




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

# Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement—  
Review of Reported Near Mid-Air Collisions in  
the New York Metropolitan Airspace  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Project Number 07A3019A000

Date: June 18, 2007

From: David A. Dobbs   
Principal Assistant Inspector General  
for Auditing and Evaluation

Reply to  
Attn of: JA-10

To: Assistant Administrator for Financial Services  
and Chief Financial Officer

The Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) actions taken in response to reported near mid-air collisions and other possible aviation safety issues in the New York Metropolitan Airspace. We are initiating this audit in response to a June 11, 2007, request from Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Senator Clinton expressed concern because there were five reported near mid-air collisions involving commercial aircraft in the region during May 2007.

Our audit objectives are to address the following questions from Senator Clinton:

- (1) What is the root cause of the near misses in May of 2007 in the New York airspace?
- (2) How is the FAA addressing these problems and what measures has the FAA taken to prevent repeat occurrences?
- (3) Do any of the New York area airports practice a similar type of procedure that FAA ordered a halt to at the Memphis airport where FAA allowed planes to simultaneously land and depart from nearby runways that have intersecting flight paths?

We plan to begin the audit the week of June 25, 2007, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dan Raville, Program Director, at (202) 366-1405 or Mary E. (Liz) Hanson, Project Manager, at (404) 562-3778.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator  
Anthony Williams, ABU-100  
Martin Gertel, M-1