



Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
Of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement—Web
Applications Security in Air Traffic Control Systems, FAA
Project Number: 07F3018F000

Date: June 2, 2008

From: Rebecca C. Leng *Rebecca Leng*
Assistant Inspector General for
Financial and Information Technology Audits

Reply To

Attn Of: JA-20

To: Acting Federal Aviation Administrator

We are initiating an audit of Web applications security in air traffic control (ATC) systems in response to a request made by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In recent years, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has increasingly turned toward use of commercial software and Internet Protocol-based technologies, such as Web application software, to modernize the ATC systems. As a result, ATC systems inevitably have inherited a higher security risk than in previous years when the ATC systems were developed primarily with proprietary software. Any unauthorized access to ATC systems has the potential to create safety concerns and delays that could cause serious economic damage.

The objectives of this audit are to determine whether (1) Web applications used in supporting ATC operations are properly secured to prevent unauthorized access to ATC systems, and (2) FAA's network intrusion-detection capability is effective in monitoring ATC cyber security incidents.

We plan to start the audit immediately. We have contracted with KPMG, LLP, to assist us in conducting this audit. The audit will be conducted at Washington, D.C., selected FAA facilities and the FTI operational center at Melbourne, Florida. We will contact your audit liaison to establish an entrance conference in order to discuss the audit. The Program Director for this audit is Dr. Ping Sun. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 366-1407 or Dr. Sun at (202) 366-1478.

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cc: Chief Information Officer, DOT
Chief Information Officer, FAA
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