

Leslie Plomondon

*GSA's Regional Administrator for
the Rocky Mountain Region*



GSA's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 to 2012 has just been released. It charts a course for GSA to provide superior supplies, services, and workplace solutions at best value to our customer agencies. As we aim to achieve excellence in the business of government, we've adopted a new slogan to reflect this commitment – "One GSA-One Voice."

Consequently, GSA is implementing refined strategies for integrating the offerings of our two Services, Public Buildings Service and Federal Acquisition Service. Our customers will see heightened service delivery and greater agency-wide consistency across contracting vehicles, data, and information systems.

Our four strategic goals are Stewardship, Superior Workplaces, Best Value, and Innovation. We look forward to providing you, our customers with first class service, communication, and standardization of offerings.

We are also introducing a new section in GSA Link which premieres with this issue – "Go Green." In each issue you will receive tips that will enable you to help meet your agency's environmental goals. GSA's Administrator, Lurita Doan, opened the 2007 GOVEnergy Conference by urging federal agencies to use GSA's array of energy-efficient goods and services to help meet their environmental goals. "Leading by example means staying alert for opportunities to conserve resources, be it in the amount of gas used by the federal fleet, or the electricity used to light our buildings," Doan said. "It also means being ready with the right products and services to help our customer agencies meet their environmental targets."

Lastly, from August 13th to 15th, 2007, the Greater Southwest and Rocky Mountain Regions held a joint PBS Customer Conference in Austin, TX. (The customer reviews and evaluations are in and they were extremely enthusiastic about the event.) Some customers have called it the best conference they have attended. This is a testament to the wonderful people here at GSA. All Region 8 associates played a part in making this Conference a success, but I want to thank, in particular, the Conference Planning Team for their hard work, dedication, and professionalism in organizing a first class program.

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Full Turn-Key Solutions

Caroline Helstrom

When you move to a new home it is your responsibility to coordinate the move. You have a deadline when you must vacate the home. The moving van must be on time. Your utilities must be turned on at your new home. If the move is not coordinated, you could experience a very unhappy and chaotic situation. Wouldn't it be nice if you could hire someone to coordinate all of those details for you?

When customer agencies look to GSA for services, they may have experienced those same concerns. If they need to relocate, they contact one office.

If they need furniture, they contact another office. This can cause frustration for the customer. One, who do they call, and two, how do they coordinate the services between the various GSA business lines?

Well, now we have a solution for our customers.

Since GSA reorganized, we recognized the need to provide a seamless appearance of GSA's organizational structure. The establishment of the Rocky Mountain Region (R8) Marketing Council helps eliminate that confusion.

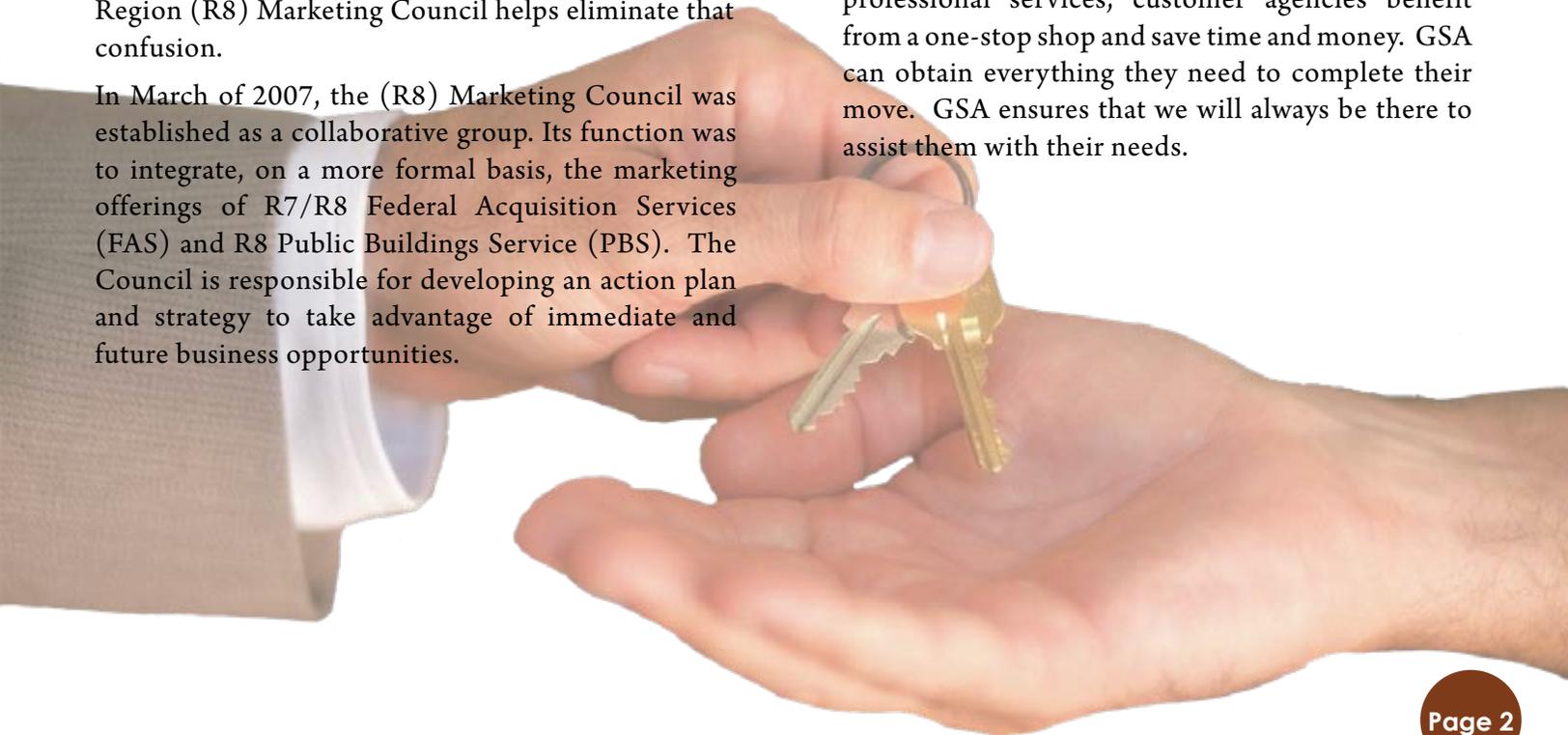
In March of 2007, the (R8) Marketing Council was established as a collaborative group. Its function was to integrate, on a more formal basis, the marketing offerings of R7/R8 Federal Acquisition Services (FAS) and R8 Public Buildings Service (PBS). The Council is responsible for developing an action plan and strategy to take advantage of immediate and future business opportunities.

Particular emphasis is given to opportunities where FAS and PBS business offerings overlap. Ideally, these objectives should result in a win-win situation for both parties and provides the customer with a one-stop shop and a one point of contact.

Examples of opportunities may include, but are not limited to, upcoming expirations on building leases which may require a move or renovation of current space. While PBS assists with providing the workspace, FAS can provide everything to go into that space such as purchasing new furniture, telecommunications, or technology.

The customer may now work through one GSA representative to coordinate the move. We not only service the customer during this critical move, but we continue supporting the customer for years to come.

Many agencies have acquired their own resources only to find that the company goes out of business, leaving them without support. By using GSA's professional services, customer agencies benefit from a one-stop shop and save time and money. GSA can obtain everything they need to complete their move. GSA ensures that we will always be there to assist them with their needs.



GSA Fleet Rolls Out New and Innovative Products

GSA Fleet is dedicated to bringing customer's innovative products and services to support their vehicle needs and fleet management requirements. These Fleet Solutions include: advanced technologies for GSA Fleet leased vehicles; alternative sources of vehicles; and tools to better manage these vehicles. Customers benefit from the convenience of a one-stop shop for all fleet management related products and services. All Fleet Solutions are offered at cost without markup. Learn more about GSA Fleet's products and services below

Q. Can GSA assist my agency with Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) data reporting?

A. GSA Fleet makes FAST reporting easy. A new tool is in place to simplify annual data reporting and regular monitoring of your GSA Fleet vehicles. GSA Fleet's FAST Data Center provides reports on your vehicle inventory, acquisition and disposal expenses, vehicle cost, miles driven, and fuel consumption. It is preformatted to meet FAST specifications, ensuring a seamless upload into the Department of Energy's FAST system without any modification to the data. All reports are accessible throughout the year to track and manage inventory and fleet resources. To access your reports, go to GSA Fleet Drive-thru, <http://drivethru.fss.gsa.gov> and use your customer number to login and then go to Reports Carryout. From the main menu select the FAST option.

Q. When and where is my vehicle being used?

A. Vehicle Monitoring – The latest technology in vehicle monitoring equipment can help maximize the utilization of vehicles and improve safety by identifying poor and/or hazardous driving practices. GPS and cellular communication provide real time data on vehicles using a password protected website.

Q. Can I get a vehicle for just a few days?

A. Short Term Rentals (STR) – This new rental program provides customers the option of renting vehicles to meet short term requirements or to replace vehicles that are out of service for accident or mechanical repairs.



Q. What if I need an additional vehicle?

A. The 751 Schedule – This schedule can be used to help customers that need additional vehicles. Vendors that are on the 751 schedule compete with each other resulting in lower lease rates than traditional commercial leases. Leases are available for one, two, or three years. The goal is to provide a GSA Fleet vehicle once the 751 Schedule lease expires.

Q. How can I become a safer driver?

A. Driver Training – A free on-line defensive driving course is available to all GSA Fleet customers. This four hour course was designed by the National Safety Council and is accessible through GSA Fleet Drive-thru. The course offers an engaging, interactive learning environment where drivers can analyze real driving situations, spot driving hazards, and identify the proper corrective actions. The goal is safer drivers, fewer accidents and injuries, and lower costs.

Q. How can I review the cost and frequency of accidents in my fleet?

A. Collision Repair Accident & System History (CRASH) – The CRASH database provides GSA Fleet customers access to comprehensive data for all accidents their vehicles have been involved in. This information can be used to identify accident trends and understand the associated costs. CRASH is accessed through GSA Fleet Drive-thru.

Q. What's the easiest way to enter mileage for my vehicles?

A. Get Odometer Readings at the Pump (GORP) – is GSA Fleet's newest tool for reporting vehicle mileage. It electronically retrieves the mileage that is entered at the pump when using the Fleet Services Card to purchase fuel. This eliminates the need to manually report miles through Mileage Express or Dial-a-Mile. Contact the local Fleet Service Representative (FSR) to begin using GORP today.

Denver Federal Center Building Solar Park

Sally Mayberry

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Rocky Mountain Region awarded a \$6.9M contract on May 29, 2007, to SunEdison for the design and construction of a solar park at the Denver Federal Center (DFC). The park will consist of photovoltaic arrays located on a six-acre site adjacent to 6th Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado. Construction is expected to start during late summer/early fall of 2007, with electric generation beginning mid-December 2007.



“The solar park is a perfect example of how the federal government can work with its industry partners to embrace green technology,” said GSA Regional Administrator Leslie Plomondon. “The project promotes Administration efforts to conserve electricity through the use of renewable energy.” Plomondon said the project would not be possible without the support of Colorado’s citizens, GSA, Xcel Energy, and SunEdison. In 2005, Colorado was the first state in the union where voters passed a Renewable Energy Source (RES) initiative.

Growth in Colorado will continue to create a greater demand for energy; therefore, it is critical to explore new more diverse energy resources. The solar park is an important opportunity for GSA to meet the renewable energy guidelines set forth by Congress, and it brings the DFC closer to its vision of being “the most sustainable campus in the country by 2020.” The project is also important for Xcel Energy in meeting Colorado’s Renewable Energy Standard, which requires that large electric utilities generate 20 percent of their power through renewable energy sources by 2020.

GSA will build a one-megawatt system that will generate nearly 10 percent of the one square mile campus’ peak electric demand. The power generated by this system is the equivalent to powering approximately 145 homes each year. “The size of this project shows that solar power can be done on a medium-sized level and that the government can set a tremendous example by leading the way,” said Fred Stoffel, Xcel Energy Vice President of Marketing.

“SunEdison is pleased to be working with the leaders at GSA and Xcel Energy to extend solar energy in Colorado. Colorado is a leader in the deployment of utility-scale solar,” added Jigar Shah, CEO of SunEdison, North America’s first and largest solar energy services provider.



What Are You Doing to Make a Difference?

Sally Mayberry

Your first step in making a difference was perhaps taking a job in the public sector or volunteering with an organization that hits close to home. As public servants, we can uniquely impact the world around us by taking simple steps.

The “Go Green” section of this newsletter is new. It is intended to provide you with some simple tips on how you can make a positive impact on our environment.

Each of us has the ability to impact our environment by making a few small changes to our normal routine. For example, did you know that GSAAAdvantage! has a “buy green” section? GSA provides many “green” products and services on contract. GSA vendors, all the best known names in the industry, have put innovative corporate resources to work in providing quality, environmentally sensitive products from floor to ceiling.

Whether you are looking for products that are energy efficient, bio-based, non-toxic, green seal approved, or made with recycled content, you can buy eco-friendly supplies by going to <https://www.gsaadvantage.gov> and click on the “environmental” section to start your search. Also, the next time you are in the market for some new office furniture, remember to look for recycled furniture content. This is a small but important part of minimizing workspace impacts. The recycled content of office brands is generally the same. The important factor to consider is in the way products are assembled. This determines indoor air emissions and the ease of recyclability.

Go visit and bookmark the web page GSAAAdvantage! For more information about buying green with GSAAAdvantage!, please contact GSA’s FAS Customer Service Director, Cheryl Ansaldi, at (303) 236-7575.

Other practical tips:

- Turn off the lights in any room you’re not using, or consider installing timers, photo cells, or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher’s drying cycle.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics (such as TVs, DVD players, cell phones, etc.) into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use.

Visit www.gsa.gov/green for more “go green” ideas and solutions.





Meet FAS Central Program Fleet Manager, Al VanDongen

Christopher H. Cole



Al Van Dongen is the Colorado Fleet Manager located at the Fleet Management Center (FMC) on the Denver Federal Center. He has been with GSA Fleet for the past 16 years, following a 20 year Air Force career. This was followed by five years as the Vehicle Control Officer for the Rivet MILE Project, an Air Force Civil Service program tasked with performing upgrades to the Minuteman Missile Systems in Minot, North Dakota.

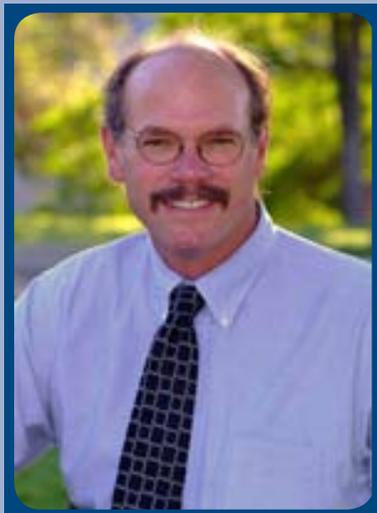
His GSA career started with the Central Fleet Program as the Assistant Manager in Billings, Montana in 1991. In 1994, he moved to the Regional Office in Denver, Colorado as a part of the Operations Group. His duties included teaching Defensive Driver Training courses throughout the Rocky Mountain Region and representing Regional GSA Fleet for the Interagency Motor Equipment Advisory Committee (IMEAC). In 1997, he moved to Salt Lake City, Utah as the GSA Fleet Manager where he oversaw the fleet operations for Utah, which included over 4,800 vehicles. An opportunity for Al to become the Deputy Director in Germany, Fleet Europe, came in 2000. That location supervises six Fleet Management Centers that are located in Germany (4), Belgium (1), and Italy (1). Finally, he returned to the Rocky Mountain Region from Europe in 2003 to assume the Fleet Manager position in Denver. The FMC in Denver manages over 4,800 vehicles for federal agencies and Department of Defense, located in Colorado and southern Wyoming.

Al and his “career wife” Veronica (45th anniversary this October) have three sons, three daughters-in-law, and six grand children.



Project Management At Its Finest

Sally Mayberry



Douglas Porter, P.E., is one of our newer managers at GSA. He has been with GSA now for nearly two years. Doug is the manager of the Projects Team at the Denver Federal Center Service Center. He comes to GSA with 28 years of experience in civil engineering design, multi-disciplined facility development projects, construction management, and project management. He most recently worked for the National Park Service, Denver Service Center, as a project manager where he managed large facility development and rehabilitation projects at national parks and national historic sites. Doug has a BS in Forest Engineering from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and a BS in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University.

Doug is overseeing an exciting project that will soon be underway at the Denver Federal Center (DFC) in Lakewood, Colorado. It is a new one-megawatt solar panel park which will consist of photovoltaic arrays located on a six-acre site adjacent to 6th Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado. The project promotes Administration efforts to conserve electricity through the use of renewable energy and it is one of the first of its kind for GSA. The power generated by this system is the equivalent to powering approximately 145 homes each year.

Doug was also instrumental in coordinating a 17 million dollar project resulting in approximately 19,000 net rentable square feet of office space for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Finance Center (NFC) Primary Computing Facility. Hurricane Katrina forced the NFC to move their business function from a high risk natural disaster area, to one that would better ensure maintaining its continuity of operations. "This was a challenging and fast paced project that was initiated and completed, from design through construction, in 13 months," said Doug Porter, GSA Project Manager.

GSA is fortunate to have team members like Doug on its staff. It's because of his diligence and perseverance that GSA can claim success on many of its projects.

Industry Partner Showcase

Cheryl Ansaldi

The U.S. General Services Administration and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce present the:

Front Range Small Business Showcase

October 10, 2007

Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast

3200 South Parker Road

Aurora, CO 80014

Join us for a full day of **FREE** training and local small business exhibits. Over 60 small businesses plan to showcase their products and services for this one day event. This event has the latest tips on how to get the most from the Multiple Award Schedules. Come learn how easy it is to order products and services from GSA, while complying with federal purchasing regulations.

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m., the exhibit floor opens at 9:30 a.m., and training will be offered from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Training topics will include:

- **Schedules e-Library, e-Buy, and GSA Advantage! Contractor Teaming**
- **Arrangements**
- **Blanket Purchase Agreements**
- **Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs)**
- **IT Schedule 70**

More topics are being added every day – check our website regularly for more information.

A complete training schedule and course descriptions will be available on www.gsa.gov/r8 in September! Customer service representatives will be on hand to answer specific questions. Come and visit our local small businesses that can help you meet your small business goals and support our community.

This seminar is **FREE** for all government personnel! Program managers, credit card holders, end users, travel and transportation officials, and all purchasing and contracting professionals will absolutely want to attend.

Boxed lunch will be provided, so please utilize www.gsa.gov/r8 to pre-register now. Registration is open for all Government civilians and military personnel.

Please forward this email to anyone else who might be interested in attending. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Chris Cole at (303) 236-7427.



Success Stories

2007 Network Services Conference Well Attended

Carolyn Helstrom

Excitement surrounded this conference as speakers identified the direction and future of telecommunications and the sharing of information. There were approximately 1,400 attendees to include both civilian and DoD agencies and industry who attended the 2007 Network Services Conference on August 6-9, 2007, at the Adam's Mark Denver Hotel Conference Center. Much was discussed including the future of the new GSA Networx Contract transition and the latest technologies our industry partners had to offer to the federal telecommunications community.

Some of the GSA guest speakers were David Bibb, Deputy Administrator; Jim Williams, FAS Commissioner; and John C. Johnson, ITS Assistant Commissioner. Regional Administrator, Leslie Plomondon made welcoming remarks to GSA attendees at a pre-conference rally.

On August 7th, John Grimes, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration and Department of Defense CIO, was a keynote speaker. His presentation focused on the importance of information security, and how it will continue to become a real factor for the government. Mr. Grimes has extensive technical and policy experience in telecommunications, information systems, and the command and control fields.

Training sessions were provided for the new Networx Contracts and the Satellite Contracts, while other breakout sessions addressed the road to Governmentwide Enterprise Licensing Agreements, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD12), E-authentication, using the Multiple Award Schedule 70 for information technology, Governmentwide Acquisition Contracts (GWAC), and Assisted Acquisition Services. For more information, please contact Carolyn Helstrom at (303) 236-0717.

Success Stories

R7/R8 Holds Customer Conference with Focus on Partnership

JoAnn C. De Jesus

The second biannual GSA PBS R7/R8 Joint Customer Conference was held August 13-15, 2007, at the OMNI Hotel in Austin, Texas. In attendance were 82 customers and 86 GSA associates. The theme of this year's conference is "A Sense of Partnership" with Senior Property Manager Steve Rutledge as Master of Ceremonies.

Among the breakout sessions offered included Pricing, Reimbursable Work Authorization, Security, Environmental Programs for Federal Agencies and more! General sessions included no other than Commissioner Winstead as guest speaker. Motivational Speaker Suzie Humphreys provided a humorous yet powerful speech on Tuesday, while Emmy winning news journalist Jody Dean closed the event by reminding everyone to have a sense of accomplishment in their federal service jobs.

Booths on display featured environmental and sustainable design, large construction, project highlights, pricing and others.

Feedback received from attending customers included, "This conference addressed issues very important to the customers...very well-organized and conveyed a positive atmosphere... GSA personnel went out of their way to address questions, both within and outside the workshops."

Moving forward, the questions and comments from the conference will be disseminated to the appropriate teams in hopes that it will help enhance the sense of partnership we already have developed with our customers.