




Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
Volpe Network Security Assessment
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research
and Technology
Project No. 14F3013F000

Date: August 13, 2014

From: Louis C. King 
Assistant Inspector General for Financial and
Information Technology Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-20

To: Assistant Secretary, Research and Technology

The John A. Volpe National Transportation Center (Volpe)—under the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R)—conducts projects for Federal, State, and private customers with an approximate value of \$200 million a year. Volpe is currently supporting the Federal Aviation Administration on two important components of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)—the Automatic Dependant Surveillance-Broadcast system and the Data Communication Program. These two NextGen components will fundamentally change the way air traffic controllers and pilots conduct business. In order to prevent unauthorized access to clients’ data, Volpe’s information systems must be properly protected.

We will perform an audit of Volpe’s information system network’s security. Our objectives are to determine whether (1) Volpe’s local area network and Web sites are secure from compromise and (2) security weaknesses exist in Volpe’s information technology infrastructure.

We plan to begin the audit in early August and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC, and at the Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-366-1407, or Nathan Custer, Program Director, at 202-366-5540.

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cc: DOT Chief Information Officer
OST-R Audit Liaison, RTC-1
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1