



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

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement: Short-
Term Capacity Initiatives
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 07A3003A000

Date: April 11, 2007

From: Robin K. Hunt *Robin K. Hunt*
Acting Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10

To: Assistant Administrator for Financial Services
and Chief Financial Officer

Last year, over 700 million passengers used the national air transportation system, and this number is forecasted to grow to over 1 billion by 2015. To meet the anticipated demand for air travel, FAA is developing the next generation air transportation system, currently scheduled for completion in 2025, to handle three times more traffic, boost controller productivity, and help reduce operating costs.

While there is considerable attention focused on the cost and timetables of long-term initiatives involving new technologies, Congress has repeatedly expressed interest in the range of capacity improvements that could be made much sooner. The short-term initiatives include the development of performance-based procedures, airspace redesign efforts, and better use of up-to-date weather information to adjust traffic flows nationwide.

At the request of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, we will examine near-term FAA initiatives to increase the capacity of the National Airspace System. The objectives of this audit will be to (1) identify the initiatives—both technological and procedural—that will provide the most capacity benefits in the next 5 years and (2) examine FAA's implementation process for capacity initiatives and how the relationships among the various efforts are managed.

This audit is planned for FAA Headquarters and other locations as deemed necessary. We plan to start this audit the week of April 16, 2007. We will contact

FAA's audit liaison to arrange a formal entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (415) 744-3090 or Matthew Hampton, Program Director, at (202) 366-1987.

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cc: Federal Aviation Administrator
FAA Chief of Staff
Anthony Williams, ABU-100
Martin Gertel, M-1