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Washington, DC— The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) presented GSA Achievement Awards for Real Property Innovation to the Department of the Air Force and the GSA Public Buildings Service for their winning best practices.

This year, 17 Federal agencies participated in the submission of 44 entries. All of the 2002 best practices submissions have been published online at <http://www.gsa.gov/realpropertypolicy>.

The Air Force winning entry, "The Malmstrom Partnering Initiative with the Operation Walking Shield Program," was submitted by Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. Air Force partnered with the non-profit group, Operation Walking Shield, to transfer excess Air Force housing units to three Native American tribes to meet critical housing needs.

A team from the GSA Public Buildings Service (PBS) in the New England

Regional office won for their entry "Chelmsford, Customer Satisfaction through Sustainability." PBS successfully collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deliver a major "green" facility in Chelmsford, MA, to EPA to satisfy its customer needs and champion sustainable development. In addition, the Department of the Army and the Tennessee Valley Authority received honorable mention for the winning entries, respectively, "Army Family Housing Master Plan" and "Strategic Facility Plan."

GSA's Office of Governmentwide Policy, Office of Real Property, developed the Innovation Awards to recognize the successes of the Federal real property and workplace community, to improve communications between real property professionals, and to share the best policies and practices implemented by Federal agencies. This year 17 Federal agencies participated in the submission of 44 entries.

"With this program," said GSA Administrator Stephen A. Perry, "almost 250 great ideas from throughout the federal real property community have been generated or shared during the award's six years. That is extremely important, and fits perfectly with President Bush's vision of results-oriented, citizen-centered, market-based government." Ideas this year covered a broad spectrum of real property asset management and workplace development areas, including customer focus, community outreach, performance measures, property disposal and management, and sustainability.

"GSA's Office of Governmentwide Policy has been very active in recognizing innovations and leading practices," said OGP Associate Administrator G. Martin Wagner. In addition, he said that sharing can serve as the catalyst for all federal real property associates to improve real property management in the government.

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