Greetings From the President:

In early December 2009, the Federal government released a new Presidential Memoranda on Open Government. The Open Government Directive directs the heads of Executive Departments and Agencies to create an unprecedented level of openness in Government. Specifically, the directive requires that government be transparent, participatory, and collaborative. How do you feel that Federal Libraries can support this initiative?

Are there things the American Library Association should raise to Congress and the Administration that would ensure that Federal Libraries are integral to the efforts of transforming government to make it more open?

I’ve added a Discussion Forum on the ALA Connect site (http://connect.ala.org/) for ALA Members to share their comments, thoughts, and stories about how Federal libraries should play a role in the open government movement. The directive itself can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/open/documents/open-government-directive

Open government will be just one of the many topics we plan on discussing at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC in June 2010. If you have ideas for programs, discussions, or presentation for the Annual Conference, you can share your thoughts with the FAFLRT Conference Planner, Rose Marie Krauss at kraussrm@usmc-mccs.org.

I’m already looking forward to the Annual Conference in June and expecting a great turnout for FAFLRT’s events and programs. Before we get to the Annual Conference though, we will be conducting elections for new Round Table leaders. If you are interested in serving either as a Director or an Executive Officer, I want to hear from you. Participating in Round Table leadership is an excellent way to meet librarians and information professionals from across the spectrum of Federal and Armed Forces Libraries. Round Table leadership is also an excellent way to get involved in the American Library Association in a more meaningful way. Contact me directly at richardhuffine@yahoo.com to discuss the variety of opportunities available with the Round Table in 2010.
Transitioning out of NSPS

NSPS (National Security Personnel System) was touted as the answer to performance management in the Federal sector. If followed as taught, it should have resulted in fairness and transparency across the board. High performers would be rewarded. Borderline or non-performers would either shape up or ship out.

Enter the real world … the perception and in some cases the reality was anything but the “as taught” version. The Unions never bought into it and fought it in court. The system that was planned to cover all DoD employees eventually never succeeded in getting that far. Most supervisors now had at least two personnel systems to deal with that operated on different schedules. The work day for NSPS supervisors demanded time and attention to documenting performance in order to write meaningful assessments for each covered employee. At least that is the way it was for supervisors who were following the rules.

Complaints emerged that the system was not being applied fairly and after a study that lasted several months, the task force recommended that NSPS be amended, improved. President Obama ultimately saw things differently and on October 28 signed the National Defense Authorization Act which included a provision that effectively kills NSPS by January 1, 2012.

Now comes the scramble and the wait. Everyone wants to know when the transition out will take place. Folks, the operative word here is “transition”. A transition is a gradual move from one position or condition to another. It is not a hot cutover and the transition out of NSPS is certainly not going to be a hot cutover.

A memorandum coming out of the NSPS PEO (Program Executive Office) dated December 10 indicates that a major pivotal date in the transition out of NSPS is March 1, 2010. It is with this date that we will begin to see actions based on whether they take place before or after 3/1/10. The guidance is 4 pages long, but it is pretty simple. No later than March 1, 2010, new appointments to a position previously covered by NSPS must be placed either in GS or another applicable non-NSPS statutory pay system. Agencies picking up new people can begin to do this immediately if they so choose, but beginning with March 1, it is mandatory.

If you are an NSPS employee, you were probably hoping to read that your transition out was imminent. Perhaps by the time this hits the press, such guidance will be available. Today, it is not. You may rest assured that provided you are in a good performance status, you will not lose money in the transition. That has been assured. More than that has not been determined. Stay tuned for we are making history every day!

By Lucille M. Rosa, NSPS Team Member at the Naval War College.
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The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) is pleased to announce that Roberta I. Shaffer, our current Executive Director, has been appointed Law Librarian of Congress. Her appointment was effective 30 August 2009.

In announcing his selection, Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress said, “Roberta Shaffer brings to this critical management position both extraordinary vision and demonstrated leadership skills that will continue the Law Library’s historically exemplary service to Congress and to the public while addressing the challenges of providing legal research and reference services in our rapidly changing and technologically-driven world.”

Terrence J. Metz assumed the position of Library Director at the U.S. Naval War College Library on 28 September 2009. His previous position was Vice President for Library and Information Services at Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

Linda Rothstein joined the SHAPE International Library in Mons, Belgium staff in March 2009 as Public Services Librarian. She comes from the Tampa Bay area, where she was branch manager of a library in the Pasco County Library Cooperative. She earned her Master’s of Library Science degree from the University of South Florida.

Congratulations to Virginia Sanchez, Librarian, Long Beach (CA) Public Library and Naval Special Warfare Intelligence-1 SEAL Team-17, US Navy (Reserve Component) who was awarded the Meritorious Service Award from the National Organization for Mexican American Rights (NOMAR) on 26 August 2009. This award recognizes the recipient’s significant contributions to our Nation’s Global War on Terrorism; demonstrated role model qualities and core values; and noteworthy efforts in advancing opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

Nilya Carrato joined the Navy General Library Program (NGLP) Washington, DC, June 2009. Nilya comes to NGLP from Virginia Military Institute where she wore a uniform to work everyday due to her commission into the Virginia Militia. When she resigned from VMI to work with NGLP, she also had to resign her commission.

Michele Chronister has a new position as a Presidential Management Fellow for GSA where she is a web manager for USA.gov and a community manager for USA.gov’s social media efforts.

Mika Colarusso, previously Reference Librarian at Barr Memorial Library, Ft. Knox, KY became the Library Director in September 2009 at Landstuhl Main Library at US Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, Germany. He received his degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2007 and served as an Infantry Non-Commissioned officer in the US Army from 2001-2006.

Julie Blankenburg, Supervisory Librarian, Forest Products Laboratory National Forest Service Library U.S. Forest Service, Madison, WI reports that the Forest Products Laboratory will be celebrating its centennial in 2010. In preparation, they have finished an oral history project in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin. Digital audio recorded interviews with 52 current and former employees are included. The interviews were conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Oral History Program in cooperation with the Forest Products Laboratory, to document the Forest Products Laboratory’s history in their work to promote healthy forest and forest-based economies through the efficient, sustainable use of our wood resources in Wisconsin and through the U.S. The oral histories are posted at: http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FPLHist/.

Jill Golden, Library Technician at the Research Library, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies from 31 October 2004-18 July 2009 resigned from federal service and returned to her home in Louisville, Kentucky for the summer. She will be greatly missed at the Research Library, but she moves on to a new adventure. Jill will attend Stanford University in Sept 2009 to obtain a Master’s Degree in the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program. She was awarded a full scholarship and will also receive a government stipend in support of her ongoing language studies.

During her tenure at the Marshall Center, Jill embarked on a series of acquisition, outreach and service enhancement initiatives. She demonstrated a thirst for learning and...
self-improvement and was actively engaged in all areas of librarianship. She excelled in a multi-cultural, multi-language environment, providing as little or as much assistance as needed to customers based on their library experience and expertise. Her sensitivity to cultural differences made her just the right person for “first contact” with customers. Moreover, she not only adapted well to change, she embraced and contributed positively to it.

Highlights of her five year federal career include:
- Employee of the Month - Dec 2006
- Federal Library of the Year (small size category) - team member - 2006
- Federal Library Technician of the Year - 2007
- American Library Association scholarship - Aug 2007
- MC Junior Employee of the Year - 2008

She received a Masters in Library and Information Science, Syracuse University Dec 2008 with 3.943 grade point average!

Jill was presented with THE COMMANDER’S AWARD FOR CIVILIAN SERVICE before she departed from Germany. We wish her all the best for a bright future and hope she will consider federal service again.

Cynthia Shipley was selected Library Program Manager for the USMC Marine Corps Community Services General Libraries, Headquarters, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA. She was previously Deputy Director, Lifelong Learning/Libraries for Marine Corps Bases Japan. She began her new duties in June 2009.

Denise A. D. Bedford, Ph.D. has been appointed the Goodyear Professor in the Information Architecture and Knowledge Management (IAKM) program, School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University. The Professorship was made possible because of the generous support of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Dr. Bedford will begin her teaching and research on the Kent campus Spring of 2009.

Continues on page 6
Dr. Bedford holds a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of California, Berkeley. She has been the Senior Information Officer at the World Bank since 1997, where she is responsible for management of the World Bank’s core metadata strategy, including content type strategy and the various ontologies that support Bank metadata. Prior to her position at the World Bank, her career has involved large systems design, configuration and implementation, project and contract management, multilingual architectures, semantic analysis and knowledge organization systems, knowledge management, business process engineering and architecture, search system design and evaluation, and information governance. She will be retiring from her position at the World Bank just prior to beginning her appointment at Kent State University.

She has taught courses for the online Knowledge Management concentration in the Information Architecture and Knowledge Management (I AKM) program at Kent State University since Fall 2007 as well as courses at the University of Tennessee, Georgetown University, Catholic University of America, University of Richmond, and George Mason University.

Congratulations to Dr. Vee Herrington for winning the FLICC 2008 Federal Librarian of the Year Award!

Dr. Vee Herrington became the Chief, U.S. Army Military Intelligence Library, Fort Huachuca, AZ in July 2003. She opened the MI Library at its present location (a warehouse) six years ago. Prior to her arrival, the MI Library was just a collection at the Ft. Huachuca Library— it was underfunded and practically forgotten. Within two years, the MI Library was selected by the Library of Congress as the winner of the FY 2005 Federal Library of the Year award for small libraries.

In 2008, the MI Library Division was expanded to include the Training Materials Support Branch, which does the printing of the course materials for the Intel Center. In addition, the Virtual Footlocker was added to her responsibilities. The Virtual Footlocker is a searchable repository of course materials for the school; students can create their own footlocker and access materials from anywhere in the world. An extensive remodeling project was completed in 2008 and included a CyberCafe, Wi-Fi, a covered park-like area outside where the students do role-playing and have meetings, and extensive technology upgrades, including 50 thin client computers, a Smart Board and a SCOLA Dish for worldwide foreign language center broadcasts. With new furniture and new study areas, the library became a popular spot for meetings and group study. Both the attendance and circulation increased by 30% from FY 2007 to FY 2008, reflecting Vee’s focus on customer service. Considering the library is in an old warehouse, visitors often remark that the MI Library is “awesome” — it is very colorful, with the world flags hanging from the rafters and large area rugs throughout the library.

Vee is an excellent role model for Army librarians, having proven that one person can make a big difference in the success of a library.

Hurlburt Field Library U S Air Force Hurlburt Field FL was awarded FLICC 2008 Federal Library of the Year (Small Library) on 22 October 2009. This library was recognized for its unique and trendsetting programs to meet the lifestyles of its users implementing hundreds of morale boosting programs (see separate article on Commando Santa in this issue). Hurlburt Field Library continues to support the military mission and improve the quality of life at its base. In 2008 the library delivered a number of information services through its commercially hosted website, administered 1,100 books specific to field unit missions and simplified access for almost 7,500 active duty personnel via the library’s information portal. Hurlburt Field Library is continually recognized for its excellence in customer care the library excels in being effective versatile and dedicated to the customer.

On Nov. 20th 2009 the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Library celebrated the International Year of Astronomy with the unveiling of new mural-sized images from NASA’s great observatories. The images gave patrons a stunning view of the Milky Way’s core as seen by NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra X-ray Observatory. The International Year

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of Astronomy 2009 commemorates the 400th anniversary of Galileo turning a telescope to the heavens. Nathaniel Laubner, Base Librarian, also gave a presentation on the three space telescopes and images. The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Library was one of 152 institutions chosen to participate in this event. The Galactic Center images are on permanent display at the Base Library.

Following a four-month search, Tammy Kirk was hired as Reference Librarian at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, effective December 7, 2009. Tammy most recently served as a librarian at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, CA. Tammy is replacing Julie Zecher who became the NWC Acquisitions Librarian on August 3, 2009.

Mike Arsenault, Fiscal Technician at the Naval War College Library in Newport, RI, is a Chief in the Seabee Unit of the Navy Reserves and was deployed in Iraq from June 2008 through May 2009. Mike will redeploy to the CENT-COM Middle East region again in January through September 2010.

Lucille M. Rosa, Head of Technical Services at the Naval War College at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, was re-elected to the position of Library Trustee for the Town of Freetown, MA. She is currently exhibiting two photographs in an exhibit called “The Navy in Newport and Narragansett Bay” at the Naval War College Museum.

Alice K. Juda, Reference Librarian at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI, was one of ten recipients of the 2009 “I Love My Librarian” Award administered by the American Library Association (ALA) with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times. This award is given annually to librarians who have demonstrated outstanding public service - librarians who make a difference. Mrs. Juda was nominated by a former NWC student (Chaplain Corps) who is currently serving in Iraq. The ceremony was held at the Times Tower in Midtown Manhattan on Thursday, December 3rd, 2009.

Bonnie D. Davis, age 67, of Freeport, Fla., passed away Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at her residence. She was born

Continues on page 8
Librarian Veterans

When Veterans Day comes around each year and America pays homage to those who serve and have served in the military, I often reflect on my own military experience during the Vietnam Conflict/War. Part of that reflection is my identification with all the others who have shared the experience of serving one’s country in the military. As I have written in an earlier post, my own service was involuntary as was the service of many of those in the Vietnam era. My experience was unusual in that I was already a professional librarian when I went into the Army. Librarians have served in the military and have provided service to the military in times of war throughout our library past. Librarian of Congress John G. Stephenson from 1861-1864 spent much of his tenure serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. Librarians both male and female participated in the American Library Association’s Library War Service during World War I. During World War II many librarians disrupted their library careers to serve their country in uniform. Edwin Castagna, former Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, voluntarily joined the Army during World War II and served as a company commander in the 771st Tank Battalion in several key World War II campaigns. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for heroism. A group of female librarians who were in supervisory roles in military libraries during World War II became leaders in state library agencies in the years following the war. They included Estellene Walker, Nettie Taylor, and S. Janice Kee. There aren’t many librarians who served in the military during the Vietnam Conflict/war, but there were some. There are also many librarians in military libraries that serve the armed forces on an ongoing basis.

Any FAFLRT member who will be at the midwinter ALA meeting in Boston, please join us for a no-host dinner on Sunday, January 17 to discuss the Round Table and assist in planning.
Contact Richard Huffine (richardhuffine@yahoo.com) for details.

FAFLRT Board Meeting: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM on 01/17 at the Westin Boston Waterfront in Hale
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His smile was jolly. His beard was white. He listened to children’s Christmas wishes. But there was something very different about the Santa Claus who stopped at Hurlburt Field Library on Nov. 14th. Over 120 children and parents visited a “Commando Santa” who was resplendent in a fur-trimmed suit… of desert-pattern camouflage.

Hurlburt Field, Florida is the headquarters of the Air Force’s Special Operations Command, home to America’s Air Commandos. Commando Santa’s DBU suit honors Hurlburt’s military members and provides a unique comfort to their children, especially those who are missing a deployed parent. This is the third year that Commando Santa has been the keystone of a library event for military families; he’s the alter ego of Randy Tew, a local military retiree.

Library staff photograph each child during the chat with Santa then print the pictures for the family to keep. Handicraft stations lead participants through construction of a photo ornament that many kids choose to mail to a distant mom or dad. “With Operation Commando Santa, families can share a holiday activity even when they have to be apart,” said Sabrina Honda, library programmer.

“We’re helping the deployed parent share the happiness of ‘normal’ events like a visit to Santa while kids imagine how Santa might look in that faraway place where dad or mom is spending Christmas.”

Submitted by Vicky Stever, director, Hurlburt Field Library

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Appointment of Charles V. Stanhope as Interim FLICC Executive Director

From the Library of Congress: We are pleased to announce that Charles V. Stanhope will serve as interim FLICC Executive Director during the recruitment and appointment of a permanent executive director. The effective date of his appointment will be October 11, 2009.

Charles has most recently been serving as a Senior Advisor to the Associate Librarian for Library Services, addressing issues of collection development policy and planning for a Collections Development Office. He will continue his collection development assignments concurrently with this detail. This detail will give him an opportunity to strengthen communication channels between the Library and federal libraries on acquisitions and collections development matters.

Charles has served in a variety of senior level Library positions, most recently as Assistant Chief Operating Officer in the Office of the Librarian. He has previously served as Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Director of Development and acting Director of Communications. He worked with FLICC/FEDLINK colleagues on the last government-wide survey of Federal libraries.

He received his M.S. in L.S. from the Catholic University of America and his undergraduate degree from the University of Maine. He was a member of the Library’s 1979-1980 Intern Class.

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The Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), premier provider of information for the defense community, will host its 36th annual conference. The conference will address DTIC’s role as the Department of Defense (DoD) technical information broker. Speakers from government, private industry, and DTIC will address evolving information technologies.

The conference will bring together information professionals from the science, technology, research and development, and acquisition communities who create, disseminate and use DoD scientific, research, and engineering information. The conference will also feature a number of government and commercial exhibitors demonstrating and discussing the latest information services and technology.
FAFLRT Award Nominations Due: April 12, 2010

FAFLRT is fortunate to have talented and knowledgeable professionals who make substantial contributions to librarianship and the Federal information community. Your dedication is also helping to ensure the future of Federal librarianship. A key benefit of your FAFLRT membership is the opportunity to be recognized by your peers.

FAFLRT provides a number of opportunities to recognize professional excellence and also support and encourage the next generation of librarians through several special awards:

The FAFLRT Distinguished Service Award recognizes a FAFLRT member for outstanding and sustained contributions to FAFLRT.

The FAFLRT Achievement Award recognizes an individual for achievement in the promotion of library and information service and the information profession in the Federal community. FAFLRT membership is not required but only FAFLRT members can make nominations.

The Federal Librarians Adelaide Del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award is given to a library school student who has an interest in working in a Federal Library. The student will receive an award of $1,000 to support attendance at the next ALA Annual Meeting. Students who are currently enrolled in any ALA-accredited library school, who do not already have an ALA accredited degree, and who have expressed an interest in some aspect of Federal librarianship are eligible. Students nominate themselves for this award and must provide a letter of reference.

The Federal Librarians Cicely Phippen Marks Scholarship is given to a library school student who has an interest in working in a Federal library. The student will receive a scholarship award of $1,500. Students who are currently enrolled in any ALA-accredited library school, who do not already have an ALA accredited degree, and who have expressed an interest in some aspect of Federal librarianship are eligible. Students nominate themselves for this award must provide a letter of reference.

For more information about FAFLRT awards and/or to complete an online nominations form, visit:
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/ffaflrt/initiatives/awards/index.cfm

FAFLRT Awards Committee:
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