



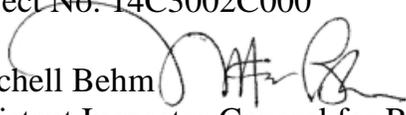
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
Air Traffic Control Tower Productivity
Assessment
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 14C3002C000

Date: February 20, 2014

From: Mitchell Behm 
Assistant Inspector General for Rail, Maritime,
Hazmat Transport, and Economic Analysis

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-50

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employs over 15,000 air traffic controllers at 315 facilities. Since 2000, the number of air traffic controllers has increased slightly while the number of air traffic operations has declined by 23 percent, leading to questions about controller productivity. In a letter dated November 30, 2012, the Chairmen of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Subcommittee on Aviation expressed concerns regarding controller productivity during a period of reduced air traffic and requested that our office assess FAA's plans to enhance controller productivity, the factors that need to be addressed to achieve the expected benefits, and the estimated cost savings that could be achieved with improved controller productivity.

We are currently reviewing FAA's controller productivity enhancement initiatives to determine if they are meeting their intended objectives.¹ Knowledge of which air traffic control facilities operate relatively more efficiently would help identify the factors necessary to achieve greater productivity. Consequently, as a step towards determining the factors affecting air traffic control tower productivity, this audit will assess the relative efficiency of air traffic control towers.

¹ OIG Audit Announcement, "Audit Initiated of Air Traffic Controller Productivity Initiatives," December 21, 2012. OIG audit announcements are available on our website: www.oig.dot.gov.

We plan to begin the audit within the next few weeks, and we will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at 202-366-9970 or Betty Krier, Program Director, at 202-366-1422.

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cc: FAA Deputy Administrator
DOT Audit Liaison, M1
FAA Audit Liaison, AAE-100