

Highlights (continued)

GPO's new passport binding line will ensure necessary production capabilities and help to eliminate photo substitution and fraud.

Recently, GPO developed a web page specifically for printing and binding customers with deposit accounts. After providing the account number and password, a customer's detailed account activity and balance is displayed for the current month. The customer may also view account activity for prior months and see the amount billed for the year to date. A special spreadsheet button on the web page allows the customer to immediately download the data into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and create agency reports. With immediate electronic access to their deposit account balances, GPO's customers can now manage their printing budgets more efficiently. Numerous positive comments and suggestions were received at a demonstration of the web page for the Interagency Council on Printing and Publications Services in July 1999.

DOD AND GPO IMPLEMENT OPAC COLLECTION PROCEDURES

GPO and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Charleston, SC, and Indianapolis, IN, entered into agreements that allow GPO to collect printing bills for most DOD orders via the Treasury Department's Online Payment and Collection (OPAC) System. This has resulted in an immediate increase in cash to

GPO of about \$20 million. GPO agreed to change its procedures to accommodate DFAS's need for line item accounting data in exchange for the right to collect printing bills electronically.

GPO ACQUIRES NEW U.S. PASSPORT BINDING LINE

GPO acquired a new binding line for the production of U.S. passports in 1999. The new system replaced equipment which had been in place since 1986. GPO produces all U.S. passports for the State Department.

Cumulative passport production has been greater than 60 million passports on the existing system. Production in FY 1999 was 6.7 million passports. Passport production requirements are expected to increase by approximately 5 percent annually for the next several years. The new equipment, which was acquired from Uno Seisakusho Company, Ltd., under competitive bidding procedures, will ensure the necessary production capability. Total equipment and site preparation costs for the new system were approximately \$3.6 million.

The State Department introduced a new photo digital passport in November 1998. The new passport book no longer employs the lamination process, but has the data page coated with a secure coating that is applied by GPO's new silk



screen press. This new process will eliminate photo substitution and fraud. Employing the silk screen press adds one task to press operations and eliminates a task in binding operations. The new passport book is being produced in English, French, and Spanish.

NEW CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY PRODUCED

GPO produced a new *Congressional Directory 1999-2000* during 1999.

The *Congressional Directory* is one of the oldest working handbooks in the U.S. Government. While there have been directories of one form or another since the first Congress in 1789, the *Congressional Directory* for the first session of the 30th Congress (1847) is considered by scholars and historians to be the first official edition. With the addition of biographical sketches of legislators in 1867, it attained its modern format.

The *Directory* is published by the Senate in partnership with GPO and at the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, under the authority of section 721 of Title 44, United States Code. Starting with the 105th Congress, GPO has played a significantly greater role in the publication of the *Directory* by providing project management, editing, and other publishing services. For the new edition, a team of employees from GPO's

Production Department, the Office of Planning, the staff of the Superintendent of Documents, and the Congressional Record Index Office provided professional services to complete publication of the *Directory*.

APPROPRIATIONS ACTION FOR GPO IN FY 1999

The House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations and the Senate Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations held their annual hearings on GPO's funding request for FY 2000 in February and March 1999, respectively. GPO requested \$113 million for its two appropriation accounts and an additional \$15 million for a new air conditioning system, elevator renovations and Year 2000 compliance expenses. Congress approved \$73,297,000 for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, \$29,872,000 for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, and transferred \$2,500,000 of the General Accounting Office's FY 1999 appropriation to GPO for Year 2000 compliance.

The two appropriations total \$103,169,000, and represent a slight decrease from the level of \$103,729,000 that was approved for GPO for FY 1999. While the Congressional Printing and



GPO takes pride in producing the Congressional Directory, one of the oldest working handbooks in the United States Government.