaluation

FROM:

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Commerce Standard Acquisition
Reporting System (CSTARS)

As part of our work under the Federal Information Security Management Act, we are initiating an evaluation of the Department's certification and accreditation (C&A) of CSTARS and have scheduled an entrance conference for Tuesday, June 24, 2008, with key members of your staff.

Our objective is to determine whether the C&A process for CSTARS produced sufficient information about remaining system vulnerabilities to enable the authorizing official to make a credible, risk-based accreditation decision. The key steps in a successful C&A process are (1) accurately categorizing the system and its components; (2) selecting, tailoring, and supplementing baseline security controls; and (3) assessing these controls. These three areas will be the primary focus of our evaluation.

If you have any questions about this review, please contact Allen Crawley, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Systems Evaluation, at (202) 482-1855, or me at (202) 482-5643.

cc: Trudy Gallic, Office of the Secretary Audit Liaison

