



Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Notification of Audit of FAA's
Initiatives To Address Air Traffic Controller
Staffing
Project No. 04A3015A000

Date: August 17, 2004

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

Reply to JA-10
Attn. of:

To: Ramesh Punwani
Assistant Administrator
for Financial Services/CFO, ABA-1

For years, various groups have repeatedly expressed concern that some FAA air traffic control facilities are either under- or over-staffed. However, determining the extent of those imbalances is problematic because staffing is affected by a number of factors including workforce productivity, leave usage, work rules, training, and scheduling. FAA's success at achieving a balanced workforce will largely depend on actions it takes to address these issues over the next several years.

Addressing staffing issues within the controller workforce expediently is particularly critical as FAA is facing attrition of nearly half its controller workforce between fiscal years 2005 and 2012. While this represents a significant challenge for FAA, it also represents an opportunity to address a myriad of long-standing concerns as the workforce turns over.

The Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of FAA's initiatives to address air traffic controller staffing. The objective of our audit is to evaluate actions taken and/or planned by FAA to address key staffing issues within the controller workforce to ensure the safe, efficient, and cost-effective operation of the National Airspace System in light of expected increases in controller attrition.

We plan to begin the audit the week of September 7, 2004. 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 Dan Raville, Program Director, at (202) 366-1405.

CC: Federal Aviation Administrator, AOA-1

FAA Deputy Administrator, ADA-1

FAA Chief of Staff, AOA-2

FAA Chief Operating Officer, ATO-1

FAA Audit Liaison, ABU-100

OST Audit Liaison, M-1

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