



Memorandum


**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
Of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit of
Air Traffic Controller Training

Date: March 25, 2003

From: David A. Dobbs 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation Audits

Reply
to JA-10:x60500
Attn of:

To: John F. Hennigan
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO, ABA-1

Attrition in FAA's air traffic controller workforce is expected to rise sharply in upcoming years. In May 2001, FAA estimated a total of 7,195 controllers could leave by the end of fiscal year 2010. In the past, FAA's strategy for replacing controllers was to hire and train replacements only when experienced controllers left. In general, the training process to become a certified professional controller can take up to 5 years.

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of air traffic controller training. The audit objectives are to determine: (1) if FAA has identified future hiring requirements for controllers and developed strategies for filling controller vacancies; (2) whether FAA's planned methods of training controllers will be sufficient to meet projected staffing requirements; and (3) if FAA has considered alternative approaches that could expedite the training process and reduce costs.

We plan to begin the audit the week of April 21, 2003. We will contact FAA's audit liaison to arrange a formal entrance conference. Ms. Susan Bader is the Project Manager for this audit. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact her at (202) 366-1989, or Daniel Raville, Program Director, at (202) 366-1405.

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cc: FAA Administrator, AOA-1
FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2
FAA Audit Liaison, ABU-100
OST Audit Liaison, M-1