



News Release

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Contact: Glenn Harris (OIG) (202) 205-6862
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

Eric Thorson Confirmed as SBA Inspector General

WASHINGTON – Eric M. Thorson, nominated by President Bush to serve as Inspector General for the U.S. Small Business Administration, was unanimously confirmed today by the U.S. Senate.

Thorson, a Virginian, currently serves as senior adviser for Investigative Operations and Agency Planning in the Office of Personnel Management. He previously served as special assistant to the Republican Leader of the United States Senate. Earlier in his career, Thorson was the chief investigator for the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in the United States Senate. He received his bachelor's degree from the United States Air Force Academy, prior to serving six years on active duty and five years in the United States Air Force Reserves.

“With his broad investigative experience and 20 years of private practice and federal government and Congressional experience, Mr. Thorson brings an exceptional background to the SBA,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “That experience will help ensure that the SBA’s customers receive the most efficient and effective services possible. I look forward to working with him.”

The Office of Inspector General is responsible for conducting independent reviews, audits and investigations of all SBA programs and participants in order to prevent fraud and abuse and to recommend ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of SBA’s programs and operations. Thorson replaces Harold Damelin, who left in April 2005.

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