



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON
March 16, 2004

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS**

Cyber Security is everyone's responsibility and all employees are accountable for protecting VA's computer and information systems. Specifically, I have tasked the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO), Robert McFarland, with responsibility to devise and implement a Department-wide cyber security program under the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). I expect all employees to fully support and cooperate in the implementation of the Department's cyber security policies.

It is my intention to ensure that Assistant Secretary McFarland has all the power and authority necessary to carry out the heavy responsibilities associated with cyber security in the Department. This will include certain administrative and supervisory authority over employees directly involved in the implementation of cyber security policy. Appropriate directives, policies, and personnel regulations are being drafted to effectuate my intentions. In the meantime, I expect full cooperation with the CIO's initiatives in cyber security.


Anthony J. Principi