



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505
202-254-3600

August 10, 2006

Mr. Frank Terreri
c/o Adam Miles, Esquire
Government Accountability Project
1612 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: OSC File No. DI-06-1620

Dear Mr. Terreri:

We have transmitted your allegations of a violation of law, rule, or regulation, gross mismanagement, and a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Transportation Security Administration, Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS), Washington, D.C., to the Secretary of DHS for an investigation and report pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c). With your consent, we identified you as the source of the information, so that a representative of the Secretary's office may speak with you directly.

OSC is authorized by law to refer protected disclosures to the involved agency for an investigation and report. Disclosures OSC may refer for investigation must include information that establishes a substantial likelihood of a violation of law, rule, or regulation, gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. OSC does not have the authority to investigate disclosures and, therefore, does not conduct its own investigations.

Specifically, you alleged that FAMS management has failed to fully protect the anonymity of Federal Air Marshals (FAMs) by actively employing policies which result in their public identification as FAMs. You alleged that the failure to protect covert aviation security operations weakens the core FAMS mission.

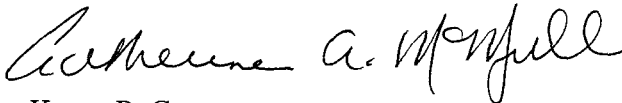
We have provided the Secretary 60 days to conduct an investigation of these allegations and to report back to us. You should be aware, however, that these matters may take somewhat longer and agencies may request an extension of the reporting date. After we have reviewed the report, unless it is classified or otherwise not releasable by law, we will send you a copy and give you an opportunity to comment. The report and your comments will be transmitted to the

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President and the appropriate congressional oversight committees, and will be maintained by OSC in a public file.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact me at (202) 254-3677.

Sincerely,


for Karen P. Gorman
Attorney, Disclosure Unit

CAM:KPG/kpg