



Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Review of
Proposed Technologies to Improve Aviation
Security (Project Number 02A1001A000)

Date: January 4, 2002

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

Reply to
Attn of: JA-10:X60500

To: Chris P. Bertram
Assistant Administrator for Financial Services

In response to a request by Congressman Martin Sabo, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations, the Office of Inspector General plans to conduct a review of technologies being proposed to improve aviation security. The objectives of the review are: (1) to identify and categorize aviation security technologies available for deployment now and those needing further research, engineering, and development; and (2) to present recommendations on which of these technologies offer the best promise for immediate deployment or development.

We will review technologies within the context of their potential to improve aviation security in one or more of several environments: the airport, aircraft, checked baggage, the screening checkpoint, and cargo and mail. Our review will rely heavily on technical evaluations that have been conducted on specific technologies by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other credible organizations, such as the National Academy of Sciences and the National Laboratories. For technologies that are now commercially available and being used, we will also rely on assessments made by public and private sector clients who have experience with the product in an operational environment.

During the course of our review we will discuss aviation security technologies with the FAA Office of Civil Aviation Security in Washington, D.C.; selected FAA regional and field offices; the Aviation Security Research and Development Laboratory in Atlantic City, New Jersey; and the Security Equipment Integrated

Product Team in Herndon, Virginia. As FAA responsibilities for civil aviation security transition to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), we will coordinate our efforts with the appropriate offices and personnel within TSA.

We will also discuss aviation security technologies with knowledgeable persons at domestic and foreign airports, domestic and foreign air carrier offices and stations, the facilities and offices of security equipment manufacturers, and other Government and private sector stakeholders.

We plan to begin the review the week of January 7, 2002. We will contact your audit liaison in the Office of Performance Management to arrange an entrance conference. Our staff in Washington D.C., San Francisco, and Atlanta, will conduct the review. If you have any questions or need additional information prior to the entrance conference, please contact Robin K. Hunt, Director for Aviation Security and Infrastructure, at (415) 744-0420, or Jim Yeager, Aviation Security Project Manager, at (202) 366-1433.

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