

The United States Government Manual 2012

**Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration**

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On the cover: The Cherry Blossoms as seen from the Tidal Basin with the Washington Monument in the distance.

This edition of The United States Government Manual celebrates the Centennial of the Cherry Blossoms, the “Nation’s Greatest Springtime Celebration.” In 1912, Japan gave 3,000 cherry trees to the United States and they were planted in our Nation’s capital. Since then, the Cherry Blossoms have become a popular tourist attraction, particularly during the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, a two week event that begins on the last Saturday of March. In this centennial year of the gift from Japan, the festival lasted five weeks and had its own mobile phone application to enhance and highlight the event. For more information on the Cherry Blossom Festival, visit the website at www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

A special thank you to the Creative and Digital Media Services at the Government Printing Office for providing the photograph of the Cherry Blossoms on the cover of the Manual.

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Preface

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, *The United States Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. The *Manual* also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees.

A typical agency description includes a list of principal officials, a summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government, a brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority, a description of its programs and activities, and a "Sources of Information" section. This last section provides information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and many other areas of public interest.

The *Manual* is also available and periodically updated on its own website. The U.S. Government Manual website (usgovernmentmanual.gov) is jointly administered by the Office of the Federal Register (OFR)/Government Printing Office (GPO) partnership. The website offers three ways to find information about Government agencies and organizations by entering a term in the keyword search box, browsing categories, or using "The Government of the United States" site map for an overview of the Government.

The 2012 *Manual* was prepared by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Office of the Federal Register. Alfred W. Jones was Managing Editor; Matthew R. Regan was Chief Editor, assisted by Heather McDaniel, Lois Davis, Joseph Frankovic, Martin Franks, Joshua Liberatore, and Joseph Vetter.

THE FEDERAL REGISTER AND ITS SPECIAL EDITIONS

The *Manual* is published as a special edition of the *Federal Register* (see 1 CFR 9.1). Its focus is on programs and activities. Persons interested in detailed organizational structure, the regulatory documents of an agency, or Presidential documents should refer to the Federal Register or one of its other special editions, described below. Issued each Federal working day, the *Federal Register* provides a uniform system for publishing Presidential documents, regulatory documents with general applicability and legal effect, proposed rules, notices, and documents required to be published by statute. For more information and to look at the Federal Register online, go to www.federalregister.gov.

The *Code of Federal Regulations* is an annual codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register*. The *Code* is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. The *Code* is kept up to date by the individual issues of the *Federal Register*. For more information and to look at the Code of Federal Regulations online, go to www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR.

The *Compilation of Presidential Documents* serves as a timely, up-to-date reference source for the public policies and activities of the President. It contains remarks, news conferences, messages, statements, and other Presidential material of a public nature issued by the White House. The *Compilation of Presidential Documents* collection is composed of the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* and its predecessor, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*. For more information and to look

at the Presidential documents online, go to www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPD. The Compilation of Presidential Documents now has a free mobile application at www.gpo.gov/mobile.

A companion publication to the *Compilation of Presidential Documents* is the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, which contains public Presidential documents and speeches in convenient book form. Volumes of the *Public Papers* have been published for every President since Herbert Hoover, with the exception of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose papers were published privately. For more information and to view the *Public Papers* online, go to www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PPP.

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Contents

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE	1
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES	5
CHART: The Government of the United States	22
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	
Congress.....	25
The Senate	27
The House of Representatives.....	32
Architect of the Capitol.....	44
United States Botanic Garden.....	45
Government Accountability Office.....	47
Government Printing Office.....	50
Library of Congress.....	52
Congressional Research Service	59
Congressional Budget Office	59
JUDICIAL BRANCH	
The Supreme Court of the United States	65
Lower Courts	66
United States Courts of Appeals.....	66
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit	67
United States District Courts.....	68
Territorial Courts.....	68
United States Court of International Trade	69
Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation	69
Special Courts	70
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.....	70
United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	70
United States Court of Federal Claims	71
United States Tax Court	71
Administrative Office of the United States Courts	72
Federal Judicial Center	75
United States Sentencing Commission	76
EXECUTIVE BRANCH: THE PRESIDENT	
The President.....	81
The Vice President.....	81
The Executive Office of the President	82
White House Office	82
Office of the Vice President.....	84
Council of Economic Advisers.....	84
Council on Environmental Quality	85
National Security Council	86

Office of Administration	87
Office of Management and Budget	87
Office of National Drug Control Policy	90
Office of Policy Development	91
Domestic Policy Council	91
National Economic Council	92
Office of Science and Technology Policy	92
Office of the United States Trade Representative	93

EXECUTIVE BRANCH: DEPARTMENTS

Department of Agriculture	97
Graduate School	117
Department of Commerce	118
Bureau of Industry and Security	120
Economic Development Administration	122
Economic and Statistics Administration	123
International Trade Administration	125
Minority Business Development Agency	126
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	127
National Telecommunications and Information Administration	129
National Institute of Standards and Technology	130
National Technical Information Service Administration	131
United States Patent and Trademark Office	132
Department of Defense	134
Department of the Air Force	142
Department of the Army	149
Department of the Navy	157
United States Marine Corps	164
United States Naval Academy	166
Defense Agencies	166
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency	166
Defense Commissary Agency	166
Defense Contract Audit Agency	167
Defense Contract Management Agency	167
Defense Finance and Accounting Service	168
Defense Information Systems Agency	168
Defense Intelligence Agency	169
Defense Legal Services Agency	169
Defense Logistics Agency	169
Defense Security Cooperation Agency	170
Defense Security Service	170
Defense Threat Reduction Agency	171
Missile Defense Agency	171
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency	172
National Security Agency / Central Security Service	172
Pentagon Force Protection Agency	173
Joint Service Schools	173
Defense Acquisition University	173
National Intelligence University	174
National Defense University	174
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences	176
Department of Education	177
Federally Aided Corporations	181
American Printing House for the Blind	181
Gallaudet University	181

Howard University.....	182
National Technical Institute for the Deaf / Rochester Institute of Technology.....	182
Department of Energy.....	184
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.....	192
Department of Health and Human Services.....	193
Administration on Aging.....	196
Administration for Children and Families.....	197
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.....	197
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.....	197
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.....	198
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.....	199
Food and Drug Administration.....	199
Health Resources and Services Administration.....	200
Indian Health Service.....	200
National Institutes of Health.....	201
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.....	205
Department of Homeland Security.....	206
Department of Housing and Urban Development.....	212
Department of the Interior.....	217
United States Fish and Wildlife Service.....	220
National Park Service.....	222
United States Geological Survey.....	223
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.....	225
Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	225
Bureau of Indian Education.....	226
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.....	227
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	227
Bureau of Land Management.....	228
Bureau of Reclamation.....	229
Department of Justice.....	231
Bureaus.....	242
Federal Bureau of Investigation.....	242
Bureau of Prisons.....	242
United States Marshals Service.....	243
International Criminal Police Organization—United States National Central Bureau.....	244
Drug Enforcement Administration.....	245
Office of Justice Programs.....	246
Office on Violence Against Women.....	247
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.....	247
Boards.....	247
Executive Office for Immigration Review.....	247
United States Parole Commission.....	248
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.....	249
Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States.....	249
Department of Labor.....	251
Department of State.....	262
Department of Transportation.....	275
Federal Aviation Administration.....	279
Federal Highway Administration.....	281
Federal Railroad Administration.....	282
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.....	283
Federal Transit Administration.....	286
Maritime Administration.....	289

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation	290
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	291
Research and Innovative Technology Administration	292
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	293
Surface Transportation Board.....	294
Department of the Treasury.....	296
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau	300
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency	300
Bureau of Engraving and Printing	301
Financial Management Service.....	303
Internal Revenue Service	304
United States Mint.....	306
Bureau of the Public Debt	307
Department of Veterans Affairs	309

EXECUTIVE BRANCH: INDEPENDENT AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS

Administrative Conference of the United States	317
African Development Foundation.....	320
Broadcasting Board of Governors	320
Central Intelligence Agency.....	323
Commodity Futures Trading Commission.....	324
Consumer Product Safety Commission	326
Corporation for National and Community Service	329
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.....	332
Environmental Protection Agency.....	334
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	338
Export-Import Bank of the United States	341
Farm Credit Administration.....	343
Federal Communications Commission.....	346
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.....	350
Federal Election Commission.....	353
Federal Housing Finance Agency	354
Federal Labor Relations Authority.....	356
Federal Maritime Commission	359
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	362
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission	363
Federal Reserve System	365
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	369
Federal Trade Commission.....	370
General Services Administration.....	373
Inter-American Foundation	380
Merit Systems Protection Board	381
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	383
National Archives and Records Administration	388
National Capital Planning Commission	397
National Credit Union Administration	400
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities	401
National Endowment for the Arts.....	401
National Endowment for the Humanities.....	402
Institute of Museum and Library Services.....	405
National Labor Relations Board	407
National Mediation Board	410
National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK)	413
National Science Foundation.....	415

National Transportation Safety Board.....	419
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	423
Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission	426
Office of the Director of National Intelligence.....	428
Office of Government Ethics.....	430
Office of Personnel Management.....	432
Office of Special Counsel.....	436
Overseas Private Investment Corporation	437
Peace Corps	439
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.....	441
Postal Regulatory Commission.....	444
Railroad Retirement Board.....	445
Securities and Exchange Commission	448
Selective Service System.....	452
Small Business Administration	454
Social Security Administration	463
Tennessee Valley Authority	467
Trade and Development Agency.....	468
United States Agency for International Development.....	472
United States Commission on Civil Rights	475
United States International Trade Commission	478
United States Postal Service.....	482
Boards, Commissions, and Committees.....	487
Quasi-Official Agencies	
Legal Services Corporation	493
Smithsonian Institution	495
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	505
National Gallery of Art.....	506
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	508
State Justice Institute	509
United States Institute of Peace.....	510
International Organizations	
African Development Bank.....	513
Asian Development Bank	513
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.....	514
Inter-American Defense Board.....	514
Inter-American Development Bank.....	515
Inter-American Investment Corporation	515
International Monetary Fund	515
International Organization for Migration	517
Organization of American States	517
United Nations	518
World Bank Group	520
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.....	521
International Development Association	521
International Finance Corporation	521
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	522
International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes	522
Other International Organizations.....	523
Selected Bilateral Organizations	527

Commonly Used Agency Acronyms529

History of Agency Organizational Changes537

NAME INDEX.....599