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GPO PROVIDES CRUCIAL PRINTING SUPPORT TO CENSUS 2000

As Census Day, April 1, 2000, approaches, the Government Printing Office (GPO) is nearing completion of its work in providing the printed forms and other products needed to conduct the national head count of more than 275 million people in 120 million households in the U.S., including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island areas.

For nearly 2 years, GPO has been using its competitive printing procurement program to place orders throughout the Nation's commercial printing industry for the products being used to conduct the decennial census.

To date, GPO has awarded more than 80 contracts totaling more than \$65 million to print 398 million questionnaires and other public use forms. This does not include other printing for promotional purposes, use in the Nation's schools, and for other census activities.

Commenting on the census work, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario said, "We are extremely proud to be involved in this critically important national effort through our longstanding partnership with the Commerce Department's Census Bureau and America's printing industry."

Contracts were awarded for short form and long form versions of the mail-out questionnaires, update/questionnaires, and enumerator questionnaires. GPO also let contracts for the printing of "be counted" questionnaires, advance letters, reminder cards, language assistance guides, and other questionnaires and public use forms. The mail-out and "be counted" questionnaires were printed in 6 different languages (English, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog), and foreign language guides in 49 different languages were produced to assist in filling out the printed questionnaires. GPO also contracted for the production of "large print" guides for the forms. In addition, GPO awarded contracts for a variety of advertising, promotional, and educational materials for use in increasing public awareness of the census.

This work was performed by dozens of private sector contractors in 17 states, including California, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Maryland, Kentucky, Kansas, Tennessee, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Florida, Texas, and Missouri, as well as the District of Columbia.

The Census Bureau has estimated that printing the 398 million forms required 14,000 tons of paper and 15,000 gallons of ink. This work, like all printing performed under GPO contracts, required the use of recycled paper and vegetable oil-based ink.

Through its central office and regional printing procurement offices located throughout the United States, GPO buys approximately three-fourths of all Federal printing orders from private sector printers in one of the Government's most competitive, most successful purchasing programs ever, dealing with more than 10,000 printing firms nationwide to get the best possible price for the Government's printing dollar.

GPO's printing procurement program purchased approximately \$513.6 million worth of printing under competitive contracts in FY 1999. Not only does GPO's procurement program save taxpayers millions, the work it places in virtually every state in the Nation generates jobs as well as state and local tax revenues. GPO's printing procurement program was characterized as "an example of the best services government has to offer" in a 1998 independent management audit conducted by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc.

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