



Memorandum


**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit of
FAA's Advanced Technologies and Oceanic
Procedures (ATOP) Program

Date: December 2, 2002

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

Reply to JA-10
Attn of:

To: Chris P. Bertram
Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO, ABA-1

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Advanced Technologies and Oceanic Procedures (ATOP) Program. The ATOP Program is essential to modernize FAA facilities that are responsible for managing large segments of airspace over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Despite numerous advances in computer and communications technology, FAA air traffic controllers primarily use a manual system to track oceanic air traffic and estimate aircraft locations. The new oceanic system is expected to minimize controller workload and reduce spacing between aircraft flying in oceanic airspace. This should significantly increase both efficiency and capacity for international air traffic.

Our objective is to evaluate FAA's management of the ATOP Program with respect to cost, schedule, and performance. We plan to focus our efforts on FAA's progress to provide the first operational system to Oakland, California. The audit will be conducted at FAA Headquarters, FAA's Technical Center, and the air traffic control center in Oakland, California. We will also contact the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, the Professional Airways Systems Specialists, and other Government and contractor representatives as determined necessary during the review.

We plan to start the audit during the week of December 09, 2002. Matt Hampton is the Program Director and Don Pierro is the Project Manager for this audit. Mr. Pierro will be contacting the FAA Audit Liaison to arrange an entrance conference.

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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