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AICPA Names Grant Ashley 2005 Outstanding CPA in Government

Washington, D.C., August 22, 2005 – Grant Ashley, FBI Executive Assistant Director and CPA, is the 2005 recipient of the Outstanding CPA in Government Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The award recognizes CPAs working in government who have made significant contributions to increased efficiency and effectiveness of government organizations and to the growth and enhancement of the profession.

The award was presented today by Constantine Triantaphilides, chairman of the AICPA Government Performance and Accountability Committee at the AICPA's 22nd Annual National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference being held in Washington, D.C.

During his 25-year FBI career, Ashley has served as a Financial Analyst, Special Agent and as a member of the FBI's senior management; he is the highest ranking CPA in the FBI. In his capacity as a senior executive, Ashley has implemented significant changes in how the FBI conducts field financial transactions, many of which have been adopted throughout the FBI, resulting in enhanced Bureau operations. In 2003, Ashley was awarded a Presidential Rank Award by the U.S. Government for his contribution of re-allocating resources for the counterterrorism effort. Ashley's dramatic restructuring of the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) freed over 1,000 employees for work on counterterrorism initiatives.

During his service as Assistant Director of the CID, with responsibility for all the FBI's criminal investigations, Ashley also oversaw the creation and implementation of the FBI's Corporate Fraud Initiative. This initiative became the backbone for the government-wide response to the threat of corporate fraud, which incorporated efforts by the Internal Revenue Service, Securities and Exchange Commission, and other government agencies.

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In his current position, Ashley oversees the following divisions and programs: Criminal Investigative; Cyber Crimes; Criminal Justice Information Services; Training and Development; Laboratory; Operational Technologies; Office of International Operations; Critical Incident Response Group; and Office of Law Enforcement Coordination. He has been responsible for improving the mission focus of these entities as well as their organizational structure, business practices and cost effectiveness.

In addition, Ashley has worked diligently to forge a collaborative relationship with the AICPA, especially in the financial fraud detection and prevention areas. He orchestrated a highly successful webcast, viewed by more than 20,000 CPAs, on “Arresting Financial Fraud: The Inside Story from the FBI,” in conjunction with the AICPA. He has facilitated outreach from other areas of the FBI to the AICPA, particularly in publicizing and promoting career opportunities for CPAs in the federal government. Today, the FBI is actively recruiting CPAs. In 2004, 15% of the FBI’s new hires were projected to be CPAs.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (www.aicpa.org) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with approximately 350,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education; student affiliates; and international associates. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state and local governments; and non-profit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination.

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