

William Wolf
03/08/02 03:01 PM

To: Julia Laws/PIR/OS/DOI@DOI, Alexandra Mallus/PIR/OS/DOI@DOI,
Lanel Crawley/PIR/OS/DOI@DOI, Marityn Legnini/PIR/OS/DOI@DOI,
Sharon Michel/PIR/OS/DOI@DOI

cc:
Subject: FOIA/Privacy ASAP Conference

FOIA is to shed light on Government operations

- More than 70 employees of the Department of the Interior attended the ASAP Conference.
- 68 employees of the Department attended the "Interior Break-Out Session."
- All DOI bureaus and offices, with the exception of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had representatives in attendance.
- With the exception of the Office of the Secretary, the bureau/office FOIA Officer was present.
- Plans should be made for Alex Mallus, Sharon Michel & Lanel Crawley to attend next year.
- The Department's E-Gov group should be invited next year.
- The Department should advise the bureau/offices of a "final" completion date for:
 - i) the Department's revised regulations for E-FOIA of 1996;
 - ii) the Department's revised FOIA Handbook for E-FOIA of 1996; and,
 - iii) guidance for implementation of the October 12, 2001 "Ashcroft Memorandum".
- Regarding the Ashcroft Memorandum, the attendees believe

EXEMPTION 5

- The bureaus/offices would like to receive policy papers on the Department's position on major FOIA issues.

EXEMPTION 5

Today, there is a vast disparity of employees' grades in these three programs.

ex. 5

agencies, the
Department-level Privacy Act program consists of numerous highly skilled specialist who work on
specific areas

| In other Federal

of the Privacy Act, including policy, review and enforcement. It was announced that GAO will be conducting a review of the Department's Privacy Act program in several months.

EXEMPTION 5

- The OSM FOIA/Privacy Act Officer conducted a brief presentation on the forthcoming Electronic FOIA Tracking System.
- At one session, the speaker announced that the mission of the Department of the Interior results in the most complicated FOIA issues.