contract administration and quality assurance. On 6 August 1974, the Commissioner and senior officials of FDA met with me and selected senior officials of Defense agencies to discuss the quality assurance subject. On 19 September 1974 the FDA conducted a briefing and discussion for senior officials involved in federal contracting.

Five interagency task groups were organized on 24 September 1974 to review all aspects of federal purchasing of drugs and to make appropriate recommendations that would offer a government-wide quality assurance program plan for drugs. These were Task Group 1, Specifications, chaired by DoD; Task Group 2, Standards, Good Manufacturing Practices, and related material, chaired by FDA; Task Group 3, Pre-award Surveys and On-Site Inspections, chaired by FDA; Task Group 4, Product Testing, chaired by DoD, and Task Group 5, Certification Lists, chaired by FDA. A sixth task group on non-drug items was recognized but not established at this time; however, on 2 April 1975 this task group was activated under the chairmanship of DoD. The completion of the implementation plan being developed by this last group is expected by 1 September 1975.

The interagency groups were requested to cover the assigned areas in considerable depth and to complete their task by the 15th of January. Each group was required to describe the quality assurance systems now in existence and to include the manpower and other resources required to operate these systems. Each group was also charged with the