

Staff input is key to renewal of Strategic Plan

A core document defines our work and the direction that initiatives take at NARA—our Strategic Plan, which incorporates our mission and vision statements. The mission statement contains NARA's general goals and is rooted in legislation—specifically, Title 44 of the United States Code—which gives the Archivist of the United States, as head of the National Archives and Records Administration, the authority to manage the records of the United States Government. The vision statement is a short commentary on the agency's highest ideals and priorities. Finally, the Strategic Plan itself is the guide to fulfilling our vision and accomplishing our goals. It helps NARA employees define priorities and align the resources needed to meet these objectives.

Under the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA), each Federal agency is required to update its Strategic Plan every three years. NARA's plan is due to be revised in 2007, so the time has come to look into the future and ask, "What should NARA be doing in 2017, and how do we prepare for that future?"

The current Strategic Plan (1997–2007) has effectively guided NARA through enormous changes and challenges. The new plan will recognize what has been accomplished, address continuing challenges, and focus



attention on new opportunities. Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with senior staff to gather ideas for the new Strategic Plan, including updating the mission and vision statements. As we have done in the past, we will ask NARA staff, customers, partners, and other external stakeholders for their comments and contributions. I am committed to ensuring that all of our NARA colleagues have an opportunity to participate in this important process.

At the conclusion of further meetings with senior staff, I will host a national webcast to discuss the work that has been developed and to set a course for moving forward. During the summer, a team of NARA staff facilitators will host focus groups with staff nationwide. Staff in Washington, at the regional facilities, and at Presidential libraries will all have the opportunity to participate in these focus groups. In addition, I encourage you to send your ideas and comments to

NARA.Vision@nara.gov.

The work of each NARA staff member is vital to this organization, and your thoughts and ideas are key to the development of NARA's goals and strategies for the years to come. The months ahead will be important in forming the Strategic Plan for 2007–2017 and will set the groundwork for the National Archives' future direction. Thank you in advance for participating in this effort, and I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Weinstein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

ALLEN WEINSTEIN
Archivist of the United States

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