



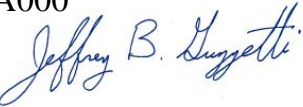
Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
Review of FAA’s Air Traffic Controller Scheduling
Practices
Federal Aviation Administration
Project No. 12A3009A000

Date: May 31, 2012

From: Jeffrey B. Guzzetti 
Assistant Inspector General
for Aviation and Special Program Audits

Reply to JA-10
Attn. of:

To: Director, Audit and Evaluation

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operates the world’s safest air transportation system, due in part to the dedication of its air traffic controllers. However, a series of high-profile incidents in early 2011 involving controllers who were found sleeping on duty or who failed to maintain safe separation distances between aircraft sparked public concern regarding the performance of the controller workforce. As a result, FAA instituted a series of policy changes, including placing an additional air traffic controller on the midnight shift at certain facilities and mandating a minimum of 9 hours off between shifts.

On February 14, 2012, President Obama signed the FAA Modernization and Reform Act,¹ which required the Office of Inspector General to conduct an assessment of FAA’s air traffic controller scheduling practices. The Act mandated that our assessment include, among other things, an analysis of how air traffic controller schedules are determined, how safety was taken into consideration when schedules are developed, the cost effectiveness of scheduling practices, and how scheduling practices impact air traffic controller performance. Accordingly, our audit objectives will be to (1) determine the impact that controller scheduling practices have on safety and air traffic controller performance, (2) evaluate the cost effectiveness of controller scheduling practices, and (3) assess air traffic control facility compliance with FAA scheduling policies.

¹ PL 112-95. This Act reauthorized appropriations for FAA for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

We plan to begin our audit next month and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-0500 or Robert Romich, Program Director, at (202) 366-6478.

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cc: Pierre McLeod, AAE-100
Martin Gertel, M-1