Ensuring a safe and efficient National Airspace System (NAS) requires the effective management of air traffic control services and related infrastructure. To meet this need, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently employs about 7,700 full-time employees in its Technical Operations Services (Tech Ops), a unit of the Air Traffic Organization. Tech Ops staff install, test, troubleshoot, repair, and certify more than 66,000 pieces of equipment at facilities across the NAS.

Recent outages at air traffic facilities have highlighted the critical role Tech Ops staff play in maintaining a safe and operational air transportation system. Recognizing the importance of this workforce, the House of Representatives in its 2017 Appropriations Report directed us to assess FAA’s plans for hiring, training, and placing maintenance technicians, to ensure that they are in place when and where they are needed.

Accordingly, our objectives are to evaluate FAA’s (1) methodology for determining maintenance technician staffing levels, and (2) process for placing maintenance technicians. In a follow-up review, we will address the Committee’s concerns about maintenance technician training.

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We plan to begin the audit in October 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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c: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
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