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IEEE Congressional Fellow, 2005 and Fellow of the IEEE
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Norman F. Schneidewind is an IEEE Congressional Fellow on the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. In this position, he works on issues in homeland security, cyber security, and information technology. He works with personnel from the Department of Homeland Security on these issues. His duties are varied but, in general, he does research on technical policy issues, write speeches for Senator Akaka of Hawaii, participates in hearings, and acts as the science advisor to the subcommittee.

The Subcommittee is particularly involved in homeland security issues. The current jurisdiction of the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee, under the leadership of Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), have a broad responsibility for national security issues.

I am encouraged by my subcommittee to attend many think tank and Congressional briefings on a variety of homeland and cyber security issues. I find these sessions to be very stimulating and interesting!

I have daily interaction with Richard J. Kessler, Ph.D, Democratic Subcommittee Staff Director, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee. We participate in hearings and briefings together. The relationship could be improved by the mentor providing more details of the requirements of my assignments, and by providing supportive feedback.

The AAAS and IEEE could help future fellows immensely by providing more information about how effectively Congressional offices have utilized their fellows based on feedback provided by fellows. In addition, the AAAS and IEEE should provide more information on the types of technical issues and the technical qualifications of the staffs in the Congressional offices. This guidance would be valuable for the fellow to make a good fit with an office.

The major challenge is to provide engineering and science information to a basically non technical staff in a format that is meaningful to them.

My Congressional activity has been posted on the Naval Postgraduate School website. In addition, coverage of my activities has been provided in an IEEE – USA press release.

I believe my Congressional Fellowship will help to qualify me for a Kennedy School Fellowship. Any help that the AAAS and IEEE could provide in this regard would be greatly appreciated!