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Washington, DC 20590
Fax: 202-366-1975 (Attn: FOIA Requester Svc Center)
[Online request form](#)

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**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

**Office of the Secretary
of Transportation**

Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 22, 2013

RE: FOIA No: FI-2012-0066

This letter is in response to your April 23, 2012, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Inspector General (OIG). You requested "a copy of the most recent issue and each past issue of the DOT OIG Newsletter (which were presumably intended for DOT OIG employees)".

On May 11, 2012, I called to inform you that due to the privacy concerns and the size of this release there would be a lengthy processing time. Please find the attached disk containing the redacted OIG Newsletter. Note that the search was conducted on May 11, 2012 and includes newsletters from April 1, 2010 to May 8, 2012. A total of 671 pages were responsive to your request and no pages were withheld. We are producing all 671 pages with redactions.

The Inspector newsletter is an internal document distributed electronically by this agency to provide OIG staff with news about our work and upcoming events. It allows us to recognize our colleagues and keep us informed of what's going on in the OIG. This Newsletter also provides a forum for staff to share photos and articles of a personal nature, such as travel and family events.

We have redacted photos and articles that involve personal matters and in which there is no public interest pursuant to exemption (b)(6) provided by the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)).¹ For example, all agency sponsored events for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) remain in the responsive record. However, information that reflects an individual's participation in, contribution to or support of CFC has been redacted to protect their privacy; this includes photos and participant names. Similarly, some of our staff are required to travel for work. In the articles covering that travel we

¹ Exemption 6 protects names and any data identifying individuals if public disclosure would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.

provide all details of the on-duty activities. However, information regarding their off-duty time, such as a good restaurant for dinner, has been redacted as it does not shed light on the agency's performance of its duties.

You will note that other information was redacted or withheld pursuant to two other exemptions provided by the Freedom of Information Act. In the interest of discretionary disclosure, we have rarely used exemption 5 which protects pre-decisional information under exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).² In addition, the names and titles of law enforcement officials were removed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C).³

The FOIA gives you the right to appeal adverse determinations to the appeal official for the agency. The appeal official for the OIG is the Assistant Inspector General, Brian A. Dettelbach. Any appeal must be submitted within 30 days after you receive this letter.

Any appeal should contain all facts and arguments that you propose warrant a more favorable determination. Please reference the file number above in any correspondence. Appeals to Mr. Dettelbach should be prominently marked as a "FOIA Appeal" addressed to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, 7th Floor West (J3), 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact me at (202) 366-6131 or angel.simmons@oig.dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Angel Simmons
FOIA/ Privacy Act Officer

Enclosure

² Exemption 5 protects documents that are pre-decisional and a direct part of the deliberative process.

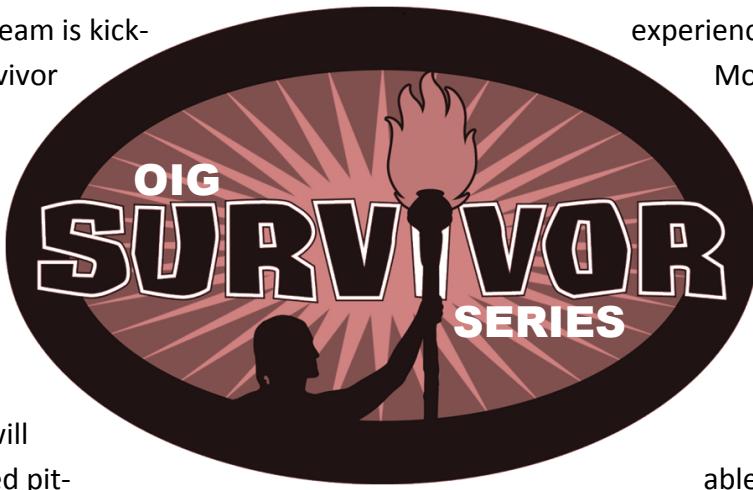
³ Exemption 7(C) protects personal information in law enforcement records. It prevents the disclosure of law enforcement information which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG "SURVIVOR SERIES" STARTS WITH SES PANEL

The OIG Mentoring Team is kicking off the "OIG Survivor Series" on Wednesday, May 23, with an SES flash mentoring panel open to the whole OIG community. The panel—Lou Dixon, Bob Westbrooks, Mitch Behm, and Joe Comé—will discuss how they survived pitfalls and plateaus, focusing on



experiences early in their careers. More than just war stories, we'll hear about how they developed survival skills, identified opportunities to move forward, and calculated risk. The discussion will be candid and interactive, so if you are able to attend in person, please do so.

**May 23 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM
DOT Media Center and webcasted to field locations
CPEs for participation**

What Is FLASH MENTORING?

Flash mentoring is a one-time meeting or discussion that enables employees to seek guidance and learn from a more experienced person who can pass on relevant knowledge and experience. Flash mentoring can be 1:1—a one-time meeting about a specific personal or professional developmental goal or concern—or in a group setting. Flash mentoring is a great opportunity to share knowledge and experience without a long-term commitment.

If you are interested in having a 1:1 flash mentoring session, please email your request to mentoring@oig.dot.gov.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 5/7	TUE 5/8	WED 5/9	THU 5/10	FRI 5/11
	CAL— Senior Leaders' Meeting (11:00 a.m.) ANN— OMB Budget Hearing (2:00 p.m.)			

NOTEWORTHY

POIRIER AND KAUFMAN ADMITTED TO THE SUPREME COURT BAR

On Monday, April 31, Chief Counsel Omer Poirier and Senior Counsel Seth Kaufman were sworn in to the Supreme Court Bar in front of a six-Justice quorum. As delineated by the rules of the Court, admission to its Bar relies on three criteria: An applicant must be allowed to practice in the highest Court of the State or in the District of Columbia for at least 3 years; must be in good standing; and must demonstrate good moral and professional character to the Court.



Chief Justice Roberts presided over the short yet memorable ceremony during which the Counsels and other attorneys were ad-

ministered the oath. Following the legal procedures, the attorneys and their guests were invited to attend a class on the Supreme Court, which was put together by the Office of the Curator. After learning about the history, architecture and proceedings of the Court, the new members of the Supreme Court Bar were photographed for posterity.

Congratulations Omer and Seth!

— Barbara Bensoussan, J-3 Intern

OIG PARTICIPATES IN THE 2012 “NEXTGEN AHEAD” CONFERENCE

Aviation Week and Space Technology's Conference on the Next Generation Air Transportation System, which took place on April 23, started on a high note with Matt Hampton, Deputy Assistant General for Aviation and Special Programs, sharing his deep understanding of the challenges FAA managers and air traffic controllers face every day to keep the National Airspace System running

safely. Matt emphasized the need to transform the current national air traffic system so it will be more reliable and flexible, while increasing capacity to spur U.S. economic growth.



The aviation community applauded and cited Hampton's

comments several times during a panel discussion entitled “Upgrading the Functionality of the NAS Infrastructure.” Matt encouraged FAA to better articulate how NextGen programs enhance capacity, reduce delays, and reduce costs for FAA and airspace users. Specifically, he emphasized the challenges air traffic facilities face in transitioning to new programs, while maintaining daily

NOTEWORTHY

operations and continuing to train existing and new controllers. He cautioned that at the most critical and active FAA facilities, FAA faces a potential shortage of certified professional controllers, as they have higher rates of retirement eligibility, controllers-in-training, and training attrition than other facilities nationwide.

Matt also discussed the key factors that will affect NextGen's near- and mid-term success and the lessons learned from recent experiences with the En Route Automation Modernization program. The program, a foundational component for many NextGen programs, has experienced significant cost overruns and delays. The audience learned about the need for clarifying workforce expectations, adequate testing before deployment

to the field, and redefining key milestones for implementing software-intense NextGen systems.

On the final day of the conference, Congressman John L. Mica in his keynote speech stated that FAA had missed the mark on NextGen and cited our work showing delays and budget overruns for numerous FAA programs. Congressman Mica explained that FAA's inability to deliver on time and on budget has caused industry to lose confidence in investing in future technologies. However, he also acknowledged that Congress was "impeding the way, not leading the way" to NextGen. Congress passed 23 extensions until finally agreeing on a full FAA reauthorization bill.

Overall, it was a great conference with panels on financing schemes

for new equipage; the integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the NAS, which is being worked on by NASA, FAA, and DOD; an Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast case study involving United's service from Oakland to Australia; the benefits of Required Navigation Performance in Alaska versus the lower 48 states; Optimization of the Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (see May 19, 2011, issue of *The Inspector*); Collaborative Air Traffic Management, which draws the entire system together to provide an improved end-to-end traffic flow management; and many other aviation topics. It was also an excellent opportunity to network with industry representatives.

— James Ovelmen, Claudia Estrada, and Coletta Treakle, JA-10

OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA MUST IMPROVE ITS ANALYSIS OF SAFETY DATA

AINonline, April 30, 2012

Two federal watchdogs told a congressional panel on April 25 that the FAA has improved its ability to collect aviation safety data, but lacks the analysis needed to enhance the safety of air traffic operations.

"The FAA is taking important steps to improve safety, such as implementing voluntary safety reporting for controllers, but the agency has not yet realized the

full benefits of these efforts," said Jeffrey Guzzetti, assistant DOT inspector general for aviation, in his testimony before the House of Representatives Aviation Subcommittee.

The FAA needs to ensure that the data are accurate, comprehensive and effectively analyzed, said Guzzetti, so that it can better identify baselines and safety trends. He said the FAA must also strengthen and make better use of its risk-based approach for oversight, to ensure that its limited inspector workforce is deployed where it is most needed.

Dr. Gerald Dillingham, director of physical infrastructure issues for the Government Accountability Office (GAO), told the subcommittee that the FAA does not have a process to track or assess runway excursions.

The GAO previously had recommended that the FAA develop and implement plans to track and assess runway excursions, which it said can be as dangerous as runway incursions. But the GAO said it will be several years before the FAA has obtained enough detailed information about these incidents to assess risks.

OIG IN THE NEWS

REP. FRANK WOLF WANTS AN INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Washington Post, April 30, 2012

Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va) introduced legislation Monday to create a permanent inspector general for the Washington region's airports authority, which is charged with overseeing the nearly \$6 billion construction of Metro's new Silver Line.

The move comes as watchdogs and politicians have expressed increasing concern about the oversight, operation and management of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).

The Transportation Department's Inspector General has an audit under way of MWAA and is expected to release its initial findings May 15. The inspector general is looking into the contracting, governance and transparency practices of MWAA, according to Wolf's office.

The new inspector general position Wolf wants to create would be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation, according to a news release from Wolf's office.

Virginia politicians pushed for a bill that added two new members to the MWAA board, but only one of those members has officially been accepted to serve. The legislation would also give Maryland the District additional seats, but those positions have yet to be filled.

MWAA said it is waiting for the District to approve what it says is necessary legislation before it acts on adding new members. Several members of the board are serving beyond their terms, a concern Wolf and others have raised.

WOLF WANTS GREATER SCRUTINY OF AIRPORTS BOARD

Washington Examiner, April 30, 2012

MWAA spent the past year under fire from Virginia lawmakers and Northern Virginia officials over its handling of the \$6 billion Dulles Metro Rail project, and a Virginia congressman is now pushing to subject the embattled authority to even greater scrutiny.

Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., introduced legislation that would create an inspector general position within the airports authority to monitor what he said were "increasing concerns" about the board's activities.

The new internal watchdog would help ensure that the board overseeing the Dulles Rail project is operating in an efficient and transparent fashion, he said.

Wolf, one of the authority's most vocal critics, pushed the authority to appoint an independent auditor to review its operations. When the authority refused, Wolf asked the U.S. Department of Transportation to investigate the authority's activities instead.

The Transportation Department is expected to release its findings in coming weeks, and Wolf said in a statement Monday that he believes that report will support his call for the creation of an inspector general within the authority.

The inspector general position created by Wolf's bill would be appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, but MWAA would have to fund the position.

The authority said in a statement to The Washington Examiner that it is "reviewing the bill" and is "anxious" to discuss the matter with Wolf.

WOLF WANTS PERMANENT INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Fairfax News, April 30, 2012

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th) today announced he has introduced legislation to create a permanent inspector general for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).

Wolf said he introduced the bill (H.R. 5322) in anticipation of the May 15 release of an interim report on the contracting, governance and transparency practices of MWAA now being conducted by the inspector general at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Wolf requested the review in February 2011 after MWAA rejected his December 2010 request to hire outside auditors. He believes the interim report will show the need for a permanent inspector general.

Wolf said he has grown increasingly concerned by some of the board's recent actions, citing the fierce battle over the location of the Metro station at the airport, which would have added significant cost to the project, the ongoing fight over a labor preference for Phase II and members continuing to serve after their terms have expired.

Wolf's bill amends the Inspector General Act of 1978 by creating a special post with the sole duty of providing long-term oversight of MWAA.

Wolf has repeatedly stated that the Dulles rail project is the most important transportation project in the Commonwealth and must be completed on time and at, or under budget.

"The continued growth of the Dulles corridor demands that this project be successful," Wolf said

LAST PAGE

PERIGEE “SUPER MOON” RISES OVER OIG REGIONS MAY 5, 2012



Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

GUZZETTI TESTIFIES!

Last Wednesday, Jeff Guzzetti, AIG for Aviation and Special Programs, testified before the House Aviation Subcommittee on the first of two panels.

Along with Jeff on the first panel were Margaret Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, FAA; David Grizzle, Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization, FAA; and Gerald L Dillingham, Director, Physical Infrastructure Division, GAO. The second panel included representatives from Airlines for America, the Regional Airlines Association, the Airline Pilots Association, and the Aeronautical Repair Stations Association.

Jeff focused on FAA's need to improve its data on and analysis of operational errors and runway incursions to identify safety trends. Jeff also noted that FAA must strengthen and better use its risk-based approach for oversight. Jeff wrapped up his short statement with a brief discussion of FAA's progress in implementing mandated safety requirements.

About 15 minutes into the hearing, Congressman Mica, the Chairman of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, made a surprise appearance and spoke for about 7 minutes about the need to keep NextGen on track. He cited our audit work from previous testimonies regarding the delays and cost overruns of the En Route Automation Modernization program.

During questioning, Congressman Capuano asked the witnesses a simple question: "Is it safe to fly?"—to which all witnesses answered "yes." FAA's Gilligan responded that she wished people could fly to the grocery store because flying is so much safer than other modes of transportation. Capuano quipped, "I could carry more groceries, too." Jeff pointed out that as a pilot, he flies airplanes and takes his family on airplanes. However, he also noted, "There is always room for improvement," and referenced OIG's past and ongoing audit work highlighted in the written statement.



Congresswoman Rogers asked what FAA should focus on the most to improve safety. Jeff reiterated the three primary messages in his testimony: better air traffic error data, improved inspector oversight, and continued progress with airline safety initiatives.

Jeff fielded several questions regarding the accuracy and meaning of current FAA data regarding operational errors. He clearly articulated that FAA could not support the claim that voluntary reporting was the primary reason for the significant increase in the reported numbers of controller errors. He also indicated that once FAA implements automated tracking systems in all of FAA's air traffic terminal facilities, the number of identified operational errors will be expected to rise considerably.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 4/30	TUE 5/1	WED 5/2	THU 5/3	FRI 5/4

NOTEWORTHY

OIG'S DIG AND AIG-LLEA DISCUSS NAVIGATING THE OIG HIERARCHY

On April 16, Ann and Brian Dettelbach discussed “navigating the OIG hierarchy” with staff. Whether you are new to the organization or have been with OIG for 25 years, learning how to navigate OIG’s hierarchy is something we should all know or take the time to learn.

Ann noted that navigating through the organization’s key components and decision makers is mission critical. There are many different components to the agency—from JA to JI to J2 and beyond—and it is important to learn the organizational framework and how each unit affects each of us. Ann introduced Brian as someone uniquely qualified to discuss the topic, as he has 14 years of experience at OIG, and his office must work well with numerous internal and external stakeholders.

Brian began by describing the challenges of establishing OIG’s

Office of Legal, Legislative, and External Affairs. While he had years of public affairs experience within different congressional offices, Brian found that he had to learn “OIG language” while providing a legal and congressional perspective for his new colleagues. Over time, his expertise and mastery of building relationships has yielded dividends for both OIG and Congress.

The external stakeholders Brian’s office matrixes with range from OMB and the Department of Justice to the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. Understanding the needs of our external customers is vital. For example, a congressional appropriations committee will likely only require high-level DOT information from OIG, while authorizers may be interested in detailed program information.

Discussing lessons learned in this process, Brian emphasized build-

ing internal relationships, such as those with other Assistant Inspectors General and the importance of gathering and sharing best practices from investigators and auditors and analysts. Brian observed that OIG had been somewhat more hierarchical in the past and praised the shift in culture for its positive impact on improved internal communications, highlighting the importance of one-on-one meetings.

Building successful professional relationships both inside and outside OIG was a theme throughout Brian’s comments, although not without challenges. Further, the potential complexity of keeping Congress informed was underscored during a group discussion on the recent GSA controversy. As Ann noted, striking a balance between providing timely information to Congress, while not compromising the sensitivity of an in-

(Continued on page 3)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 2)

vestigation requires a balanced approach.

Ann also provided nine leadership points to help guide OIG staff when navigating the hierarchy,

several of which reinforced Brian's earlier comments:

1 Put people first before systems and processes

Get to know the people who work for you and understand what motivates them. Provide coaching and mentoring for them.

contact points and consider how you can best work with them.

Consider the awards process at OIG. What is being rewarded? We focus on areas like the team awards and leadership to help convey messages—people at all levels can be leaders.

2 Establish ground rules, expectations and reporting schedules

Providing the goals and how to meet them can help deal with conflicts before they arise. Monitor the people who work for you and build trust between you and those who you work with.

5 Discover who the gatekeepers and key decisionmakers are

This is very important, as it can help drive forward ideas.

6 Speak the language of the organization

Speaking the organization's language helps you to be understood. For OIG, this would include elements such as the IG Act, the Yellow Book (GAGAS), false claims, and FOIA.

8 Talk to people

Having real conversations with people is important; it demonstrates someone's value both to you and the organization.

9 Build a community not just an organization

An organization consists of “transactions, results and outputs”, while a community cares for and nurtures its people. We express this at OIG with our vision of “mission first, people always” – if you invest in the people, the mission takes care of itself.

3 Get to know the heads of the departments you work with

Revisit the organizational chart to understand the components you'll be working with. Get to know the

7 Participate in rites, traditions and rituals of the organization

Ann concluded the discussion reiterating the OIG cornerstone of providing the proper “Tools, Time, and Training.” She reaffirmed that

if we ensure that these three elements are in place, the organization is equipped to ensure the mission and spirit can be fulfilled.

— Luke Brennan, JA-40; Deanne Titus, JA-50

NOTEWORTHY

NEW RECRUITS MEET THE OIG CHALLENGE

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Jody Young grills (b)(6) during the morning's interview process

Last Thursday, the children of OIG staff were given a variety of opportunities to help their parents combat fraud, waste, and abuse at this year's Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

To get the day started, they first needed to interview for a variety of careers with OIG. With professional resumes in hand, OIG's future "best and brightest" managed to ace the intense interview questions that HR Specialist, Jody Young, threw their way. A few walked away with six-figure job offers that would make any parent proud.

Their amazing skills prompted the HR Director and QAR to initiate an internal review to determine how elementary school children managed to qualify for auditor posi-

tions without having the required 24 semester hours in accounting.

After a brief orientation, the new recruits were placed in positions in the "Mock Complaint Center" and began fielding complaints from citizens on an array of issues. The phones rang off the hook. Ironically, the first complaints received were against the very supervisors who manage these new recruits for failing to follow procedures set forth by HR. The recruits found themselves in an awkward position having to determine whether any violations had actually occurred within their work unit and whether

they should investigate the investigators. They quickly picked through the complaints and determined which ones had merit and should be referred for action.

The recruits had worked up quite an appetite before joining the DIG and DAIGM for a pizza lunch.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) fields complaint center calls like a pro [Continued on page 5]

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

Bob Westbrooks demonstrates how to handcuff JI-3's Ron Engler (charged with excessive editing) with assistance from (b)(6)

(Continued from page 4)

After lunch, the group joined forces in the media center to help Inspector Gadget (aka Ricky Bostian, who is actually a superhero...but don't tell anyone) teach other children about how OIG helps keep the public safe.

As if that wasn't enough for these go-getters, they took on the IT Help Desk and mastered the use of the video-teleconferencing

equipment. This endeavor was so successful that many of the parents offered William Bellamy a sitting gig. Unfortunately, none of these kids will be on hand to help us when we need them to set up the VTC equipment. I suppose we'll all have to wait for the CIO to release the new VTC instructions.

All-in-all the event was a success, but we should really try to do a better job of retaining our val-

able human resources instead of training them and letting them walk right out the door!

In all seriousness, thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this event—the kids had a blast!

— Francine Benko, HR Director

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (aka Inspector Gadget) briefs new recruits under bright florescent lights

(b)(6) with JM-40's William Bellamy presenting the latest teleconference devices

OIG IN THE NEWS

GUAM HIGHWAY PROJECT CONTRACTOR INDICTED FOR FRAUD

Marianas Variety

April 26, 2012

Hubtec International Corp. and its president and project manager Young C. Kim...were indicted in the District Court of Guam yesterday on four counts of wire fraud, seven counts of making false statements in connection with highway projects, and one count of major fraud against the United States.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Hubtec in Jan. 2010 received a contract from the Department of Public Works for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Route 2 culverts, including the Umatac Baseball Field culvert, and Cetti

Bay Slide Repair project in the amount of \$1,835,040.

The contract was approved by the U.S. secretary of transportation and received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The contractor had to comply with the "Buy America" requirement.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Hubtec and Kim "devised and participated in a scheme to defraud DPW and [the Federal Highway Administration] by falsely representing that they used U.S.-made reinforcement steel bars for the project, when in fact, the defendants well knew they incorporated Korean-made reinforcement steel bars in the project which were not in compli-

ance with applicable Buy America requirements."

The indictment stated that Hubtec and Kim also committed fraud in connection with the project through a fraudulent billing scheme, which falsely over-reported the costs of materials.

"The indictment...reflects the strong commitment of the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation and its Office of Inspector General to ensure that ARRA funds are properly awarded and expended in accordance with federal law and regulations," the U.S. Attorney's Office said

SAFETY HEARING FOCUSES ON REPAIR STATION OVERSIGHT CONCERN

Aviation Week

April 26, 2012

The FAA must improve its risk-based oversight program for repair stations and manufacturers, said Jeffrey Guzzetti, assistant inspector general for aviation and special programs audit, Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Guzzetti testified to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee that the FAA adopted a new oversight system for repair stations in 2007, focusing surveillance on facilities with the greatest safety risks. However, he says that the FAA has to strengthen and more effectively use its risk-based approach for oversight at repair stations to ensure that it is appropriately distributing inspectors at the repair stations with the highest safety risks.

"Our ongoing review indicates that the system is not applied consistently; some inspectors do not use the risk assessment process at all, while others use it to

varying degrees," he testified. "[T]he system lacks historical data, hindering inspectors' ability to conduct comprehensive trend analyses and prioritize their inspections to repair stations with the greatest risk."

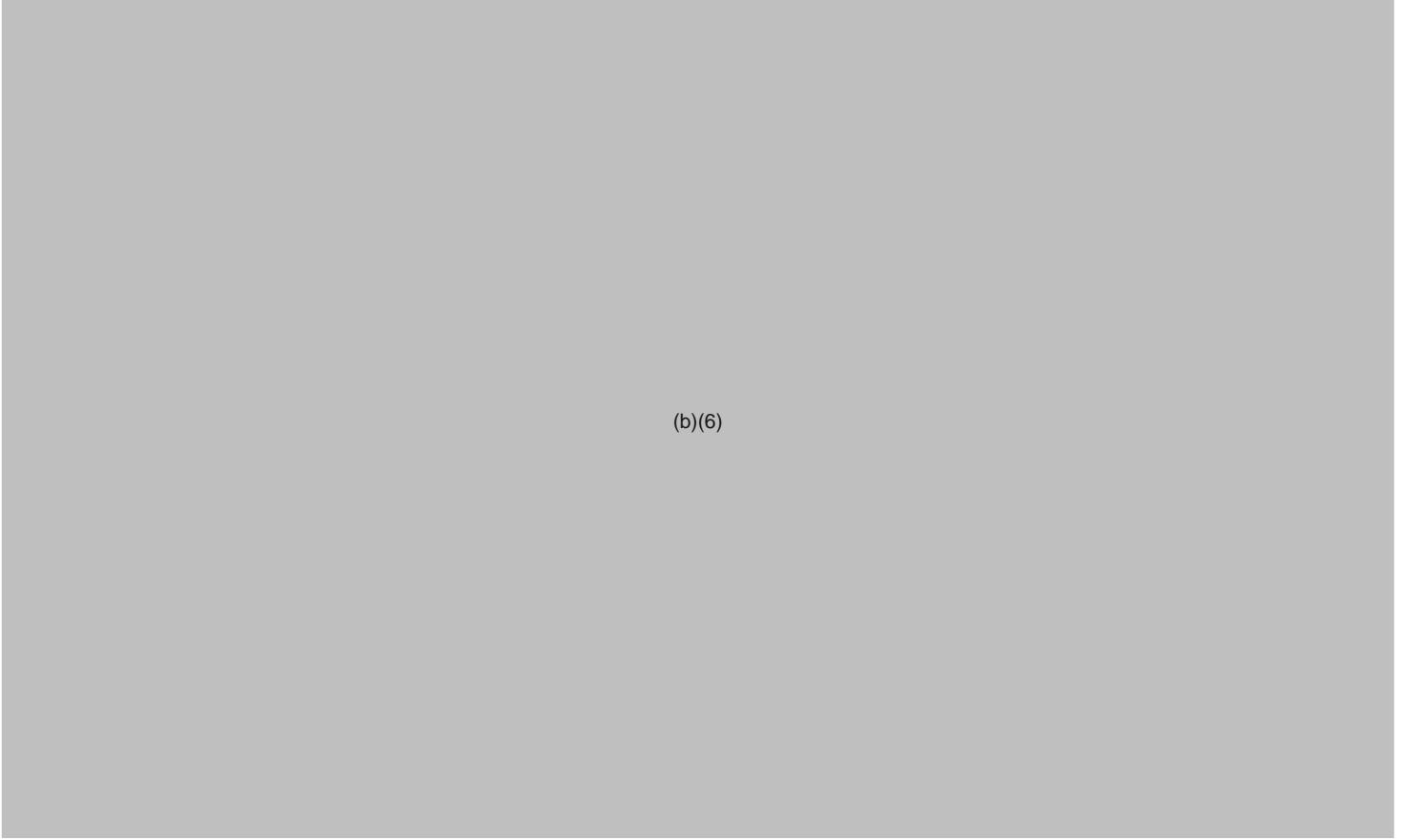
Guzzetti adds that FAA's surveillance at [repair stations] needs to be more rigorous. "Problems we identified during our 2003 review are still occurring," he said in the testimony. "For example, we found systemic problems persist at repair stations in areas such as inadequacies in mechanic training, outdated tool calibration checks, and inaccurate work order documentation. FAA guidance requires inspectors to review these specific areas during repair station inspections, but at the repair stations we visited, they had overlooked these types of deficiencies."

Guzzetti says that the office of inspector general for the Department of Transportation will issue a new report on the FAA's risk-based system this summer.

Also at the hearing, Gary Fortner, vice president of quality control for Fortner Engineering and senior vice president of the Aeronautical Repair Station Association's board of directors, testified that the inability for the FAA to issue new foreign repair station certificates will hurt aviation maintenance businesses in the U.S.

The issue of new foreign repair stations not being able to work on U.S. aircraft stems from the Transportation Security Administration's delays in issuing repair station security rules, which then led to a congressional mandate for them to complete the rules by 2008. When that did not happen, Congress barred FAA from issuing new foreign repair station certificates.

Rep. Chip Cravaack (R-Minn.), vice chair of the aviation subcommittee and former Northwest Airlines pilot, says he is cautious about the maintenance done at foreign repair stations

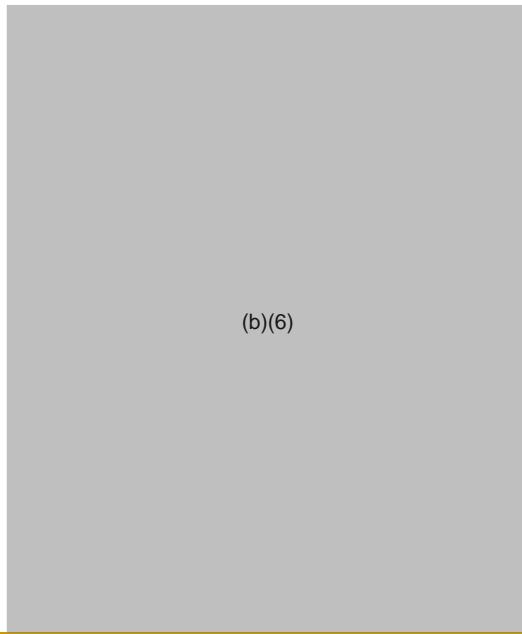


(b)(6)

END SHOT



(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to newsletter@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



(b)(6), (b)(7)c

OIG AT THE FOREFRONT OF PROCUREMENT CONFERENCES

JA-60 planned and participated in two separate federal procurement conferences last week: The *Federal Audit Executive Council (FAEC) Annual Procurement Conference* and *DOT's 1st Annual Spring Acquisition Conference*. These were truly standing room only events.

As co-chairman of the FAEC Contracting Committee, Terry Letko organized FAEC's Annual Procurement Conference for the 2nd year in a row. The April 17 conference included an agenda of highly-regarded speakers covering various procurement topics. including Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator for OFPP; Andrew McMahon, OMB; and, Steven Learned, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and current Investigative Counsel for the Federal Housing and Finance Agency OIG. Learned delivered an interesting presentation on *How to Build a Criminal Case*, which included the message: *You Succeed if You Have Been Lied To, Even If You Cannot Prove At the Time That You Have Been Lied To*. His point was that in order for OIG auditors to improve their methodology so fraud cases can more readily be proved, auditors have to ask questions that ultimately force the bad guy to lie to the auditor about an important matter.

The FAEC agenda also included a number of our OIG procurement and procurement fraud experts. including, Terry Letko, Tony Wysocki, (b)(6), and Ann Wright. JA-60 led the organization of the conference and dedicated staff to ensure the conference went off without a hitch. Katy Novicky, Meghann Noon, Troyling Harris, Angela Hailes, Meredith Howell, and Jill Cottonaro were responsible for managing and preparing registrations, credit hour certificates, conference information packets, presenter's bios and PowerPoint slides. Angela and Jill proudly emceed the event. Overall, the conference was a huge success with attendance over capacity and representing 40 Fed-



(Continued on page 3)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 4/23	TUE 4/24	WED 4/25	THU 4/26	FRI 4/27
		Jeff Guzzetti testifies on aviation safety before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee		

NOTEWORTHY

FOIA WORK GROUP KICKS OFF

On April 11, members of the OIG FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) team met with a few other volunteers from SBA, DHS, NLRB, and the Smithsonian to form the OIG FOIA Working Group Committee. At the kick-off meeting, members discussed the goals of the Committee and elected

DOT OIG's own, Barbara Hines, as the Committee Chairperson.

The committee will meet periodically to schedule, and organize the all-OIG FOIA discussion meetings, which Barbara reinstated from Amy Berks' earlier session.

In addition to scheduling the next all-OIG FOIA discussion, the Committee compiled a list of possible discussion topics to raise at the first meeting.

We are looking forward to our next meeting on June 5, 2012.

— Angel Simmons, J-3

GAO'S CHUCK YOUNG SPEAKS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

At last Wednesday's COP, Chuck Young, GAO's Managing Director, Office of Public Affairs, discussed how GAO uses Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, and Twitter to reach certain audiences. Young began his talk with this compelling marketing video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA5Fn_Q10Tk&feature=related.

Young pointed out that the Internet is quickly rivaling local and network television as the primary source of America's news. Users of Facebook, the world's largest social network, have increased from a mere handful in early 2007

to over 800 million by early 2012. When compared to the adoption of other new media, the pace of social media use has been rapid.

- Radio: 38 years to reach 50 million listeners
- Television: 13 years to reach 50 million
- Internet: 4 years to reach 50 million
- Facebook: 9 months to reach 100 million
- iPhone app downloads: 9 months to reach 1 billion

Young noted that GAO is not seeking to increase its social media

user numbers, rather it wants to make sure that the public can access GAO information through all available venues.

Young emphasized that a key objective was not to burden auditors with additional tasks to make the social media work. However, he has found that many staff, especially younger staff, have been eager to volunteer to help his office implement and make the most of social media.

For more on Young's talk, click [here](#).

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

eral agencies, including the Army OIG, the U.S. House of Representatives OIG, and the Department of Labor. Not only did this conference provide a vast amount of knowledge to enhance all attendees' daily work in acquisitions, but it also established the DOT OIG as an important player in the field of acquisition and procurement fraud.

DOT's 1st Annual *Spring Acquisition Conference* was held the next day, April 18, at DOT Headquarters. This event was hosted by DOT's Office of the Senior Procurement Executive. JA-60, JI, and JA-2 participated in an OIG break-out panel entitled "Smarter Contracting Saves Taxpayer Dollars." The OIG panel included Mary Kay Langan-Feirson, Terry Letko, Tony Wysocki, Ann Wright, Dory Dillard-Christian, Bob Westbrooks, and Petra Swartzlander. Mary Kay moderated the panel—the JA-60 panelists discussed the mission



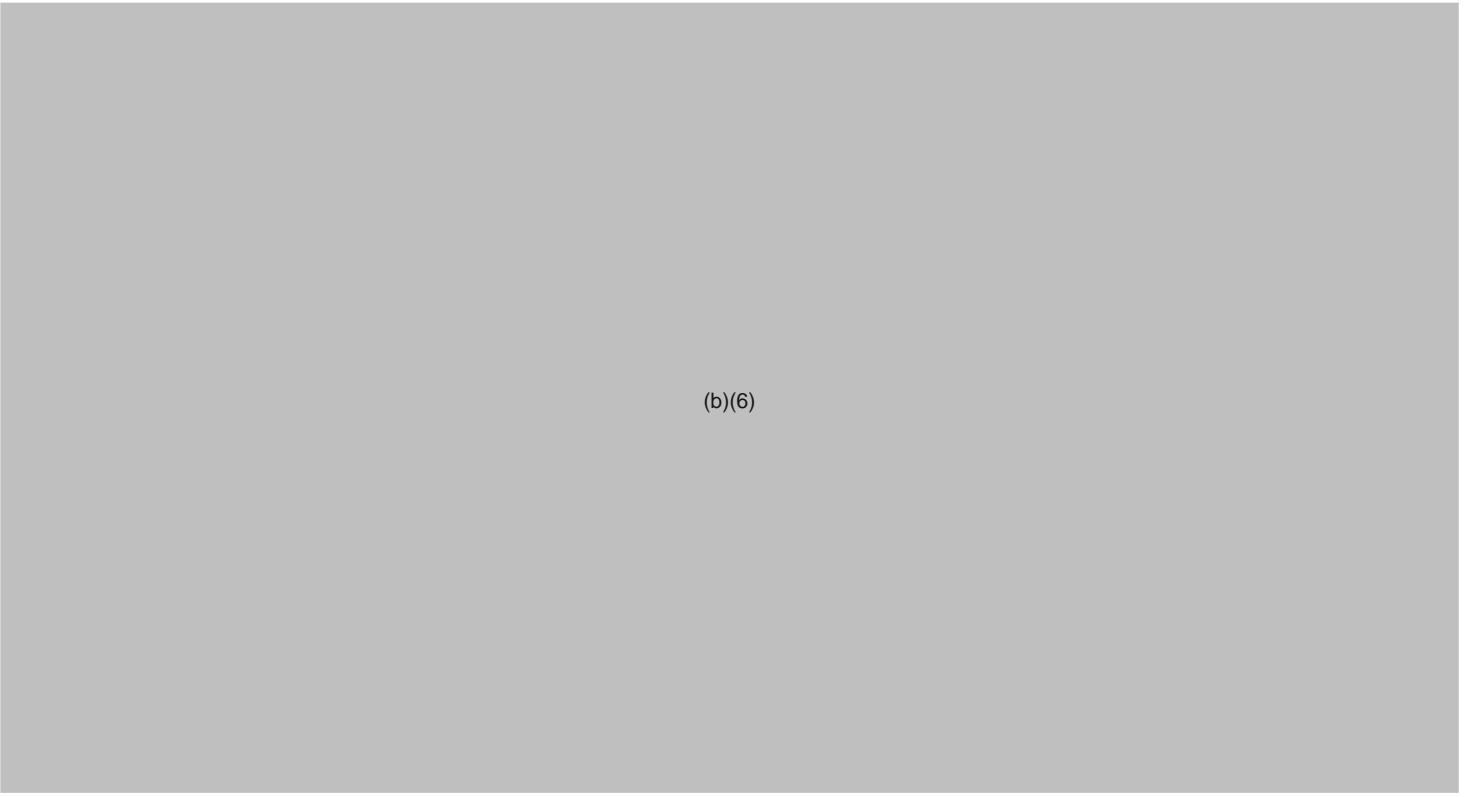
and role of JA-60 in OIG, how its work impacts DOT acquisition professionals, our recent accomplishments, current reviews, and recent audit findings and the success stories that resulted from these audits. Bob Westbrooks highlighted the ongoing work of his procurement and DBE fraud teams, fraud prevention, and grant/procurement fraud schemes. Petra Swartzlander highlighted the important work of OIG statisticians in ensuring that our reviews are methodologically sound and meet professional standards.

As participants, we can attest that the OIG panel session was the most popular at the DOT Conference, with people actually sitting and standing in the hallway to hear to hear what OIG had to say. "When the JA-60 panel presented its audit findings, I heard gasps and groans from the audience," Jill noted.

The attendance and genuine interest in hearing what OIG has to say and what we represent is a true testament to the importance and impact that our work has on the Department.

— Jill Cottonaro, Terry Letko, Tony Wysocki, JA-60

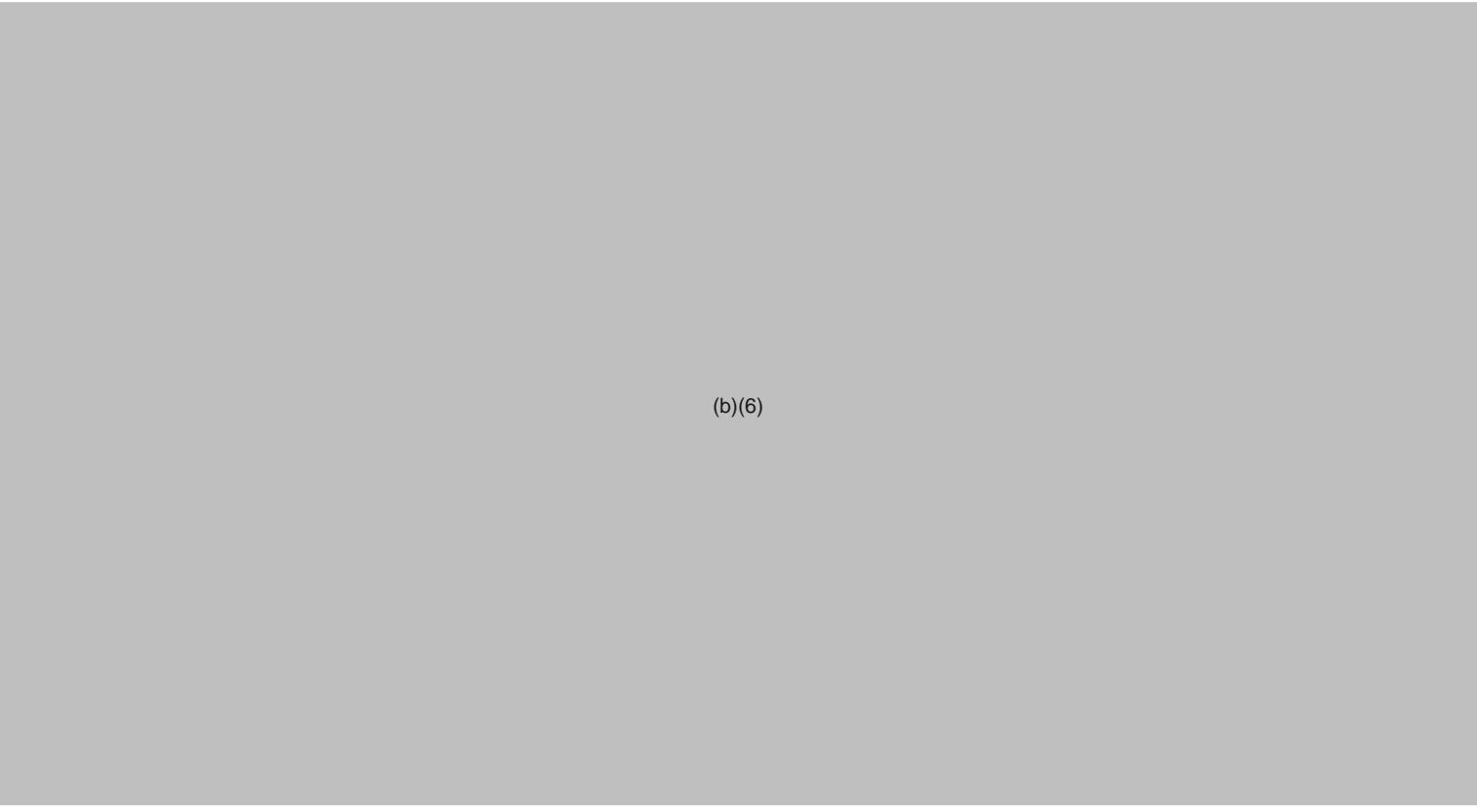
(b)(6)



(b)(6)

A plethora of speakers at conferences keep attendees engaged

FIRST WAVE OF J-3 INTERNS ARRIVE AT OIG



(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

OIG IN THE NEWS

IG AUDIT: FAA OVERESTIMATED NEXTGEN TASK ORDERS BY \$2B

ExecutiveGov.com

April 16, 2012

A recent audit suggests the Federal Aviation Administration overestimated the value of task orders on the NextGen project by almost \$2 billion.

The Transportation Department's inspector general issued the audit March 28 and listed problems with the awards, starting with the contract's nearly \$7.3 billion ceiling value.

According to the audit, the FAA miscalculated the ceiling value and said the task orders on the contract add up to no more than \$5.1 billion.

The overestimate incorrectly resulted in an increase of the fixed fee calculation, according to the audit.

FAA may pay contractors more in fixed fees than the agency should be paying and will have to account for the overpayments at the end of the contracts, auditors wrote.

FAA officials responding to the audit saying they overestimated the cost to give them flexibility in distributing hours among contracts.

Auditors said the FAA already had that flexibility without the inflation.

The audit also points to a lack of performance-based acquisition and a narrow approach on past performance evaluations, the audit said.

FAA'S MANAGE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING 2020 CON- TRACTING PRACTICES IN- SUFFICIENT

Aviation Online Magazine

April 16, 2012

The Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General released its final report on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Systems Engineering 2020 (SE-2020) contracts.

The FAA awarded seven SE-2020 base contracts between April and October 2010, which have a cumulative maximum value of \$7.3 billion the largest award in FAA's history.

OIG found that unclear FAA Acquisition Management System requirements resulted in unreliable cost baselines and overstated contract values, which impedes FAA's ability to manage total contract costs.

Weaknesses in its monitoring tools and critical acquisition data errors further impede the FAA's ability to ensure it does not overpay for professional and technical services. For example, the FAA predicted that one of its SE-2020 task orders will experience an overrun of more than \$55 million, but our calculations showed the task order is actually projected to be under budget by about \$10 million.

In addition, the FAA's practices to select contractors and oversee their performance are not sufficient.

EX-FAA EMPLOYEE GETS 1 YEAR IN PRISON FOR ILLE- GALLY ACCEPTING TIPS FOR HIS WORK

The Washington Post

April 18, 2012

A former Federal Aviation Administration employee has been sentenced to one year and one day in federal prison for illegally accepting tips from pilots to whom he granted licenses.

Authorities say 64-year-old Harrington Bishop, of Pemberton, was not authorized to give the flight tests or grant licenses during his nonworking hours.

Bishop is a 20-year Air Force veteran who said he was trying to help other military pilots as they sought commercial pilot credentials.

At his sentencing in Camden on Wednesday, Bishop said he knew it was wrong to accept the \$300 tips. He did it more than 100 times between 2004 and last year.

A federal prosecutor says there's no evidence that he granted an improper license to a pilot who could not have received one legitimately.

PEOPLE WE KNOW

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MEN

(b)(6)

Not even a full year after the high-profile Skanska case, JRI-2 Senior Special Agent Robert Stanek has brought about another successful, seven-digit settlement with a construction company regarding fraud on a DOT contract. The result of the settlement is the

contractor returning 6 million ill-gotten dollars to FTA's coffers.

The wrongdoing in this case is Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) fraud, in which the prime contractors, Judlau Contracting, Inc. and Dragados USA, Inc., paid

DBEs to act as subcontractors on a major public works project, though the work was actually performed by non-DBE subcontractors. The project in question is the East Side Access Project, which involves the construction of a tun-

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 4/16	TUE 4/17	WED 4/18	THU 4/19	FRI 4/20
	Federal Audit Executive Procurement Conference (8:30 a.m.) CAL— Senior Leaders Meeting	COP: Social Media, 1:30, HQ Media Center ANN—Leadership Development Exchange (12:00 p.m.)		

NOTEWORTHY

GAO'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER SPEAKS AT COP THIS WEDNESDAY

Please join us in the Media Center this Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 to welcome Chuck Young, GAO's Managing Director of Public Affairs, will discuss "Social Media and Accountability."

As GAO's spokesperson and top communications advisor to the Comptroller General, Young is the primary point of contact for national print and broadcast journalists covering GAO reports and testimonies, oversees development of the agency's internet presence, and spearheads all major communications initiatives.

Prior to GAO, Young spent nearly 5 years in the private sector with the Brunswick Group and Chlopak, Leonard, Schechter, and Associates. Prior to that he spent 8 years on Capitol Hill, as Chief of Staff for two members of Congress, where he directed all aspects of their offices from communications to strategic planning. Chuck also spent a decade as a reporter or editor for print, television, and radio news organizations. He also ran his own public relations consulting business in New Jersey and taught college journalism courses in Boston. Young holds a Master's in Mass Communications and a BA in Political Science.

(Continued from page 1)

nel connecting the Long Island Railroad to Grand Central Station.

On April 4, 2012, Judlau Contracting, Inc., Dragados USA, Inc., and the Dragados/Judlau Joint Venture, New York based construction companies, signed a civil settlement agreement in the U.S. Southern District Court, NY, in which Judlau/Dragados agreed to pay a

\$7.5 million civil settlement. As part of the settlement, approximately \$6 million will be returned to FTA.

The settlement is a result of three years of hard work from (b)(6), (b)(7)c and his colleagues in JRI-2's New York office (b)(6) and SAC Doug Shoemaker, who have established themselves as the go-to team for settling complex DBE

cases. They also cooperated with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the Inspector General for the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority on the case.

— Dan Burd, JI-3

NOTEWORTHY

OIG JOINT INVESTIGATION ON FBI'S WEEKLY TOP 10 NEWS STORY LIST

Former President and Owner of Schuylkill Products Convicted in Largest Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Fraud in Nation's History

U.S. Attorney's Office

April 06, 2012

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced today that Joseph W. Nagle, of Deerfield Beach, Florida, was convicted after a four-week jury trial before Senior United States District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo in Harrisburg.

Late Thursday, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on 26 of 30 charges in the indictment including conspiracy to defraud the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and commit wire and mail fraud, 11 counts of wire fraud, six counts of mail fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and 11 counts of money laundering.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, this scheme, which lasted for over 15 years and involved over \$136 million in government contracts, is the largest reported Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) fraud in the nation's history.

According to United States Attorney Peter J. Smith, Mr. Nagle faces up to five years' imprisonment on the conspiracy count; up to 20 years' imprisonment on each of the wire and mail fraud counts; up to 10 years' imprisonment on the money laundering conspiracy and each of the money laundering counts of conviction; and \$250,000 in fines and mandatory restitution on each of the convictions. Nagle was acquitted on four counts of wire fraud. No date has been set for sentencing.

Mr. Nagle was president, chief executive officer and part-owner of Schuylkill Products Inc. (SPI) and its wholly-owned subsidiary CDS Engineers Inc. (CDS) until April 2009, when SPI was sold. SPI was based in Cressona, Pennsylvania and manufactured concrete bridge beams used on highway construction projects in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. CDS was SPI's erection division and installed SPI's bridge beams, as well as other suppliers' products, on highways in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Mr. Nagle was convicted of joining an on-going 15-year conspiracy to defraud USDOT, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) in connection with the federal government's DBE program when he became president in April 2004.

Middle District of Pennsylvania

(717) 221-4482

USDOT provides billions of dollars a year to states and municipalities for the construction and maintenance of highways and mass transit systems on the condition that small businesses, owned and operated by disadvantaged individuals, receive a fair share of these federal funds. In Pennsylvania, PennDOT and SEPTA receive these funds and they require contractors to award a percentage of their subcontracts to eligible DBEs.

Mr. Nagle was convicted of participating in the scheme, which ran from 1993 to 2008, where he and other executives at SPI diverted over 300 PennDOT and SEPTA construction contracts to SPI and CDS that were reserved for DBEs. Mr. Nagle and his co-conspirators executed the scheme by using a small Connecticut highway construction firm known as Marikina Construction Corporation as a front company to obtain these lucrative government contracts.

Marikina was owned by Romeo P. Cruz, of West Haven, Connecticut, a naturalized American citizen born in the Philippines. Marikina was certified by PennDOT and SEPTA as a DBE. Although Marikina received the DBE contracts on paper, all the work was performed by SPI and CDS personnel, and SPI and CDS received all the profits. In exchange for letting SPI and CDS use its name, Marikina was paid a small fixed-fee, set by SPI.

The scheme was carried out for over 15 years because of the numerous fraudulent steps the co-conspirators took to conceal the scheme. SPI and CDS personnel routinely pretended to be Marikina employees by using Marikina business cards, e-mail addresses, stationery, and signature stamps, as well as using magnetic placards and decals bearing the Marikina logo to cover up SPI and CDS logos on SPI and CDS vehicles.

Previously, four former executives associated with SPI, CDS, and Marikina entered guilty pleas for their roles in the scheme:

Romeo P. Cruz, the former owner of Marikina, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and tax fraud charges in 2008 and 2009. Ernest G. Fink, of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, SPI's former vice-president, chief operating officer, and owner, pleaded guilty to conspiracy in 2010. Timothy G. Hubler, of Ash-

land, Pennsylvania, CDS' former vice-president in charge of field operations, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and tax fraud charges in 2008. Dennis F. Campbell, of Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, SPI's former vice-president in charge of sales and marketing pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges in 2008. All four testified during the Nagle trial and await sentencing.

"Preventing and detecting DBE fraud are priorities for the Secretary of Transportation and the USDOT Office of Inspector General," said Doug Shoemaker, OIG Regional Special Agent in Charge. "This significant conviction, in what is the largest reported DBE fraud case in USDOT history, will serve as a clear signal that severe penalties await those who would attempt to subvert USDOT laws and regulations. Prime contractors and subcontractors are cautioned not to engage in fraudulent DBE activity and are encouraged to report any suspected DBE fraud to the USDOT-OIG. Our agents will continue to work with the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrators of the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations, and our law enforcement and prosecutorial colleagues to expose and shut down DBE fraud schemes throughout Pennsylvania and the United States."

"Schemes to defraud the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program cheat not only the government and taxpayers, but also cheat those small, minority-owned businesses that the program is intended to help," said Special Agent in Charge George C. Venizelos of the Philadelphia Division of the FBI. "This long-term joint investigation, culminating in the conviction announced here today, shows our determination to work together with our partners to safeguard the taxpayer dollars that support these important programs."

The investigation was conducted by the FBI, the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General's Office, the U.S. Department of Labor Inspector General's Office, and the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS. Senior Litigation Counsel Bruce Bandler and Assistant United States Attorney Kim Douglas Daniel handled the prosecution.

NOTEWORTHY

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE FOCUSES ON “SELF-AWARENESS AS A LEADER”

On Thursday, April 5, Ann's (b)(6) (b)(6) talked to OIG managers about self-awareness as a leader. (b)(6) is on the faculty of Georgetown University and is a former corporate executive, having worked for three of the Fortune 200 companies in a 20-year career before entering the consulting field.

In introducing (b)(6) Ann described how much she has gained from his expertise on leadership and its multi-dimensions. She noted that her 360 feedback results were the basis for forming their coaching relationship and corresponding development plan. “The importance of self-awareness to leadership effectiveness cannot be overstated.” Ann said she has learned that being able to admit that you don't have all the answers is key to self-awareness, and owning up to mistakes or missteps is not only the right thing to do but a good practice. Ann acknowledged that it's not easy to admit our weaknesses, but whether we admit them or not, everyone sees them, and hiding them could actually highlight them more. (b)(6) seconded Ann's comments, and commended her

for her willingness to reveal her vulnerabilities and learn from them.

(b)(6) explained that because we cannot divorce ourselves from our emotions, it is critical to know what effect we have on the people around us.

According to (b)(6) being self-

Opening oneself up is often counterintuitive because as leaders we often think we always need to know everything or run the risk of others questioning our abilities.

aware is key to reaching our full potential, and we have to use both our heads and our hearts to recognize the patterns in our behavior and make adjustments to those patterns as necessary.

Emotional patterns matter because, while we may like to believe that we're rational when we act, research shows that thoughts drive emotions, and emotions drive actions. Therefore, it is important to learn to monitor our

emotions because they influence what we do, and our actions are creating emotional reactions in others.

While constantly keeping track of our emotions might seem like a daunting task, (b)(6) said it is not as complex as one might initially think. Research has concluded that there are only four emotions: glad, sad, mad, and afraid. Although each emotion affects our decisionmaking, feeling fear—or the anticipation of loss—is when we are most vulnerable to making poor decisions. Because the portion of the brain that controls feelings of fear cannot tell the difference between a perceived threat and a real threat, we are at great risk of misjudging situations when we feel fear.

(b)(6) discussed two techniques to help us keep our fear in check when we're making decisions. The first is to let 17 minutes pass before acting or responding. Studies show that in about this amount of time, our brains return to normal. Any of us who have ever decided to disengage from an argument and “go take a walk” knows that this is good advice. The second

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NOTEWORTHY

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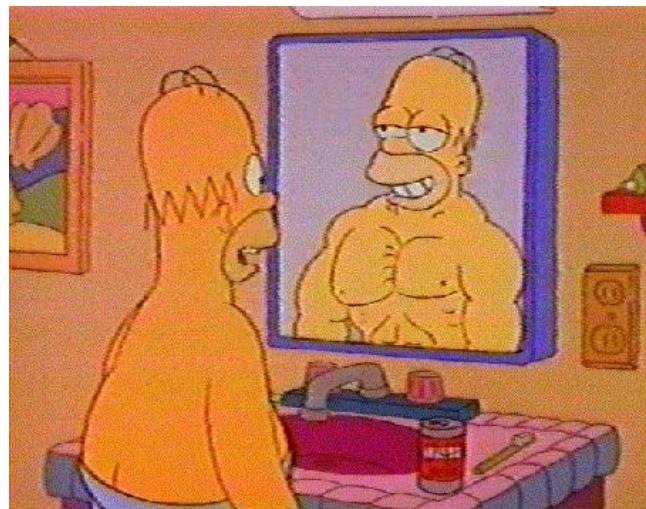
approach is more sophisticated and results from research done by neuroscientist David Rock <http://www.davidrock.net/books/index.shtml>. Rock has identified five situational characteristics that can be challenged by fear: Status, Certainty, Autonomy, Relatedness, and Fairness, or “SCARF” (http://www.your-brain-at-work.com/files/NLJ_SCARFUS.pdf).

- Status is about our relative importance to others.
- Certainty concerns being able to predict the future.
- Autonomy provides a sense of control over events.
- Relatedness is a sense of safety with others—of friend rather than foe.
- Fairness is a perception of fair exchanges between people.

Understanding the SCARF model and recognizing that losses—perceived or real—in these five areas can hijack our rational brain,

can greatly help us anticipate or diagnose the reactions of others as well as our own reactions.

Ann’s willingness to bring the sensitive topic of emotions in the



workplace to the floor for discussion appeared to strike a definite chord in the audience. In Seattle—where I watched and listened with Darren Murphy, Michelle Ward-McGee, and Jerry Savage—we found ourselves discussing the benefits of increasing our self-awareness even before the session ended.

Amanda Seese reported, “I learned so much and felt as if I walked away with many new tools to boost my own self-awareness.

The entire session was fascinating. It makes young and new leaders like me appreciate and recognize that we will always have work we can do, regardless of how many years we spend in management.”

(b)(6) encouraged us to learn to recognize when emotions arise, understand where they come from, and become comfortable in dealing with them. By doing so, we will increase our self-awareness and receive the dividends of improving the effects we have on the people around us.

— Chuck Ward, JA-10, Seattle,
Amanda Seese, JA-50

Note: Ann will not be holding a leadership brown bag in May because we will be having our first FLASH Mentoring—SES Panel Event. Stay tuned.

NOTEWORTHY

OIG VIPS TOUR ATCSCC

Last month, OIG initiated a review of the security and controls over FAA's Air Traffic Control Systems Command Center (ATCSCC). On April 11, Cal, Ann, Lou, Seth Kaufman (J-3), and Joann Adam, Lissette Mercado, Tracy Colligan, Nilesh Patel, and Felicia Moore (JA-20) traveled to Warrenton, VA, for a VIP tour of the Center. OST's Martin Gertel, Audit Liaison, and Maria Lefevre, Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary, were also on the tour.

ATCSCC manages and monitors the Nation's air traffic—which reaches from 6,000 to 7,000 aircraft operating during peak periods—to produce a safe and orderly flow while minimizing delays, which could result in a \$28.9 billion loss.

Nancy Kalinowski, ATCSCC VP System Operations, and Ellen King, Director, System Operations, welcomed us to the tour, which began with an ATCSCC overview including the Air Traffic Flow Management (TFM) tools used by ATCSCC. ATCSCC's goal is to balance demand and capacity by applying the right amount of control. ATCSCC coordinates and implements all national Traffic Manage-



ment initiatives and is the focal point for stakeholder coordination. Its critical mission—*Moving America Safely and Efficiently*—includes a number of services, such as:

- ***Collaborative Planning:*** Starting at 0715, ATCSCC holds a teleconference every 2 hours to develop, communicate, and coordinate the operational plan for the next 6 hours. During the teleconference, routes in place, enroute and terminal constraints, and customer concerns are discussed.
- ***Event Management Center:*** Coordinates response to natural disasters, commercial space launch and recovery, verified terrorist threat, or other major impact to the NAS, airlift assistance, and disaster relief.

- ***National Operations Control Center:*** Monitors operational status of NAS facilities and services nationwide; receives, processes, and disseminates data concerning facility/service outages or interruption; and is responsible for system components such as radar.

After the overview, we toured the facility and were able to observe the different screens that display data used to manage NAS.

This information assists ATCSCC operators in making critical decisions involving weather events, runway configurations, airspace congestion, and other issues affecting air travel.

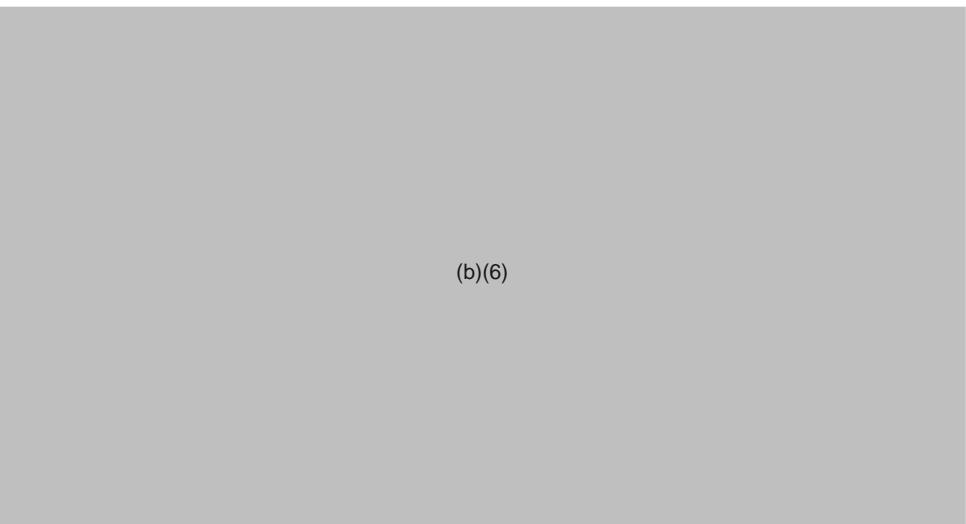
This event was hosted by Steve McMahon, ATCSCC Manager, CDM and International Operations.

— ATCSCC Audit Team

TRANSPORTATION WHO?

I recently participated in the first [Transportation YOU](#) DC Summit, which brought 17 young women and their mentors together in the capital. Transportation YOU—a partnership between USDOT and Women's Transportation Seminar—is a mentoring program that introduces girls ages 13 to 18 to transportation careers and encourages them to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

[Secretary LaHood](#), a leading force in establishing the program, kicked off the first day. He encouraged mentees to get involved in transportation and said the field offers meaningful careers where you can make a difference. When asked for his best piece of advice for the young women as they begin their careers, the Secretary responded--



(b)(6)

WORK HARD, get a good education, and every job is meaningful, so treat all jobs with dedication and respect.

Over the 4 days, there were a variety of workshops, speakers, and tours, including visiting FAA's Potomac Consolidated TRACON and Command Center and NTSB. At NTSB, an investigator gave a presentation on TWA flight 800, which exploded and crashed in the ocean 12 minutes after taking off from JFK in 1996. After the presenta-

tion, we saw the [reconstruction](#) of the center of the plane from salvaged pieces. It was difficult seeing all the seats.

An "engineering challenge," led by accessibility experts, explored several routes around DOT with GIS devices and identified accessibility challenges, such as uneven terrain; the lack of handrails on DOT's ramp; and Metro's broken elevators, which causes people with mobility challenges to lose access to about 15 percent of all stations (accounting for missed connections at transfer stations).

It was an action-packed, inspiring summit, and I think I learned more than the mentees!

—Emily Norton, JA-40

P.S. A recurring theme heard from all DOT senior executives and NTSB was to avoid distracted driving. April is [distracted driving awareness month](#).

(b)(6)

OIG IN THE NEWS

FLA. MAN CONVICTED IN PA. CONSTRUCTION SCHEME

LegalNewline.com

April 9, 2012

Joseph W. Nagle was convicted Thursday for perpetrating the greatest Disadvantaged Business Enterprise fraud in United States history, the Department of Justice has announced.

He was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud the United States Department of Transportation and commit wire and mail fraud, seven counts of wire fraud, six counts of mail fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering and 11 counts of money laundering. According to USDOT, the fraud was committed for more than 15 years and involved more than \$136 million in government contracts.

"Preventing and detecting DBE fraud are priorities for the Secretary of Transportation and the USDOT Office of Inspector General," said Doug Shoemaker, OIG Regional Special Agent in Charge.

"This significant conviction, in what is the largest reported DBE fraud case in USDOT history, will serve as a clear signal that severe penalties await those who would attempt to subvert USDOT laws and regulations.

"Prime contractors and subcontractors are cautioned not to engage in fraudulent DBE activity and are encouraged to report any suspected DBE fraud to the USDOT-OIG. Our agents will continue to work with the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrators of the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations, and our law enforcement and prosecutorial colleagues to expose and shut down DBE fraud schemes throughout Pennsylvania and the United States."

FORMER OWNER OF SCHUYLKILL PRODUCTS FOUND GUILTY IN HISTORIC FRAUD CASE

RepublicanHerald.com

April 7, 2012

The former president and chief executive officer of now-defunct Schuylkill Products Inc. has made history, being convicted in a landmark case involving a multimillion-dollar fraud against the federal government.

According to the US Department of Transportation, this scheme, which lasted for over 15 years and involved over \$136 million in government contracts, is the largest reported Disadvantaged Business Enterprise fraud in the nations history, Peter J. Smith, a US attorney from the Middle District of Pennsylvania, said in a news release Friday.

The US Department of Transportation provides billions of dollars a year to states and municipalities for the construction and maintenance of highways and mass transit systems. This is done on the condition that small businesses, owned and operated by disadvantaged individuals, receive a fair share of those federal funds, Smith said.

In Pennsylvania, the state Department of Transportation and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority receive those funds and they require contractors to award a percentage of their subcontracts to eligible disadvantaged business enterprises, Smith said.

AIRCRAFT PARTS BROKERS SENTENCED FOR PROCUREMENT FRAUD AGAINST THE MILITARY

Aviation Online Magazine

April 8, 2012

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations announced the sentencing of Henry McFlicker, 67, of Parkland, Florida, and Ayodha Persaud, 63, of Coral Springs, Florida, for their participation in a procurement scheme to defraud the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy and the commercial aviation sector.

Since 2001, the defendants had received more than \$8.5 million in contracts to provide various aircraft parts to the DOD for use on KC-135 or E-3 military aircraft. Defendants McFlicker and Persaud misrepresented the condition and origin of aircraft parts in their responses to numerous bids advertised by the U.S. Air Force and Navy.

To conceal the fraud, the defendants and their employees would complete a Certificate of Conformance...and other paperwork, such as packing slips and invoices, that misrepresented either the condition of the parts or the manufacturer.

The defendants then forwarded the completed fraudulent paperwork, including the ATA 106 and other traceability documentation, and the counterfeit parts to the purchasers, including the Air Force and others in the commercial and military aviation industry. The defendants' conduct resulted in more \$1 million in losses.

Mr. Ferrer commended the investigative efforts of DCIS, the U.S. Department of Transportation-Office of the Inspector General, FBI, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, NCIS, and ICE-HSI.

OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA METROPLEX EFFORT ADVANCES IN HOUSTON, ATLANTA

AIN Air Transport Perspective, April 9, 2012

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has advanced airspace adjustment efforts in about a third of the regions designated under its multi-year Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (OAPM) effort, which the Department of Transportation (DOT) inspector general cited as a program of concern due to its incremental pace and unclear benefits.

The OAPM effort aims to improve air traffic flows in congested “metroplex” regions with multiple airports serving major metropolitan areas. Study teams consisting of FAA and industry representatives identify improvements that can be made in their regions within three years by adjusting airspace sectors and implementing “performance-based” navigation procedures. The study teams then hand off their findings to design and implementation teams.

The OAPM effort involves 21 metropolitan regions over seven years. Last year, studies concluded in five—northern California, southern California, Houston, Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C.—and design

activities started in Washington, D.C., and north Texas. Already this year, design work has started in Houston, Atlanta and Charlotte, according to the FAA. The Houston project is “well into the design phase,” and involves United and Southwest airlines, the agency announced April 4. The Atlanta and Charlotte projects involve Delta Air Lines and US Airways.

Authorities consider the success of the OAPM effort in demonstrating near-term benefits such as improving airlines’ on-time performance and reducing fuel consumption vital to convincing stakeholders of the need for longer-term, more expensive investments in technology and procedures required for the Next Generation Air Transportation (NextGen) system. In the FAA’s 2012 NextGen Implementation Plan, released in March, acting Administrator Michael Huerta wrote of “steady and tangible” progress toward NextGen. He cited the OAPM effort in particular.

Last November, the office of DOT Inspector General Calvin Scovel III listed

the OAPM effort among “top management challenges” facing the FAA in Fiscal Year 2012. Despite completing several metroplex studies, the FAA “has not established detailed milestones to complete initiatives at high-activity locations or a mechanism to integrate its metroplex initiative with other important initiatives,” the IG stated in the challenges document. “As a result, airspace users are concerned about the pace and execution of the metroplex effort thus far as well as the lack of clearly defined expected benefits.”

In February, a work group of the NextGen Advisory Committee advising the FAA on the OAPM effort produced recommendations on prioritizing metroplex sites and airspace requirements following a year-long study. The work group found “insufficient data currently available for high-fidelity, quantitative evaluations of the benefits, costs and implementation issues associated with deploying specific operational improvements or sets of operational improvements within particular metroplexes.”

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CAL TESTIFIES ON OUR TMC REPORT...BRIEFLY

On March 29, Cal testified before the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies on DOT's top management challenges for fiscal year 2012. Joe Come, Tom Yatsco, and Wendy Harris (JA-40) led the testimony prep, but much of OIG was involved since TMC cuts across all JAs and JI.

As the hearing began, however, Chairman Latham threw Cal and the other panelists a curve ball, asking them to limit their statements to a couple minutes. Cal quickly decided to limit his remarks to the 1-minute opening paragraph of his prepared oral statement:

Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss DOT's top management challenges. The department's 2013 budget requests over \$74 billion for a wide range of programs and initiatives. While the Department's efforts clearly demonstrate its commitment to ensure a safe and

reliable transportation system, we identified opportunities for DOT to achieve greater efficiencies and improve program outcomes. The nine challenges we reported last September point to the need for effective planning and guidance, a capable workforce, reliable data and increased oversight and accountability.



Joe Come, Cal, Wendy Harris, and Jeff Guzzetti on the Hill

Despite the abbreviated statement, the committee asked Cal a number of questions related to FAA's Contract Tower Program, airport revenue diversions, ERAM, operational errors, FTA's funding

request for new safety oversight activities, reincarnated carriers, NHTSA's request for additional FTEs, as well as our request for an additional 27 FTEs.

At the hot wash, Cal noted that it was easy to limit his oral statement because the opening paragraph provided a solid roadmap.

Several valuable lessons for future testimonies were also identified. First, consider budget issues early on when testifying before appropriations committees. Second, have multiple people designated to preparing the prep binder. Third, try to avoid the flurry of activity that often occurs 24 to 36 hours prior to a hearing. Fourth, maintain continuous communication with stakeholders to ensure version control and product quality. And finally, stay calm and indulge those who may lose their calm under the stress.

— Wendy Harris, JA-40, Karen Sloan, J-2

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 4/9	TUE 4/10	WED 4/11	THU 4/12	FRI 4/13
	CAL—Senior Leaders Meeting (11:00 a.m.)	CAL—Executive Committee (9:00 a.m.)		

OIG IN THE NEWS

SCOVEL: POSITIVE CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM REVIEW EXPECTED

AviationNews.net

March 29, 2012

DOT Inspector General Calvin Scovel told lawmakers Thursday that his office is working on a review of the Contract Tower Program, and he expects the report to be similar to an audit conducted in 2003 that found the program pro-

duced significant cost-savings, an equivalent level of safety to FAA towers, and strong support from tower users and the communities served by contract towers.

Scovel's remarks came in response to a question from Representative Steve Womack (R-AK), who expressed concern about proposed funding cuts and their impact on contract towers and the communities served by them. Scovel was testifying during a House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and

Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on DOT and HUD management issues.

Also broached during the hearing was the topic of airport revenue diversion. Scovel confirmed that his office is looking into several alleged revenue diversion issues at airports around the country.

NOTEWORTHY

APRIL 18 COP WELCOMES GAO'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER



Next Wednesday from 1:30-2:30, Chuck Young, GAO's Managing Director of Public Affairs, will discuss "Social Media and Accountability." As GAO's spokesperson and top communications advisor to the Comptroller General, Young is the primary point of contact for national print and broadcast journalists covering GAO reports and testimonies, oversees development of the agency's internet presence, and spearheads all major communications initiatives.

Prior to GAO, Young spent nearly 5 years in the private sector with the Brunswick Group and Chlopak, Leonard, Schechter, and Associates. Prior to that he spent 8 years on Capitol Hill, as Chief of Staff for two members of Congress, where he directed all aspects of their offices from communications to strategic planning. Chuck also spent a decade as a reporter or editor for print, television, and radio news organizations. He also ran his own public relations consulting business in New Jersey and taught college journalism courses in Boston. Young holds a Master's in Mass Communications and a BA in Political Science.

We encourage staff who plan to participate to join us live in the Media Center to welcome Mr. Young.

NOTEWORTHY

COOPER V. FAA: SUPREME COURT RULES FOR GOVERNMENT

The December 13, 2011, edition of [*The Inspector*](#) highlighted the Supreme Court case *Cooper v. FAA et al.* This case arises out of a joint DOT OIG and SSA OIG criminal investigation called Operation Safe Pilot.

On March 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the United States in a 5-3 decision. To recap, the issue before the Court was whether the Privacy Act term "actual damages"

permits plaintiffs to recover non-economic damages such as emotional distress. Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the majority, concluded:

"...the Privacy Act does not unequivocally authorize an award of damages for mental or emotional distress. Accordingly, the Act does not waive the Federal Government's sovereign immunity from liability for such harms."

The Court reversed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which had come to the opposite conclusion.



Joining Justice Alito were Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Kennedy, Scalia, and Thomas. Justice Sotomayor wrote a dissenting opinion which was joined by Justices Ginsburg and Breyer. Justice Kagan took no part in the consideration or decision.

A copy of the Supreme Court deci-

sion is on the [intranet](#).

The Washington Post and NPR covered the case when it was heard by the Court. Here's a link to the New York Times article: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/29/us/justices-rule-against-pilot-in-privacy-case.html?_r=1&hp.

— Seth Kaufman

NOTEWORTHY

AUDITORS "DIG" THE BIG APPLE (AND CHEESECAKE)

On March 6, JA-40 auditors from HQ and New York visited the construction sites for two important New York City subway projects: the Second Avenue Subway (SAS) and the Long Island Rail Road East Side Access (ESA). This was a unique opportunity to visualize the scope of these projects and the challenges of urban tunneling.

The day began with a Metropolitan Transit Authority presentation on SAS, a four-phase project with construction costs for the first phase totaling \$4.45 billion. SAS will provide a two-track line under Second Avenue from 125th Street to the Financial District in Lower Manhattan, with strategic connections to the Broadway Line that services West Midtown and Brooklyn. It also includes new stations and features to accommodate growing ridership.

Before going deep underground to see the ongoing work for the first phases, the auditors changed into the appropriate construction gear—hard hats, boots, safety goggles, and vests. In a cramped cage elevator, the auditors descended through a vertical muck shaft located on 72nd Street. The muck (consisting of dirt, rock, and mud)



Deep underground: Rodolfo Pérez, Michael Dzandza, Luke Brennan, Rosa Scalice, George Lavanco, Courtney Potter, Alicia McNair, Anthony Zabel, Frank Schutz

excavated from the tunnels is lifted through these shafts and loaded on trucks for hauling. The shafts are enclosed by painted metal buildings that discreetly shelter the community from the project's dust and noise.

Underground, the auditors walked the tall cave mined for the future station and the tunnels radiating from the station's huge cavern. They observed the application of "shotcrete" to the walls. Shotcrete is a fluid but fast-setting concrete mix that is shot with air pressure

to safely hold the excavated soil while a permanent reinforced concrete liner is built for the tunnel. It was applied both manually and with a robotic spray arm.

Back outside, the auditors had a quick lunch at the Grand Central Terminal (GCT) food court, then geared up again to go below GCT for a trek through some tunnels for ESA. ESA, estimated to cost \$8 billion, will shorten travel time for thousands of commuters coming to Manhattan from Long Island,

(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 4)

Queens, and other points east, and is expected to ease crowding at Penn Station by diverting half of the Long Island Railroad trains to GCT.

Beneath the terminal's hustle and bustle of passengers, shoppers, and trains, the auditors saw a subterranean world that hustled and bustled with crews, the roar of machinery, and the constant hum of ventilation tubes that clung to the walls like fat caterpillars. They toured a web of galleries mined at various levels for the future 8-track terminal under GCT, and peeked into very steep shafts for passenger escalators. They observed the drilling of a grid of holes into the bedrock for bench excavation. The holes, lined with red plastic tubes, are filled with explosive charges and after detonation, the loosened material is excavated and the process repeated again. Other interesting construction features included the impermeable membrane to waterproof the tunnels, and the huge steel arches mounted on rails to cast the tunnels' reinforced concrete ceiling.

Visiting the projects allowed the JA-40 audit teams to see first-



hand the challenges of designing and constructing major transit projects in a dense urban environment, and to identify lessons learned that are transferrable to other mega-transit projects nationwide.



(b)(6)

(b)(6)

— Alicia McNair, auditor and Rodolfo Pérez, engineer, JA-40

NOTEWORTHY

OIG ECONOMISTS WRAP UP NATIONWIDE TOUR

Over the last year, OIG's economist team—Betty Krier, Chia-Mei Liu, Jerrod Sharpe, Brian McNamara, and Kang Cao—has been invited to multiple conferences to speak on our analysis of the causes of Amtrak train delays.

Brian handled the first presentation at the International Industrial Organization (IO) Conference in Boston, MA, in April 2011. In November 2011, Chia-Mei spoke at the Southern Economics Conference in Washington, DC. Last month, Jerrod presented the team's work at the Transportation Research Forum (TRF) Conference in Tampa, FL. Betty has also presented the results of our analysis in multiple venues.

The economics team's analysis used a sophisticated econometric methodology that included detailed panel data from sources such as Amtrak, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Surface Transportation Board, and the National Climatic Data Center. The Amtrak data posed a particular challenge to prepare for modeling, and Jerrod identified a



number of problems that Amtrak database managers were unaware of.

To date, presentations have been provided to FRA, the Amtrak Board of Directors, and staff of the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Commerce Committees.

In every instance, the work was well-received, and other presentations will likely follow, as representatives from the Surface Transportation Board and OST approached the team at the TRF conference and asked that the presentations be provided to their offices.

The data used and issues addressed in the analysis have drawn considerable interest from the transportation economics community as well as from stakeholders. The economics team expects to publish a more technical version of the work in an economics journal as well as publishing the results of the analysis in an OIG report coming out soon.

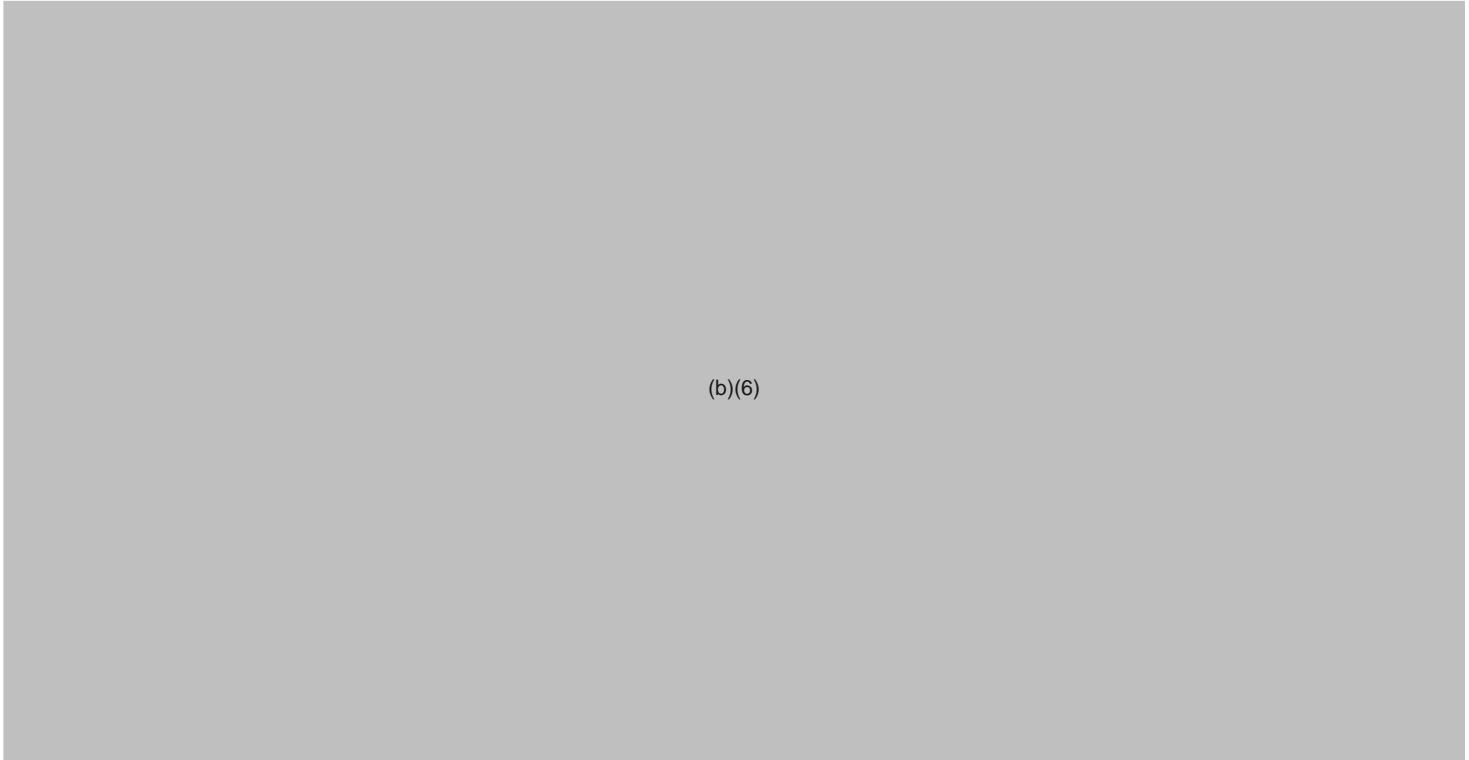
— Betty Krier, JA-50

PEOPLE WE KNOW

(b)(6)

PEOPLE WE KNOW

(b)(6)

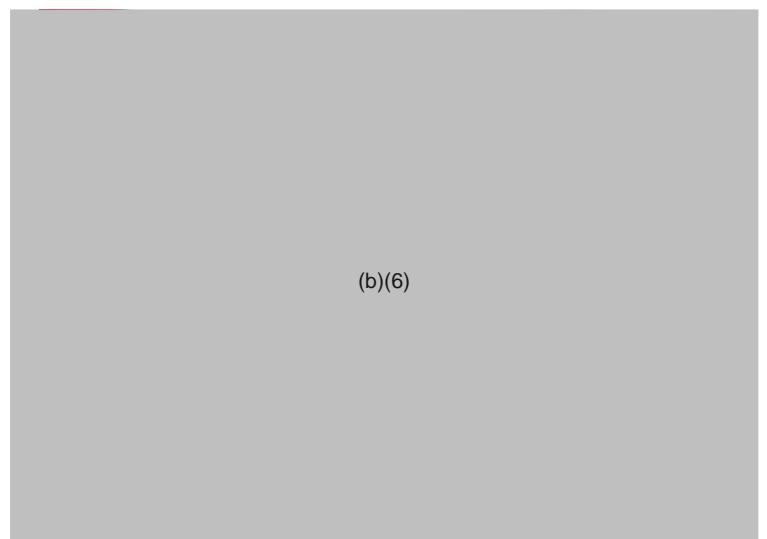


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END SHOT



(b)(6)



(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS



(b)(6)

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THE HUMAN IMPACT OF OUR WORK

"...the work done by the Inspector General's office...has cast a bright light on FAA's oversight of qualification and training programs, as well as FAA's lack of responsiveness on the pilot commuting issue. Most recently, OIG has opened our eyes to the challenges of FAA disseminating the critical safety work being done here in Washington down to the field level where it will actually be implemented and monitored."



Excerpted from Families of Continental Flight 3407, Statement for the Record, March 20, 2012

We in OIG take great pride in our work, especially because we have "impact," usually in the policymaking, financial, or program integrity aspects of the Department's priorities.

But our work can also have a direct human impact, a point illustrated by my experience at a Senate Aviation Subcommittee hearing on March 20. The topic was "Commercial Airline Safety Oversight," which focused on FAA's responses to statutory mandates following the crash on February

12, 2009, of Colgan Air flight 3407, killing 50 people. After that tragic event, FAA convened a "Call to Action" to identify remedial steps, and the House T&I Committee held a hearing on February 4, 2010, to examine them. We testified, and after that hearing I sent the email on the next page to the prep team.

(b)(6), (b)(7)c mother told us 2 years ago to "Stay with it." She was also at last week's hearing, and I spoke with her afterwards. She was in tears but explained,

"This has been so good for all of us families. You told everyone what's been done and what still needs to be done. I could listen to your voice forever."

Although (b)(6), (b)(7)c lost her son, she now knows that some good is coming from that loss.

Thank you—Audit, Investigations, Legal, and Mission Support—for your tremendous work across the entire spectrum of DOT that gives us impact!

— Cal

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 3/26	TUE 3/27	WED 3/28	THU 3/29	FRI 3/30
			Cal testifies before the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO

March Madness typically refers to the NCAA men's basketball tournament. But at OIG, it means testimony season.

Last Tuesday, Cal testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security on FAA's progress in implementing requirements under the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act.

The other witnesses were Margaret Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, FAA; Dr. Greg Belenky, Director of the Sleep and Performance Research Center, Washington State University; William Voss, President and CEO, Flight Safety Foundation; Captain Carl Kuwitzky, President, Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations; and Thomas Hendricks, Sen-



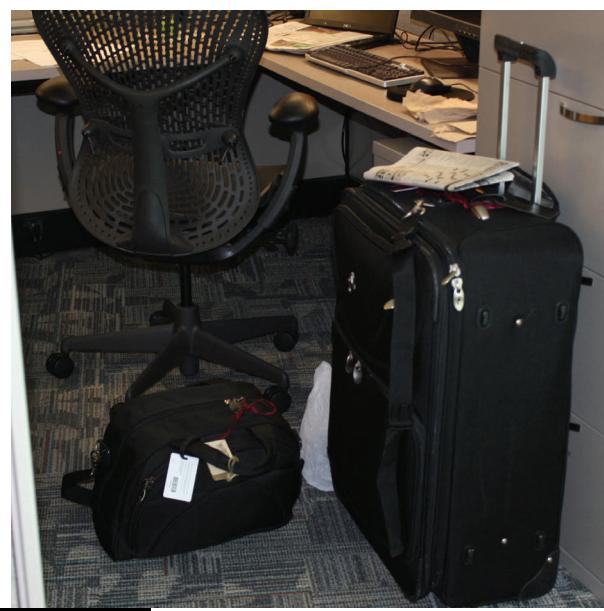
On the steps of the Senate after a successful testimony, from left: Aiesha Gillespie, Matt Hampton, Travis Wiley, Marshall Anderson, Cal Scovel, Tina Nysted, Stephanie McCans, and Jeff Guzzetti.

ior Vice President of Safety, Security and Operations Airlines for America.

Cal testified that FAA has met or is on schedule to meet many of the

Act's requirements, such as improving pilot rest requirements and establishing better processes for managing safety risks. He noted, however, that FAA has not

(Continued on page 4)



NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 3)

met timelines for raising pilot training standards, implementing mentoring programs, providing enhanced leadership skills to captains, and increasing minimum pilot qualifications. He also outlined the challenges FAA faces in establishing a pilot records database and providing additional guidance and assistance to industry in developing and managing new safety programs.

While Cal's statement was over in a matter of minutes, hours and hours of work went into preparing him for the hearing (see related story on the next page). Once the

hearing was over, many members of the team packed up their bags and headed back to Atlanta.

But Cal was back at the office prepping for his second testimony in 9 days. Cal is scheduled to testify Thursday on our 2012 Top Management Challenges report before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

Because the annual TMC report discusses challenges across DOT, HQ and region staff in JI and JA-10, -20, -40, -50, and -60 were involved in developing the long and

short statement and prepping Cal for the hearing. With so many involved in the testimony, staying on top of the reviews was a challenge. But thanks to Joe Come, Tom Yatsco, Wendy Harris, and Harriet Lambert, all comments were tracked and addressed.

While preparing two testimonies in a couple weeks can be taxing, it reminds us that we never know when inspiration will pop up. During the prep for TMC, Nate Custer made a statement that resonated with everyone: DOT systems were "one hacker away" from intrusion.

The statement now resonates in Cal's short statement. Priceless.



In addition to Nate Custer, Jeff Guzzetti, Matt Hampton, Ann, Joe Hance, Coletta Treakle, Bill Owens, Michelle Hill, Kevin Dorsey, Joe Come, Lou, Cal, Tony Wysocki, and Mary Kay Langan-Fierson, Tina Nysted, Louis King, and other staff attended the prep for Cal's TMC hearing via VTC and phone.

NOTEWORTHY

ATLANTA AIR SAFETY TEAM PREPS CAL WITH "IGPROFEN"

As the Atlanta team met to refine its strategy for testimony, Cal entered to inform us of a change in his preparation plans: No book, not this time. In an instant, we experienced a gamut of emotions: shock, joy, disbelief, fear. If no book, then what?

Cal paused to relish in the moment before explaining he wanted us to develop a new tool, a pill, to impart our knowledge to him in a single tablet. Somewhat relieved that he was joking, we all had a good laugh before continuing our deliberations. Yet unbeknownst to Cal, he had issued a challenge.

I decided to use some of my contacts from my work in the pharmaceutical industry. But each contact gave me the same response: It's impossible to get regulatory



IGProfen: Testimony Prep in a Bottle™ is a repurposed ibuprofen bottle filled with bite-size, authentic pages of the testimony prep book. Customized for Cal's prescription, each page was carefully ordered so knowledge transfer would align with his statement.

approval that fast. What would normally take years for approval we needed in days. But this didn't stop us from providing Cal with "Prep in a Bottle."

With scarce resources and the regulatory process against us, we repurposed an ibuprofen bottle for the project and made bite-size pages of the book to fill his pre-

scription: Each page carefully ordered so knowledge transfer would align with his statement. We determined the side effects, printed the label, and prepared the bottle only to realize we didn't have a name for the pill we had developed. Then Sara said, "What about IGProfen?" A play on the

(Continued on page 6)



NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 5)

bottle, a pain killer, and IG-specific: Perfect!

At the first prep session we presented Cal with his filled prescrip-

tion of IGProfen—Prep in a Bottle. For an instant I think he shared some of the same emotions he had elicited from us, but it was obvious he knew what he had received. IGProfen instantly became

a staple in the testimony prep sessions and provided a needed touch of humor to the lengthy and serious sessions.

— Marshall Anderson, JA-10,
Atlanta



OIG CFC TEAM PRESENTS CAL WITH CFC PRESIDENT'S AWARD

(b)(6)

From left: Tashaun Ross, Kristen Bidwell, Angel Simmons, Bob Westbrooks, Robin Redd-Miller, Cal, Rhonda Caver-Holmes, Deanne Titu Verdejo, Carlton Richmond, and Charmaine Newman. (b)(6) hole

PARTS BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

J RI-4 has a rising star in aircraft parts investigations, and he's on a mission. (b)(6)

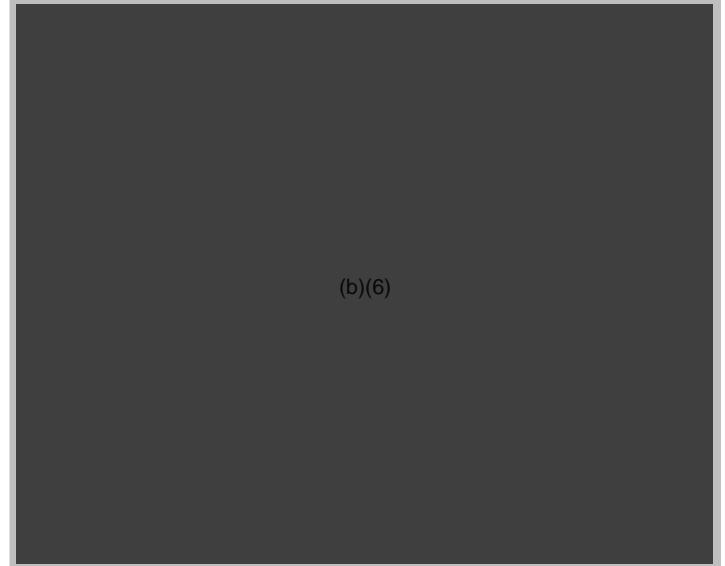
[REDACTED] has become the suspect aircraft parts expert for the south Florida aviation community.

(b)(6) expertise and enthusiasm has contributed to the seemingly endless successes with Operation Wingspan. With the combined efforts of OIG, DCIS, FAA, the FBI, and the US Attorney's Office, Operation Wingspan has identified, dismantled, and prosecuted dozens of bogus aircraft parts companies for various schemes involving fraudulent parts, certifications, and repair tags.

As the issue of fraudulent aircraft parts continues to plague the south Florida area, (b)(6) and program experts from FAA's South Florida Flight Standards District Office (FSDO-19) have developed and delivered multiple aviation parts seminars throughout the South Florida area.

The seminars aim to educate the local aircraft parts industry—including brokers, designated airworthiness representatives, and repair stations—of their collective roles and responsibilities for ensuring integrity in FAA's aircraft parts program and how their partnerships with one another will further promote safety.

Following each presentation, (b)(6) and (b)(6) colleagues encourage participation in an interactive event that provides local parts brokers a chance to meet one-on



From left:

(b)(6)

-one with DOT and FAA representatives to discuss any issues, concerns, or simply ask questions of the experts.

Of course (b)(6) presentation also includes highlights from Operation Wingspan and some frank discussions about brokers that decided to take another approach that ultimately led to their finding a new line of work at the Federal Correctional Facility.

The joint education campaign has been so well received by the south Florida aviation industry that Tim's booked into April 2012. But that hasn't gotten in the way of his primary mission to track down suspect aircraft parts.

— (b)(6)



NOTEWORTHY

TRAINING SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN: THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING!

HRDC would like to thank everyone who participated in the OIG 2012 Training Needs Survey. Your willingness to share your comments and suggestions will assist us with identifying, analyzing, and addressing your training priorities.

The survey was designed to capture a variety of information regarding OIG's training program. Approximately 50 percent of employees (228) responded).

Of those respondents:

- 52 percent were from JA, 19 percent from JI, and 29 percent from Mission Support;
- 60 percent were from Headquarters, 40 percent were from the regions; and
- 25 percent were supervisors.

The table below provides some early survey results. HRDC, with the assistance of the Core Competency Committee and the Performance Standardization Workgroups, has begun using these data to identify training needs using job-related competencies.

We are looking to link positions to job-related competencies and then to the core curriculum to identify competency gaps for every position at every grade level.

We are very excited about what the future holds in the areas of employee training and development. Thank you again for your participation and we look forward to addressing your individual and organizational needs.

— Angie Thorpe, Director, HRDC

OIG's Fiscal Year 2011 Course Offerings Were *Sufficient*

Training Category	Too much	About right	Not enough	Total Responses
Job-Related	64 (3.02%)	1,092 (51.49%)	965 (45.50%)	2,121
Soft Skills	47 (7.28%)	365 (56.50%)	234 (36.22%)	646
Leadership	37 (5.43%)	504 (73.90%)	141 (20.67%)	682
Human Resources	25 (4.15%)	388 (64.45%)	189 (31.40%)	602
DOT and OIG Systems	29 (3.84%)	476 (62.96%)	251 (33.20%)	756
All	202 (4.20%)	2,825 (58.77%)	1,780 (37.03%)	4,807

NOTEWORTHY

OIG ATTENDS 37TH ANNUAL AVIATION FORECAST CONFERENCE

On March 8 and 9, FAA held its 37th Annual Aviation Forecast Conference in Washington, DC, at the Washington Convention Center. The topic of the conference was FAA's unveiling of its 20-year forecast of aviation industry metrics.

Secretary LaHood was the keynote speaker, and for those of us who have not previously had the honor of enjoying him live, he proved to be dynamic, entertaining, and charismatic. The Secretary spoke on the European Union's unilateral imposition of an Emissions Trading Scheme (the carbon tax) on U.S. and other air carriers. The Secretary strongly opposes the EU policy, and didn't mince words—he said it was "totally wrong" and "very bad legislation." The Secretary did not rule out retaliatory trade measures against European interests if the EU refuses to modify its policy.

FAA Director of Policy and Plans Nan Shellabarger then presented the annual Aviation Forecast Report. She explained that the forecast projects that passenger traffic will grow at 2.5 percent annually over the 20-year forecast period and revenue passenger miles will grow by 3.5 percent. Although the



From left: My Phuong Le, Chia-Mei Liu, Mi Hwa Button, Darren Murphy, Chuck Ward, and Jerrod Sharpe.

growth appears relatively modest at 2.5 percent annually, should that actually occur, there will be more than 1.2 billion passengers boarding aircraft in the United States each year by 2032. According to FAA, these numbers mandate that FAA bring NextGen online successfully, and that U.S. airlines and airports begin to expand their fleets and infrastructure now.

The audience listened attentively, but it would be fair to say that with the price of oil at \$100 per barrel and projected to reach \$138 per barrel in the projection period, there appeared to be significant skepticism that passenger demand

would grow significantly while airlines price tickets rise high enough to recoup higher fuel costs.

The conference was attended by several hundred representatives of the airline industry, as well as the media and industry support organizations. OIG had representatives in attendance from several parts of our organization, including Steve Smith, Frank Danielski, Mi Hwa Button, My Phuong Le, and Aaron Rodgers (JA-10 HQ); Darren Murphy and Chuck Ward (JA-10, Seattle); and Chia-Mei Liu and Jerrod Sharpe (JA-50).

— Chuck Ward, JA-10, Seattle

PEOPLE WE KNOW

(b)(6), (b)(7)c



OIG IN THE NEWS

SCOVEL TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Cal's airline safety testimony made several news outlets last week. These are just a few!

**WATCHDOG: MANY CO-PILOTS
DON'T MEET TRAINING
STANDARDS**

March 21, 2012

[USA Today](#)

Three-quarters of the co-pilots at two regional carriers visited recently by federal inspectors didn't have enough hours to meet new training standards the Federal Aviation Administration proposes for them, a Senate subcommittee was told Tuesday.

Calvin Scovel III, the Transportation Department's inspector general, told the Senate transportation subcommittee on aviation that the co-pilots fell short of the 1,500 hours of flight training that the FAA says they should have starting in August 2013.

And, he said, neither of the airlines had plans for meeting the new requirement that the FAA proposed last month in response to orders from Congress following the crash of a Colgan Air plane near Buffalo in February 2009 that killed 50 people.

"Neither carrier had developed a plan to ensure these pilots would be able to meet the enhanced requirements by the deadline," he said. Scovel didn't identify the two airlines his inspectors visited.

**EXPERTS: AIRLINE SAFETY
STANDARDS STILL INCONSISTENT**
March 21, 2012

[Chicago Tribune](#)

One consistent level of safety across the entire airline industry — from regional jets to large mainline carriers to air cargo operations — has not been achieved three years after the warning sign delivered when tired and poorly skilled pilots crashed their commuter plane in New York, experts told a U.S. Senate hearing Tuesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration has made progress toward meeting congressionally mandated requirements to extend rest time for pilots before duty and establish new procedures to minimize safety risks, Calvin Scovel III, inspector general at the U.S. Department of Transportation, testified before the Senate Aviation Subcommittee in Washington.

But the FAA has not met deadlines for raising pilot training standards, increasing minimum pilot qualifications, implementing pilot mentoring programs to raise the proficiency of less-experienced pilots and improving the leadership skills of airline captains, Scovel said.

**AIR SAFETY TESTIMONY RENEWS
DEBATE**

Families of Flight 3407 again see extent of opposition

March 21, 2012

[BuffaloNews.com](#)

The flight safety improvements sought by the Families of Flight 3407 are law now, but that didn't stop witnesses at a Senate hearing Tuesday from debating them all over again.

Reviewing the implementation of the aviation safety law that the families pushed to passage two years ago, witnesses at a Senate Aviation Subcommittee hearing on airline safety lauded the Federal Aviation Administration for a tough new rule on pilot fatigue. [...]

Calvin L. Scovel III, inspector general for the Department of Transportation, said the 2009 crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in Clarence Center — which claimed 50 lives — "has served as an important catalyst for change."

Not only did the crash prompt passage of wide-ranging safety legislation, "the Federal Aviation Administration has made noteworthy progress" in implementing that new law, Scovel said.

ET CETERA

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

No comings and goings this week.

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LOU ON-AIR: FAA ARRA REPORTING



On Tuesday, March 13, Lou was interviewed on Federal News Radio's *In Depth with Francis*

Rose. Lou discussed JA-10's recent audit on FAA's reports on ARRA-funded job creation—the results of which were reported in *ARRA Job Data Reporting for FAA Programs—Lessons Learned for Improving Accuracy and Transparency for Future Job Reporting*, issued in February. We conducted our review at the request of the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

While we reported that FAA met the ARRA requirement to provide reports on job data and noted improvements in overall reporting of job data over time, we identified a number of areas for improvement that can serve as lessons learned for the ARRA reports still remaining and for any future job creation efforts. We also found that while

it is clear that ARRA-funded FAA projects have created or sustained jobs, the full extent of this accomplishment is unclear because of errors and inconsistencies in the collection and reporting of job information.

the guidance that needed to go to the airport sponsors to submit that data."

Lou pointed that JA-10's findings could serve as lessons learned for other agencies. "First and fore-

FAA "met the reporting requirements, and I think they made a concerted effort to do so."

Lou's interview was brief, but she touched on many of our report's findings. Lou noted, FAA "had a process to do some quality checks, but we think they could have gone further." Rose asked Lou about what errors were found in FAA's reporting and the likely causes of those errors, and spoke with Lou about "and whether FAA's systems were set up to handle the an avalanche of information." Lou said, "There was definitely an issue with the amount of data that needed to come in, [and] the need to quickly develop

most, tap every available source to validate the data...On-site reviews are important."

To listen to or download Lou's interview, go to <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/86/2785035/Transportation-IG-FAA-made-improvements-in-reporting-jobs-data-under-Recovery-Act>.

Thanks to Lou for continuing to help get OIG's message out to the public!

— Dave Wonnenberg, J-3, Susan Neill, JA-20/JA-50

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 3/19	TUE 3/20	WED 3/21	THU 3/22	FRI 3/23
CFC Presidents Award Presentation (10:00 a.m.)	ANN—CIGIE Meeting (9:30 a.m.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAL—Senior Leaders Meeting (1:00 p.m.) • Communities of Practice: “OIG WIKI IPO” (2:00-3:00 p.m.) 		

NOTEWORTHY

J-3 HOSTS FOIA BROWN BAG

On March 8, J-3 hosted a Council of Counsels to Inspectors General brown bag on Freedom of Information Act issues as they relate to the IG community. The brown bag—which was organized by Barbara Hines, Associate Counsel, and Angel Simmons, FOIA/Privacy Officer—was attended by 37 FOIA professionals from 15 different OIGs.

In his opening remarks, Cal provided a warm welcome and an earnest appreciation for the dedication and accomplishments of FOIA professionals in the IG community. Before Cal turned the brown bag over to Barbara and Angel, he recognized Ann and Assistant IG for Legal, Legislative, and External Affairs, Brian Dettelbach, who both are regularly briefed on our FOIA status.

The brown bag provided a forum for the IG community to meet and discuss common issues and challenges. Attendees shared their experiences and discussed best

practices for handling FOIA requests.

FOIA was signed into law in 1966 and took effect in 1967. The Act requires all Federal agencies to disclose Government records requested in writing by any person. A FOIA requester may receive a full disclosure of records provided the nature or scope of the request does not include privileged, sensitive, or classified data, which will trigger one or more of FOIA's nine exemptions. Much of the brown bag discussion focused on the

criticality of FOIA's exemptions as well as implications from pending laws and new court decisions.

In 2009, the President's “Open Government” policy broadened the level of service to FOIA requesters. While this policy has increased FOIA requests, hard working FOIA professionals, like those who attended the CCIG brown bag, have managed to reduce the backlog of requests significantly. In fiscal year 2010 DOT posted a 39 percent drop.

— Plutarco Cedeno, J-3



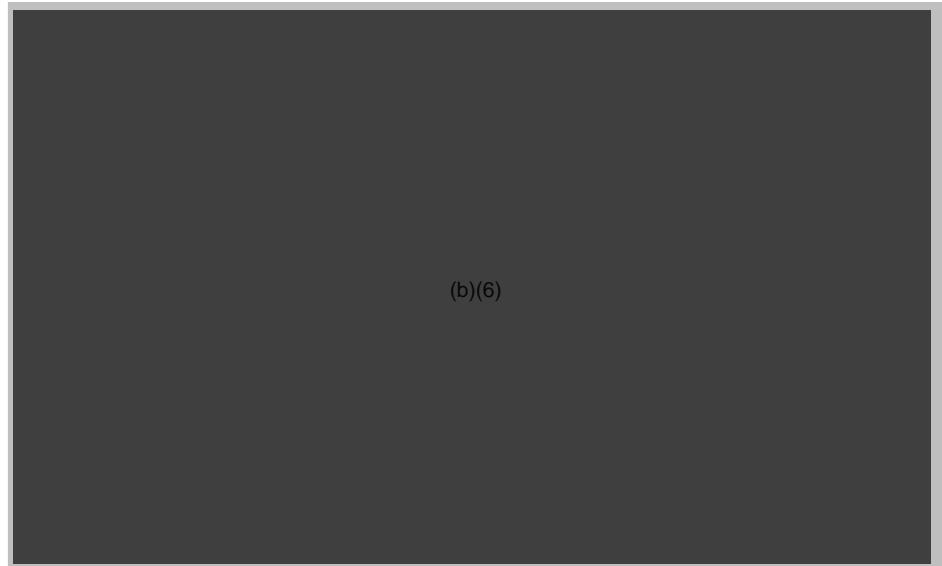
NOTEWORTHY

JI HOLDS ITS ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

During the week of March 5, JI held its annual National Leadership Team Meeting in San Francisco.

The goal of the team meeting was for the JI national leadership team to leave with a set of goals for JI to measure its organization's overall performance, which is not only important for transparency and to demonstrate that we are good stewards of the taxpayer's money, but is also required under GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act).

On Tuesday morning, Principal Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Tim Barry, and Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Bob Westbrooks, queued up this year's topic. To trigger creativity, DAIGI Westbrooks introduced key concepts of perform-



ance management. He discussed the four main types of measures: input, service quality (process), output, and outcome.

Also discussed was how the activities measured need to reflect what is most important to the organization and its stakeholders, and that measures need to be verifiable, objective, attainable, and relevant.

So that JI's national leadership team could get a sense of what others in the Federal law enforcement community have done in way of performance metrics, JI invited guest speakers from the U.S. Postal Service OIG, Department of Agriculture OIG, Environmental Protection Agency OIG, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation OIG, and Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigations Division. Each talked and answered questions about its agencies' performance measures.

On day two of the meeting, the national leadership team broke into workgroups based on JI's investigative priorities—Grant and Procurement Fraud, Employee Integrity, Transportation Safety, and Consumer and Work-



(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 3)

force Protection—to draft performance measures in each priority area. After 4 hours of lively discussions, the leadership team reassembled and debated the various proposals. In the end, the team agreed to five significant

performance measures that will shine a positive light on our achievements and propel us to even greater success.

On Tuesday afternoon, the National Park Service gave the team

a tour of the Presidio and discussed its history and leadership.

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— Bill Owens, JI

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CIGIE COMES TO HRDC

HRDC hosted the CIGIE Introductory Auditor Training Program on March 5 through 16 for 24 entry-level auditors and analysts.

The 2-week Introductory course provides an overview of auditing in the Federal Government. The course exposed entry-level auditors to the standards, skill sets, and environment applicable to Government Performance Auditing Standards, with a specific focus on planning, obtaining evidence, documenting work, communicating results, and writing reports.

The course also offered sessions on interviewing techniques, detecting fraud, working with investigators, and working in a multigenerational environment.

During the second week, students had the opportunity to tour the Capitol and attend a congressional hearing to expose them to the source of funds, regulations, and some of their organization's audits. On Wednesday, Seth Kaufman, J-3, presented a briefing on "Representing the IG Community," which covered the similarities and differences between the standards of ethical conduct and Yellow Book

audit independence standards. His presentation is on OIG's [intranet](#).

The course wrapped up with the "Audit Connection," an exercise where participants are given the opportunity to apply the standards and skill they've discussed to an audit case. The course ended with team presentations of the case results to a panel of clients and with closing remarks from Phyllis K. Fong, CIGIE Chair; John Rymer, Chair, CIGIC Audit Committee, and Tom Caulfield, Executive Director, CIGIE Training Institute.

— Angie Thorpe

TECHNOTES

REPORTING ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE “HACTIVISTS”

In recent months there has been a marked increase in reports on the risk of cyber attack on our Nation’s critical infrastructure, which includes transportation systems.

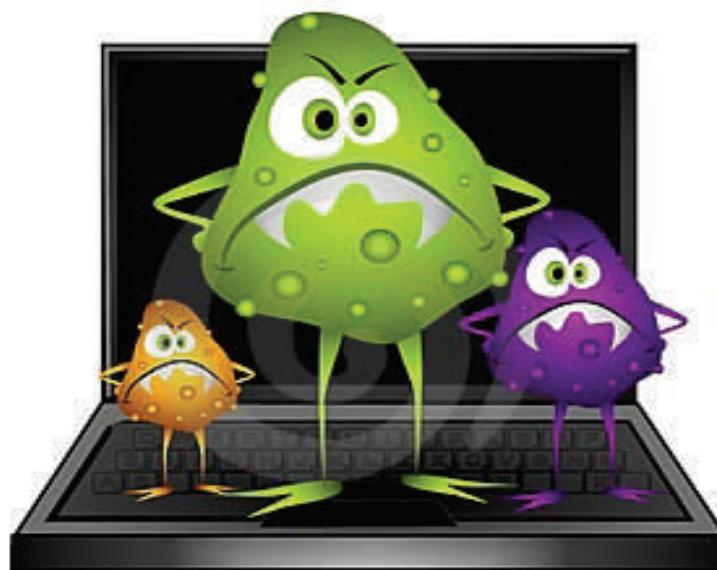
Under the USA Patriot Act of 2001, critical infrastructure is defined as systems and assets—physical and virtual—so vital to the United States that their incapacity or destruction would debilitate security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of these concerns. The Act provides severe penalties anyone who willfully attacks critical infrastructure.

Some critical infrastructures are managed and controlled by the Government—notably air traffic control—but it could surprise most people to learn that the majority are privately held, including rail and other forms of mass transit. In fact, it is estimated that as much as 90 percent of the Nation’s critical infrastructure is privately owned and operated.

Industrial control systems—systems that manage, monitor,

and control the infrastructure—have characteristics that differ from traditional information processing systems, and many of these differences stem from the fact that logic executing in an ICS has a

posed to the Internet, including the use of Shodan, an internet search engine that provides the ability to locate specific hardware and software connected to the Internet, based on its operating system, services, host-name, and other factors. With the vulnerable PLC identified through Shodan, the firm further illustrates how Metasploit—a free-to-download open source penetration testing tool—can be used to exploit its vulnerabilities.



direct effect on our physical world. For example, an ICS often has Programmable Logic Controllers components, which convert logical instruction into real world physical actions. PLCs have a user-programmable memory for storing instructions for the purpose of implementing specific functions, like opening and closing valves in oil production, railway switching and signaling, and aircraft flight control.

On February 14, a U.S. information security firm posted hacking techniques for disabling PLCs ex-

Alarmed by the U.S. firm’s online “tutorial,” the Department of Homeland Security’s Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team issued a warning the next day to critical infrastructure asset owners on the increased risk due to the availability of the exploit tools and an increased interest in these activities by “hactivist” groups.

The effect that viruses and malware can have on critical infrastructure is nothing new. In August 2003, a virus infected the computer systems of CSX Corpo-

(Continued on page 6)

TECHNOTES

(Continued from page 5)

ration, a major transportation provider serving markets in the eastern United States with direct access to all Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports, as well as the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway. The virus caused an outage in rail signaling and dispatching equipment that affected the entire CSX system over 23 states. CSX reported that the virus caused delays in Amtrak service from Washington to Richmond and halted other trains between Pittsburgh and South Carolina.

More recently, complex worms have exploited vulnerabilities in ICS, as was the case with the now infamous Stuxnet. The Stuxnet worm was reported to have targeted PLCs used in a foreign coun-

try's ICS used to control uranium enrichment operations. The worm's ability to target specific ICS components that are not ex-

Audits of ICS security and controls should include a focus on safety as well as data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. If PLCs don't operate as intended, someone could be seriously injured, or worse.

complex and resource intensive endeavor, Stuxnet's creators set the country's infrastructure development efforts back a number of years.

With Stuxnet's source code released into the public domain after the attack, hackers now have a proven concept to target infrastructures around the world. Basically, the cat is out of the bag, and there's no putting it back.

Keep in mind that systems, even those not connected to the Internet, are subject to compromise from poor security practices and lack of user training. Removable memory devices like thumb drives were the suspected delivery method of Stuxnet.

— Tim Roberts, JA-20

posed to the Internet, even those of particular manufacturers, increases its threat. Although a

ADDITIONAL READING

<http://www.darkreading.com/blog/232602401/stuxnet-the-nation-s-power-grid-and-the-law-of-unintended-consequences.html>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120228005028.htm>

<http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=12386>

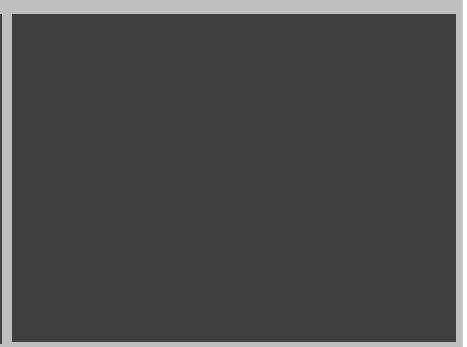
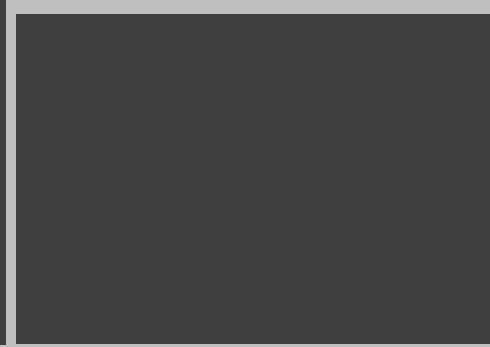
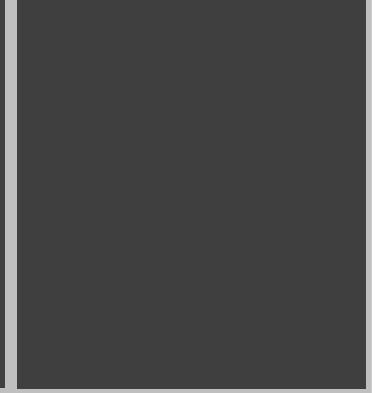
<http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/State-of-SCADA-Security-Worry-Researchers-234517/>

<http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2012/01/scada-exploits/>

<http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/23317/>



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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SES TRAINED IN CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

On February 7, (b)(6), (b)(7)c (b)(6), (b)(7) and Nicole Angarella provided Continuity of Operations training to Cal, Ann, and other Senior Leaders on topics such as distinguishing between COOP and non-COOP emergency situations, leaders' roles and responsibilities during an emergency or COOP activation, and OIG policies and procedures regarding Call Tree activation during an emergency.

OIG's COOP work group is responsible for helping OIG plan for, implement, and manage effective COOP planning, programs, and training for all OIG staff. The group's next tasks are to revise OIG's existing COOP Plan, provide training to all managers on OIG Call Tree policies and procedures, and provide mandatory annual COOP training to all OIG employees by May 2012. Stay tuned for a second *Inspector* article in the coming months when we will un-



Lou, Susan Dailey, and Madeline Chulumovich lead the way to last September's evacuation drill.

veil the new COOP Plan and begin staff training.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding OIG's continuity of operations or emergency preparedness, please do not hesitate to contact a COOP work

group member: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Chair JI-2; Nicole Angarella, J-3; Amanda Barton, JA-2; and Nardia Bennett, JM-20.

— (b)(6)

For more on OIG's COOP program, go to the Emergency Preparedness Web page at <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/Employee%20Resources/COOP.aspx>

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 2/13	TUE 1/14	WED 2/15	THU 2/16	FRI 2/17
SES Offsite	First Mentoring Orientation, 1:00 pm	Deadline for filing Financial Disclosure False Claims Act Brown Bag	CAL—Executive Committee, 9:00 am	

NOTEWORTHY

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES MUST BE FILED BY COB FEBRUARY 15

The deadline for filing financial disclosures is this Wednesday. Field employees should make sure to FedEx their reports to Karen Muller on Tuesday (Valentine's Day) so that they are received in time. HQ employees may hand deliver their reports to Karen Muller no later than Wednesday afternoon.

If you need an extension, you need to demonstrate good cause in an e-mail to Seth Kaufman.

In addition to the links below, you can find a copy of the 450 on OIG's intranet: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/J/J3/Shared%20Documents/Office%20of%20Legal%20Counsel%20Materials/Ethics/Confidential%20Financial%20Disclosures/oge450.pdf>

FALSE CLAIMS ACT BROWN BAG

The False Claims Act is a tool used to combat fraud in DOT programs. The brown bag will explain the act and discuss DOJ, OIG and DOT's roles in FCA claims. Attendance is by invitation only, but interested staff can listen to the event live in the Atrium Conference room (W76-102) from noon to 1:30.

MENTORING: NEXT STEPS



With enrollment now closed, we are about to kick off our mentoring program, which runs through November 2012. We would like to begin phase II of the program on February 29. If you have enrolled in the program, here are the next steps:

- *Sign up for mentoring orientation this week.* Please register with Ellen Craig as soon as possible. The first 1-hour orientation is Tuesday, February 14, at 1:00 PM EST.
- *Interview prospective mentors,* and let us know your choice by February 24. We will be working all this week on mentor/mentee matches. We may be reaching out to you for additional information to ensure a good match.

We will let all mentees know by February 17 of their matches.

Thanks to all who enrolled. The Mentoring Program staff look forward to hearing about your experience.

ALASKA: CHUCK AND SUE'S FRIGID (AND BLUE) AUDIT ADVENTURE

Long time readers of *The Inspector* know that—at least since last April Fool's Day—I have been obsessed with auditing in Alaska. But in late January, Sue Zimmerman and I (Seattle) took an audit trip to Anchorage that may have cured me of that obsession.

Our intrepid team arrived at Ted Stevens International Airport mid-day on Monday to a temperature of 12 degrees, which turned out to be the high for the week. Venturing into a world of white city streets and snow drifts, we visited FAA at the Federal Building downtown and reviewed supporting documents for Recovery Act payments to nearby Merrill Field Airport, one of the Nation's busiest general aviation airports with more than 900 locally based aircraft.

Arriving at Merrill Field via 4-wheel drive the next day, Sue and I dressed like Eskimos for the occasion, found perhaps the quietest operational airport in the Nation. With runways, taxiways, and automobile access roads all colored uniformly white, the operational highlight of the first day was a lady in an old pickup truck becoming disoriented and creating a "runway incursion" as she drove first onto taxiway 'Q' and then runway 16/34.

Given the absence of air traffic in the minus 4 degree weather, there was no risk created, but nevertheless, Merrill Field had to report itself to FAA for not preventing a runway incursion.

— Chuck Ward, JA-10

COLD ALASKA FACTS

- Average January low and high temperatures at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport: 9 and 22 °F
- The coldest temperature on record: -38 °F on February 3, 1947
- Average winter snowfall: 70.6 inches
- Snowiest winter on record: 132.8 inches, 1954–1955 winter

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NOTEWORTHY

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WELCOMES EMIRATES AIRLINE DAILY NON-STOP SERVICE FROM DUBAI

As part of the JA-10 team working on the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA), Wayne A. Van De Walker, San Francisco, and Teri Vogliardo, Seattle, had the opportunity to witness the inaugural flight of Emirates Airlines' daily non-stop service from Dubai, U.A.E.

While the majority of MWAA audit work has been conducted in the Washington, DC, region, Wayne and Teri visited Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport to gather information on its practices, ethics, and transparency.

Wayne and Teri interviewed DFW staff members to learn about their policies and procedures that they could compare with those of MWAA and the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey for "best practices."



Wayne A. Van De Walker, JA-10, SF, with crew members of the inaugural Emirates Airline flight.

During their stay, DFW Board staff welcomed OIG to witness the inaugural Emirates Airline flight the morning of February 2.

It is estimated that the new service between DFW and Dubai will generate over \$200 million in new investments and revenues in the North Texas region.

Several television screens were set up throughout the area showing a brief video of the various amenities for first and business class passengers.

When the Boeing 777 200LR aircraft touched down, the room ex-

(Continued on page 5)



NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 4)

ploded with applause. Soon the aircraft taxied into position for the ceremonial water cannon salute.

The arriving dignitaries—including Yousef Al Otaiba, U.A.E. Ambassador to the United States, and Nigel Page, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations, Emirates Airline—were welcomed by Jeffrey Fegan, CEO DFW International Airport, and Betsy Price, Mayor of Fort Worth, and were brought to a secure transitional room.

We learned that DFW and Emirates exchanged gifts. DFW Airport gave Emirates Airlines a beautiful blue crystal vase and Emirates gave the DFW Airport Board and the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth

framed inlaid sailed boats.

We also learned that the Mayor of Fort Worth gave the Ambassador the cowboy hat off her head as he presented his gift to the City of



Fort Worth. She remarked that she had to go out that night to buy a new hat for herself.

— Wayne A. Van De Walker,
JA-10, SF

YOUR LAWYER—THE ROAD SHOW

J-3 Attorney, Amy Berks, visited the Seattle Regional Office January 31 to February 2, to consult on JA-10's Audit of FAA's Oversight of ARRA Expenditures. The JA-10 team of auditors (Diane Brattain, Susan Cohen, Gloria Muhammad, Chuck Ward, and Susan Zimmerman) has reviewed change orders and selected line item payments funded by ARRA at 19 airports across the country. The team met with Amy to review its initial findings and discuss questions of grant and contract interpretation, FAA Airport Improvement Program requirements, and other applicable Federal guidance.

— Chuck Ward, JA-10 and Amy Berks, J-3

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NOTEWORTHY

STILL READING THE OLD FASHIONED WAY?

In the copier area of HQ's river-side pantry (W71-122), we have fiction and nonfiction books for staff to read—a library Ellen Craig launched several years ago. While the recently dubbed Calvin L. Scovel III Bunker Library may not have everything that you can get on your fancy Kindle—such as *Fatal Bubbles: The Unauthorized Biography of Lawrence Welk*, *Waffle Making for Dummies* (2nd ed.), or the "Yellow Book," v.1 (1972)—we have amassed a fascinating array of titles.



And there's no checkout (or downloading) at the Bunker Library—just grab and go. You can return it at any time. Or not. It's a great spot to hit if you're at HQ getting ready to travel and forgot your reading material. Or if you're here on travel and finished the book you brought to read, you can grab one for the trip home. Again, there's no need to return books to the library. Donating books is easy too: just put them on the shelf!

END SHOT

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The Inspector will not be publishing next week but will still be accepting stories for the following week. Have a wonderful holiday weekend!

— *TI* Staff (Audre Azuolas, Dan Burd, Madeline Chulumovich, Emily Norton, Katy Novicky, Dan Raville, Angel Simmons, and Karen Sloan)

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

MARCH 7 COOP EXERCISE SUCCESSFUL!

On March 7, the Department conducted a telework exercise: TeleDOT 2012. Participants included OIG staff at HQ and 3rd Street along with other modes of the department here at HQ. The purpose of the exercise was to test the capacity of DOT systems and networks when a large number of employees try to access the Virtual Private Network (VPN) and Secure Remote Access (SRA) at the same time. It was also designed to test the readiness of employees to telework and each administrative organization's call tree.

Following the exercise, OIG employees provided feedback on challenges conducting operations, telework readiness, employee accountability, and system remote access. Of the 41 responses OIG received, 34 said they had zero or only minor issues and gave positive feedback. Five employees had minimal interruptions that impacted their

ability to work; of these five employees, two gave overall positive evaluations of their experience. Only two employees had significant problems that impacted their work during the exercise.

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were quickly remedied; and the standardization of a reporting form, which resulted in a more consistent and efficient way to collect call tree data. There were several learned which included notification to regional offices when HQ has an

emergency that impacts operations, and a unique conference calling number for the IG. In identifying challenges during this exercise, OIG experienced minimal issues with the system remote access wherein several experienced sluggish or slow connectivity issues. OIG's Help Desk attributed some of these issues to the employee's home provider

and/or home equipment and some to DOT's systems.

Overall OIG considered this exercise a success and standby's its commitment to support telework in the workplace.

— (b)(6)

OIG also submitted a report to the Office of the Secretary identifying the top three successes, lessons learned, and challenges identified during this exercise. The successes included 100 percent accountability of staff within 3 hours of activation of the call tree; the ability to conduct all business operations with minimal, isolated interruptions that

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 3/12	TUE 3/13	WED 3/14	THU 3/15	FRI 3/16
	<u>Lou on Federal News Radio, 4:30 pm</u>			

NOTEWORTHY

READY, SET, GO! JA ROTATION PROGRAM PILOT LAUNCHED

The JA Rotation Program Pilot has officially launched. The pilot was designed to provide audit staff developmental assignments and encourage cross-organizational skill building. Providing staff the opportunity to be detailed to another JA office can broaden their knowledge base as well as provide JA offices with staff to work on audits, testimonies, or special projects such as controlled correspondence.

The pilot was open to permanent audit staff at the GS-13 level or below. Employees were matched based on their preferred activity (such as testimony) and office, while ensuring office-specific needs were met. Rotational opportunities will vary in length.

We were able to match 6 of the 12 applicants—Shirell Butcher, Jennifer Hoffman, Deborah Kloppenburg, Patti Lehman, Calvin Moore, and Marvin Tuxhorn. Thanks to all who participated. We hope staff will enjoy this developmental activity, learn something new, and broaden their knowledge base.

The second rotation pilot application period begins this summer. More information can be found on SharePoint at [JA Rotation Guidelines](#).

OIG WIKI IPO COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21

The Community of Practice event “OIG Wiki IPO,” originally scheduled for February, has been rescheduled for March 21 in the DOT Media Center from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. EST. Webcast details will be provided on the day of the event.

To receive one CPE credit, register in advance in TMS whether you plan to attend in person or via webcast at this link:

https://tms.nbc.gov/plateau/user/deeplink_redirect.jsp?linkId=REGISTRATION&scheduleID=21344.

If you previously registered for the event, you must re-register at the new link provided. Also, please be sure to see your training coordinator for a sign-in sheet, or if you are attending in person, you may sign-in at the DOT Media Center. You must register in TMS and sign an attendance sheet to receive credit.

NOTEWORTHY

CFC FINALE CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN

In 2011, CFC raised over \$64 million for hundreds of worthy local and international charitable organizations.

On March 6, the Combined Federal Campaign presented its 2011 Finale and Awards Program acknowledging the generous monetary contributions from various Government personnel, and applauding the time and energy of the keyworkers. DOT was one of the Government agencies that received recognition for its contribution.

The event showcased the ideas that had the greatest Governmentwide impact. Lois Wellman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency shared a heartwarming, but harrowing story. About 6 years ago a fire destroyed her home and left her son with injuries that included disfiguring burns. His specialized medical treatment led to huge bills that greatly compounded the family's dilemma. A charitable organization supported by CFC contributions



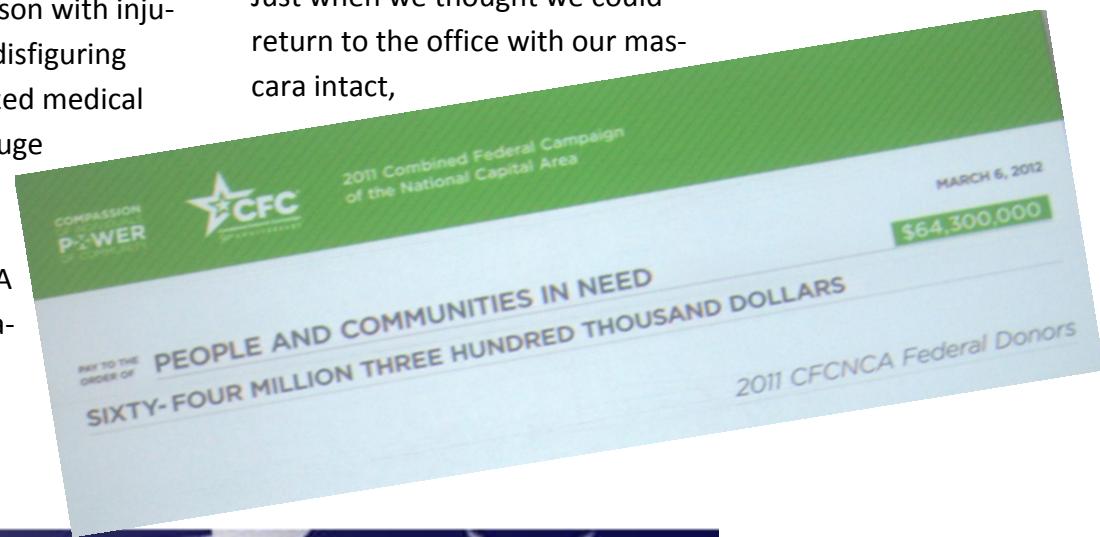
came to Wellman's aid. This charity not only paid many of the family's medical bills, but also made sure the entire family received the psychological counseling they needed to recover from this trauma as well. We were all moved by the pictures of her son attending his high school prom after the surgeries that restored his face.

Just when we thought we could return to the office with our mascara intact,

the young man himself rose and personally thanked us all for our hard work for CFC.

Suddenly all the hours spent asking coworkers for donations seemed totally worthwhile. Thank you all so much for your patience and generosity.

—Angel Simmons, J-3



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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

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ALL-HANDS...ONE UNEXPECTED CUT



Cal's first all-hands of the year, which was broadcast to the field and available via VPN, recognized recent achievements and prepared us for potential tough times ahead.

Cal noted that we have already issued 56 reports with 172 recom-

mendations this fiscal year—including a \$1.4 billion recommendation that funds be put to better use in our QCR of audited DOT financial statements. Since last August, JI has opened 75 investigations and closed 82. During this period, there were 55 indictments and 30 convictions and \$22 million in recoveries stemming from our work. OPs and HC accomplishments have also been significant, especially in IT and training.

Surveys and other indicators not only show our hard work is paying off, but we're being noticed for our efforts. Impressed with our outcomes on OMB's Employee Viewpoint survey for 2011, the Partnership for Public Service

asked that we share some of the changes that we think led to our improved status, as we have done in the past. Similarly, an upcoming book on human capital best practices in the Federal government will devote a chapter to our human capital efforts. The book—which Federal Management Partners, Inc., is compiling—was prompted by a publisher's interest in the subject.

We were also selected by George Mason University's Department of Public and International Affairs as one of seven proposed case studies to include in its upcoming book on the Federal role in shared governance, which will be re-

(Continued on page 2)

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 3/5	TUE 3/6	WED 3/7	THU 3/8	FRI 3/9
		Telework for HQ and 3rd Street	FOIA Brown-bag for IG Community 12-1:30	

NOTEWORTHY

NEXT LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14

GS-14s and GS-15s are invited to join Ann on Wednesday, March 14th, from noon to 1:30 EST for a discussion on "Becoming Politically Savvy." Email ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov to let Ellen know if you will be videoconferencing in for the brownbag. The conference call number is [REDACTED] (b)(6).

Please remember that if you would like CEUs/CPEs, you must register for the brown bag via TMS. The direct link is https://tms.nbc.gov/plateau/user/deeplink_redirect.jsp?linkId=REGISTRATION&scheduleID=21289.

Also, remember to register in TMS so your name is listed on the roster and that you sign in on the attendance sheet.

COVER STORY: OIG ALL-HANDS

(Continued from page 1)

searched through the lens of the Recovery Act. Planned end products include workpapers, best practice guidance, workshops, a capstone conference, and a textbook and related training curricula.

Cal then turned to the budget, laying out various scenarios based on best available information. While senior leaders are encouraged by the President's 2013 budget request and remain optimistic, Cal warned that there are many unknowns, including whether ARRA spending will be extended beyond

the end of next year. A \$1 trillion sequestration in discretionary spending in early January 2013 would also have an impact, but how much is unknown at this time.

Cal outlined how OIG plans to continue to stay ahead of the curve, including ongoing congressional outreach and our focus on conserving our operational costs. Cal reiterated his promise and commitment to transparency.

Cal ended the all-hands by announcing several new work flexibilities, including continued telework and a maxiflex pilot. Cal also an-

nounced business casual attire, and did a dramatic reading of PPM, chapter 25. To kick off the new policy, Cal cut the tie—literally. Bob Westbrooks was amenable to the tie cutting, but didn't seem open to shaving when Cal presented him with a razor.

We look forward to seeing the videos JA-10 and JI come up with for the next all hands.

In the meantime, you can see the entire webcast of the all-hands at [OIG All Hands Webcast - February 29, 2012](#).

NOTEWORTHY

WHEN IT COMES TO DREDGING, THERE'S MORE THAN SCRAPING THE BOTTOM

On January 19, OIG engineers Anne-Marie Joseph and Rodolfo Pérez—who provide technical support to audits and investigations of all modes of transportation, including maritime transport—spent a cold day on the Chesapeake waters learning how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers surveys dredges and maintains a system of channels that allow large deep-draft vessels to call on the Port of Baltimore.

Anne-Marie and Rodolfo jumped aboard two vessels to see how the Corps' Baltimore District takes

care of one of the busiest deep-water ports in the Nation.

A dredged channel in the Port of Baltimore may service navigation anywhere from 1 to a 100 years until silt layers block the channel. Many variables contribute to this siltation cycle, including weather changes, currents, navigation traffic, and geography. The Port of Baltimore is a natural recipient of silt and clay deposits from its 32-square mile area of the Patapsco River and its tributaries, and its inland location in the Chesapeake Bay. The Corps has been tackling this dredging challenge since 1824.

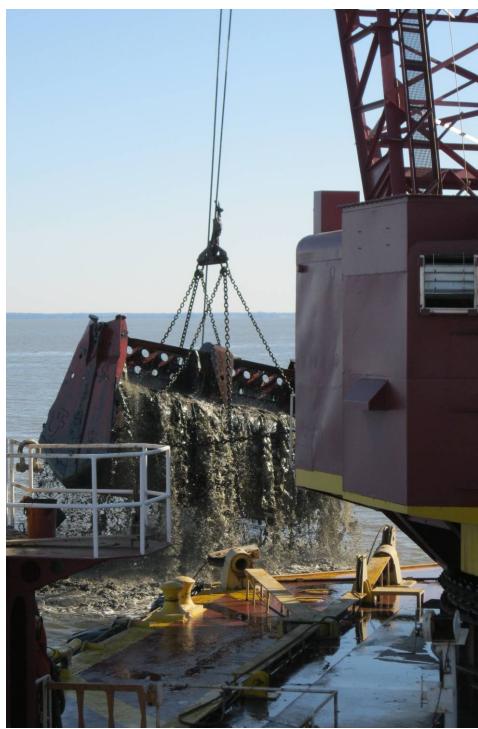
The day began aboard the Linthicum, the Corps' survey vessel that is equipped with sonar and other high-tech equipment to take depth and contour measurements below water. The Linthicum technicians explained how they scan the waterways with the instruments onboard for data that produce precise measurements of the peaks and valleys across the bottom, which are essential for deter-



Rodolfo Pérez and Anne-Marie Joseph onboard the dredge vessel

mining whether a navigation channel provides safe depth for deep-draft vessels and, when necessary, calculate how much material must be dredged to restore optimal navigation depth.

Anne-Marie and Rodolfo then sailed to the Dredge Vessel 54 on the Brewerton Channel to watch the dredging for extending the channel. The vessel's most striking feature was its huge 50 cubic yard cable-operated bucket. Attached to a latticed crane arm, the bucket heavily splashed into the water, slowly emerged dripping and loaded, rotated towards the adjacent dirt barge, and opened its claws releasing a massive payload of mud. Then, like a giant mechanical crab, it repeated every motion until the dirt barge is filled with 800,000 cubic yards of mate-



Dredge bucket coming out of the water loaded

(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 3)

rial. To keep the dredge platform leveled and aligned over moving waves, the platform was anchored to the bottom by three steel "spuds," one at the stern, one at the port, and one at starboard. As the dredging work advanced, the spuds slowly moved the platform forward in sequence, each one folding up and down like a colossal square antenna.

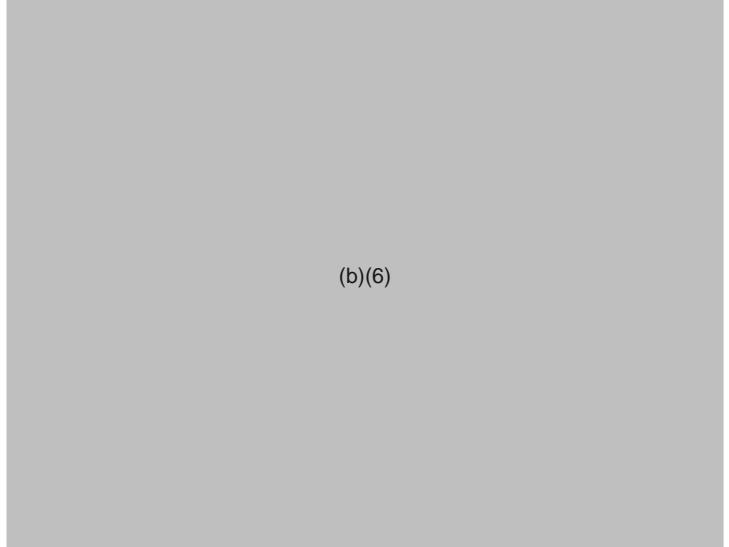
The OIG engineers also saw the sensors onboard to monitor the ongoing dredging. The sensors' data were continuously plotted on a screen with a plan view of the channel showing the bucket scrape marks, the volumes of dredged material, and depth changes across the channel. The data are processed into the Dredge Information System, which tracks critical parameters

for every dredging project the Corps undertakes, such as location coordinates, volumes and types of material removed with dredging costs, disposal transport, and record of depths and contours that are essential for navigation charts.

— Rodolfo Pérez, Engineer Advisor, JA-40



Dredging the Brewerton Channel Extension in the Baltimore Harbor.



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Corps technician explains the Linthicum's depth scanning equipment.

DRIVERLESS CARS—COMING TO A ROAD NEAR YOU!

The buzz about driverless cars—cars that drive without the input of a human driver—has been building recently. This lengthy profile from Wired, entitled [Let the Robot Drive: The Autonomous Car of the Future Is Here](#), is an informative read about how

far the automated automobile technology has come in the last few years. An article entitled [What Intersections Would Look Like in a World of Driverless Cars](#) contains a mesmerizing video about what intersections could look like if all cars were auto-

mated. Finally, [this editorial](#) from local transit blog Greater Greater Washington cautions policymakers and planners to remember pedestrians and cyclists when planning for our potentially automated future.

NOTEWORTHY

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EXCHANGE FOCUSSES ON POLITICAL SAVVINESS

When I first heard that the topic for the Leadership Development Exchange on February 23 was "Becoming Politically Savvy," I envisioned inviting my competitors to dinner, and after a game of canasta and a glass of Chianti, serving them poisoned cannoli. Ann quickly clarified: "Political savvy in the workplace—also called political intelligence, political astuteness, political ability, and political acumen—represents the totality of skills for successfully navigating the dynamics of an organization to accomplish one's goals." In short, "Political savvy is the ability to navigate the political waters and influence others."

Ann pointed out that some interpret "political savvy" negatively—even Machiavellian, marked by cunning, duplicity, bad faith, and other dastardly principles of conduct laid down by Niccolò Machiavelli.

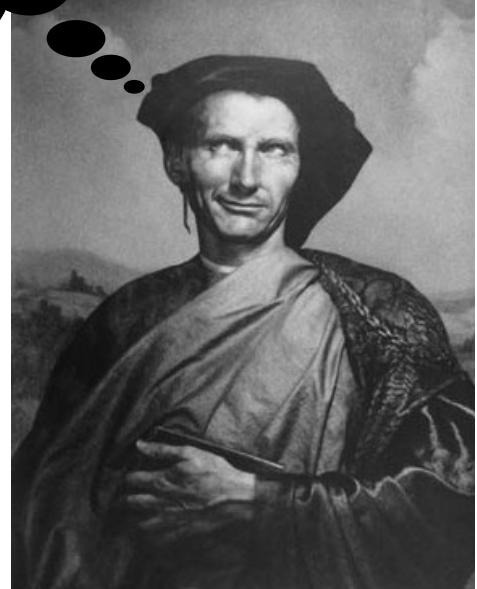
Granted, there are those who seek to gain power at any cost, but political savviness also helps us achieve significant accomplishments. Political savvy, viewed positively, includes having an in-

clusive or collaborative approach, and intentions that are well meaning and serving a larger group or purpose. An individual with good ideas needs to exert political influence in an organization to ensure that those ideas are realized.

Consequently, having political savviness can be an essential and key workplace competency, regardless of whether your at headquarters or in the field. Ann pointed out that the quickest way to build power in an organization was to develop these skills.

Political savvy, as Ann put it, is about "building a powerbase and gaining followers." This is accomplished by assessing your organizational landscape and asking yourself, "what do I do, and what do I want to do?" By asking yourself these questions, you will be able to focus on achieving specific goals.

One key is to create power within yourself and within others, as opposed to using power over others. Support your boss by responding to and delivering on requests made of you, but also making requests of others. Make sure peo-



ple know you are a team player who is competent, credible, and reliable. Deflect praise to your team and assume personal accountability for issues. Unlike self-orientation, which can destroy trust, building coalitions creates trust. Ann cautioned, however, that coalition building is not a quick task that can be checked off your to-do list. Rather, it takes time to build coalitions and win people over.

Be friendly and courteous with co-workers, but avoid gossip. Work well with perceived trouble makers, but do not align yourself with them. You are better off aligning with those who hold power, but don't forget there is a chain of command, so get comfortable and confident in your ability to bring

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 5)

up controversial issues with your bosses without offending. Success here depends on how well you assess—and access—your organizational landscape. Knowing which stakeholders are interested in you and your ideas and being able to gauge or anticipate their reaction will guide your approach. Just remember that ideas are better perceived when you can demonstrate their value and benefits, as well as deliver on them.

Ann noted that resistance is inevitable, so it's best to be prepared and not be caught off guard when you encounter it. Anticipate the

reactions of allies, adversaries, and resistors. Understand them, their agendas and goals, and try to find how your ideas fit in with theirs. When facing individuals with an objection, do not go to their boss to undercut their arguments. Rather, determine their goals and positions. It may turn out that they share your goal, but differ on your approach or, conversely, disagree with your goal but like your approach. Make it less about "the right answer" and more about comparing perspectives, understanding that the process will help refine a great answer. Ultimately, success de-

pends on gaining credibility by demonstrating expertise, personal integrity, access to influential people, and an ability to assure others they will be a part of making change happen.

The session was so successful, political savvy will be the topic for Ann's March 14 Leadership Brownbag.

Now that I have a better understanding of what it means to have political savvy, I have to find out if you can freeze cannoli.

— Dave McBride, Curtis Dow, JA-40, Cambridge

REMINDER: HQ AND 3RD STREET TELEWORK THIS WEDNESDAY

On March 7, there will be a DOT-sponsored Telework exercise to prepare for a COOP or other events that bar workers from coming to the office.

All telework eligible employees at headquarters and 3rd Street will telework to test the VPN and our agency's ability to telework during a snowstorm or emergency.

We will be testing OIG's Call Tree that day. We have to account for all personnel located in Washington DC and report to the Secretary, so please be prepared to re-

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spond when your supervisor contacts you that morning.

Our Help Desk will be available to support teleworkers and the regions.

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

JI'S PHILADELPHIA OFFICE STEPS UP TO SUPPORT DBE TRAINING

The City of Philadelphia, Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) recently sponsored the Minority Contractor Training Program, an 8-month program designed to aid Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) contractors in building and running their businesses and to help them successfully navigate the world of publicly funded contracts. OEO administers the DOT DBE program for all federally funded projects in Philadelphia.

On February 2, the final day of class, Special Agents (b)(6) (b)(6) of the Philadelphia Field Office gave the program's capstone presentation—avoiding fraud in the DBE program. Since 2004, the Philadelphia office has successfully investigated several DBE fraud schemes that resulted in 20 indictments, 19 convictions, 23 debarments. So far, 14 individuals have been sentenced to a total of 164 months in prison, and the office has recovered approximately \$3.7 million.

(b)(6) and (b)(6) provided an overview of our investigative mission, defined fraud, and gave examples of Pennsylvania DBE fraud cases worked by OIG. The agents emphasized the OIG mission to remove fraudsters to ensure DBE funds go only to legitimate DBEs.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer exchange that included many positive comments by attendees—mostly DBE owners from the Philadelphia metro area, but also Philadelphia city officials and construction industry attorneys. Angela Dowd-Burton, OEO Executive Director, thanked the agents for their informative and important presentation on the lessons of the past and DBE fraud pitfalls to avoid going forward. She emphasized the commitment of OEO to help DBEs succeed and to eliminate fraud from the program. Program attendees graduate on

February 29 at a ceremony hosted by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter at City Hall.

As an interesting aside, the program was held at The Enterprise Center, which was founded in 1989 to provide economic development opportunities to local DBEs. During the 1950s and 60s, American Bandstand hosted by Dick Clark was broadcast from the building that now houses The Enterprise Center. It was built in 1947 as the Nation's first facility designed specifically for television broadcasting and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

— (b)(6) JRI-2



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 2/27	TUE 2/28	WED 2/29	THU 3/1	FRI 3/2
		All-Hands, 1:00-3:00, Media Center		

NOTEWORTHY

ALL-HANDS—THIS WEDNESDAY!

The All-Hands will be held this Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 EST.

SUPERVISION III: KNOW THYSELF

The pilot course for Supervision III, *Managing Self: Leadership Presence*, was held at the Learning Center February 8 to 10, focused. Over the 3 days, 13 GS-14 and 15 participants learned about leadership presence, leadership strengths, and stress management.

As part of the course, participants presented a 1-minute videotaped speech on their leadership role model and what they admired, practices they've adopted, and three needs their role model fulfills as a leader. Selected role models included a parent, a basketball coach, coworkers, and a civil rights activist.

Emotional Intelligence was also covered in the class. Participants learned how to identify feelings and emotions, self-regulate those

emotions in the workforce, and gear up to work on a project and be optimistic. One afternoon was devoted to stress management and allowed participants to under-

stand what causes stress and how best to handle it. They learned SOSS—Stop, Oxygenate, Strengthen Appreciation, and Seek information—as a way to lower stress levels. They even got to practice with a heart rate monitor that demonstrated coherence techniques.

On Friday, Ann spoke to the class, along with guest speaker, Donna Gambrell, Director of the Treasury Department's Community Development and Financial Institutions

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Fund. Ms. Gambrell had an honest discussion about her leadership path, her difficulties and struggles along the way, and gave some sound and specific advice on being a successful leader. At the end, participants provided 30-second synopses about their learning experience with OIG's leadership program, and Ann passed along advice for participants, culminating in her 3 Cs: Competence, Confidence, and Charisma.

— Amanda Barton, JA-2

NOTEWORTHY

BROWN BAG FOCUSES ON CIVIL FALSE CLAIMS ACT

On Wednesday, February 15, 2012, OIG held a brown bag discussion on the Civil False Claims Act. Speakers included Omer Poirier, OIG's Chief Counsel, Jamie Yavelberg, Assistant Director of DOJ's Civil Fraud Section of the Commercial Litigation Branch, and Dan Fruchter, a trial attorney at the Civil Fraud Section.

The room was filled to capacity with DOT attorneys and OIG staff, and a teleconference line allowed regional offices to participate in the informative session.

The Civil False Claims Act imposes liability on persons and companies who defraud Government programs. Under it, persons who knowingly submit, or cause another to submit, false claims for payment of Government funds or property are liable for three times the government's damages plus civil penalties of \$5,500 to \$11,000 per false claim.

The brown bag provided an overview on the Civil False Claims Act and a step-by-step analysis of how claims are prosecuted.

The brown bag concluded by highlighting an FCA case investigated by OIG involving DBE fraud in the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit System. The case resulted in several Minnesota transit contractors agreeing to pay \$4.6 million to resolve their FCA liability.

DOJ attorneys said they have a great work relationship with both DOT and OIG, and encouraged us to reach out to them to pursue possible claims.

— Jeff Gibson, J-3

INDIVIDUAL MENTORING MATCHES MADE

Two weeks ago, the OIG Mentoring Team was knee-deep in mentor and mentee profiles, working diligently to ensure robust mentor-mentee matches for individual mentoring. But before any matches were made, Ann was matched with a randomly selected mentee:

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"Being a mentor myself, it's exciting to be on the other side of this process with Ann. I have high regard for her due to her vast experience and the various positions at different levels she has held in this organization as well as others. I'm

excited that I will be able to share, grow, and promote this program that I truly believe in as a mentee and mentor. Thanks to Cal and Ann who have encouraged our organization to move in this direction."

If you haven't yet done so, make sure to email the name of your individual mentor to mentor-ing@oig.dot.gov. And just a reminder—the mentee is responsible for initiating contact with the mentor to arrange a first meeting.

For those of you who signed up for group mentoring, look for an email from your group leaders in the first

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couple weeks of March about setting up a first group meeting.

Congratulations to (b)(6) and all the mentees and mentors!

— Olivia Starr, JA-50, with special thanks to Dave McBride, JA-40, Cambridge for his photo of Ann

NOTEWORTHY

ACCEPTING GIFTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES

As Federal employees, we strive to have high ethical standards. As OIG employees, we are often held to an even higher standard.

One recurring ethics question: When it is permissible to accept a gift from an outside source? Federal gift restrictions exist to maintain public confidence in the Government and preserve our independence. We must not only strive to meet these standards but to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

So what is a gift? It can come in many forms. It isn't always something tangible like a mug or a tee shirt. A gift is *anything* of monetary value. It can include intangible things such as transportation, such as taxis, train tickets, and tours. It can include getting into an event for free, accepting a discount, or food.

Two types of gifts are generally prohibited:

1 *Gifts given by a prohibited source.* Prohibited sources are persons or organizations that seek official action by DOT, do business (or seek to do business) with DOT, or are regulated by DOT. Even if you personally cannot affect the interests of the prohibited source, gifts are still generally prohibited.

2 *Gifts given because of your official position.* Even if a gift is from a person or organization that has no official dealings with DOT, accepting a gift because of your official position may create an appearance of using public office for private gain.

However, as with most laws, exceptions to these prohibitions do exist. For example, employees may accept gifts if they are valued at \$20 or less. There is also an exception for free attendance at "widely attended gatherings."



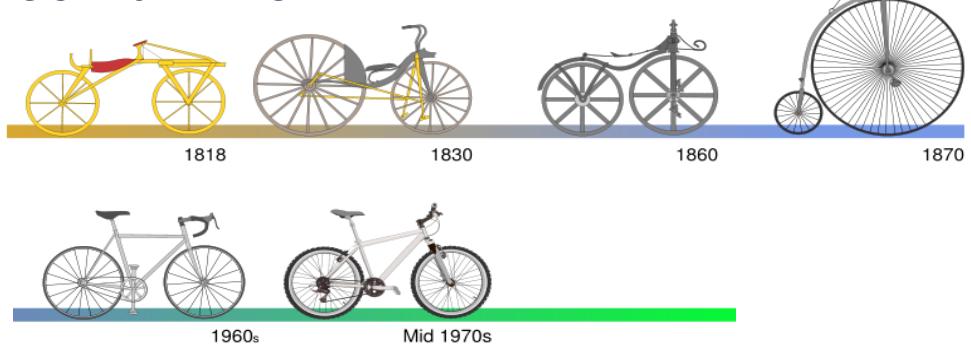
Yet, each of these exceptions have their own requirements. For example, free attendance at widely attended gatherings require *prior approval* and there has to be an *agency interest* in your attendance.

We provide ethics training to all employees so you can recognize ethics issues when they arise. We emphasize the importance of contacting an ethics official as soon as you learn of a potential ethical issue. Seth Kaufman, Fritz Swartzbaugh, and Omer Poirier are here to advise you when you face questionable circumstances.

For more detailed information, visit the [Office of Government Ethics](#) website or contact an ethics official.

— Seth Kaufman, Jeff Gibson, J-3

CONCEPT “Z” BIKE...EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN



OIG IN THE NEWS

DALLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S SERGEANT IS ACCUSED OF FALSIFYING RECORDS

February 14, 2012

The Dallas Morning News

A Dallas County sheriff's sergeant was indicted Tuesday on charges related to an alleged scam in which at least seven traffic deputies are accused of defrauding the federal government by charging it for overtime work they didn't perform.

"For a few extra dollars, they ruined their whole careers," Sheriff Lupe Valdez said. "We can't allow fraud to happen."

The deputies are accused of falsifying records to make it appear that they worked overtime writing tickets under the terms of a grant that allows federal funds to be used to pay them. Dallas County will likely have to reimburse the federal government for all of the grant money paid to the indicted deputies — at least tens of thousands of dollars and possibly much more.

The sheriff's audit began when officials found discrepancies in Deputy Johnny Quarles' timesheets and ticket book last year.

Three Fort Worth officers have been indicted on charges of tampering with a government record as well as on theft by a public servant charges. Six others have either been fired or have resigned since the scandal broke. Last March, the Fort Worth City Council agreed to repay \$231,000 in grant money that had been paid to the officers.

In El Paso, 18 officers have left that department since the investigation began last summer. On Thursday, an El Paso grand jury indicted two of those former police officers on charges of tampering with a government record with intent to defraud.

TWO FORMER EL PASO POLICE OFFICERS INDICTED: LATEST CHARGED IN OT SCANDAL

February 11, 2012

El Paso Times

A state grand jury indicted two more former El Paso police officers on charges stemming from an investigation into misappropriation of grant-funded overtime that has resulted in 18 officers leaving the Police Department.

Late last summer the El Paso Times broke the story that an investigation had been opened into overtime pay irregularities regarding STEP grants. The inquiry later expanded to other police grants.

Lowe was under investigation about overtime pay linked to a grant for anti-gang work. He was paid more than \$76,000 in overtime in fiscal 2011, or four times as much as he earned in overtime the previous year, according to city documents. He has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

[City Manager Joyce] Wilson said that auditors reviewed all of the Police Department's grants and that problems were found in about four of about 34 grants. She said measures have been implemented to prevent similar problems in the future.

"As an organization, we have zero tolerance for that," Wilson said.

Wilson said that the total amount of grant money that might have been misused is still being tallied.

Last year, the city of Fort Worth approved paying back \$231,000 to the Texas Department of Transportation after a similar grant-pay scandal that led to six officers being fired and at least three officers indicted on criminal charges.

Note: Indictments, informations, and criminal complaints are only accusations by the Government. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

HAPPY LEAP DAY!



Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CUT THE CAKE: CFO ACT TURNS 20

Over the past 20 years, the CFO Act has played a pivotal role in improving financial accountability and transparency across the Federal Government. Congress directed the Chief Financial Officers Council and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to evaluate the lessons learned since the CFO Act went into effect. Drawing on input and expertise from across the CFO and CIGIE communities, the Government Accountability Office, academia, as well as private sector auditing and accounting groups, the Councils recently provided a [report](#) to Congress outlining the results of their review and recommendations for improvements in financial management.

The CFO Act of 1990—20 Years Later: Report to Congress and the Comptroller General highlights several benefits of the CFO Act, including increased transparency, greater accountability, and significant improvements in financial management and internal

controls. Last year, 21 out of the 24 CFO Act agencies obtaining unqualified “clean” opinions on their financial statement audits—only the second time in the last decade that the Government reached this milestone.



The report also includes recommendations for changes to the legislative and regulatory framework for financial management, such as the following:

- Providing Deputy CFOs with similar breadth of responsibilities as their respective CFOs.
- Enhancing the role of the CFO by standardizing its portfolio to include leadership responsibility for budget formulation and execution, planning and performance, risk management

and internal controls, financial systems, and accounting.

- Directing OMB, GAO, and the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, in consultation with CIGIE, to evolve the financial reporting model by examining the entire process to identify improvements, streamline reporting requirements, and better meet stakeholders' needs.

On February 1, Louis King and other members of the IG community briefed

FASAB on the evolution of the financial reporting model. To identify potential changes to the reporting model and how FASAB could contribute to this effort, FASAB representatives posed questions on the need to continue performing annual financial statements, the need for better cost accounting, the possibility of real-time financial reporting, potential gaps in accounting standards, and the need for forward looking accounting information.

—Louis King, AIG, JA-20

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 2/6	TUE 2/7	WED 2/8	THU 2/9	FRI 2/10
	Cal —S2 Updates, 10:00 a.m.			Cal—Recovery Board meeting, 1:30 Ann—Closing remarks to SUP 3 Training, 3:30 p.m. Mentoring Program deadline for submitting forms Training survey deadline

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ALL-HANDS MEETING FEBRUARY 28

Cal's first All Hands Meeting for 2012 will be held on Tuesday, February 28, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm EST in the DOT Media Center and webcast to field offices. Stay tuned for further information.

A FEW MENTORING REMINDERS

1 The deadline to sign up for the Mentoring Program is this **FRIDAY**, so if you are interested in participating as a mentor, mentee, or both, please complete the form(s) below:

- Mentor form: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/MentorWiki/Mentor.aspx>
- Mentee form: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/MentorWiki/Mentee.aspx>

As an added incentive for mentees: Mentoring Program staff asked Ann if she would be a mentor to one individual. She enthusiastically agreed and will randomly select a mentee from the completed mentee profiles.

2 Mentors and mentees who are participating in OIG's mentoring program for the first time should attend one of the following orientation sessions in the IG Conference Room:

These sessions are optional for those of you who participated in the pilot program, but we encourage you to

Tuesday, February 14	1:30 to 2:30 pm
Wednesday, February 15	1:00 to 2:00 pm
Wednesday, February 15	3:00 to 4:00 pm
Thursday, February 16	10:00 to 11:00 am

attend since we do have new resource materials! Field offices will be VTC and/or teleconferenced. Please contact Ellen Craig (Ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov) and let her know which session you will be attending and if you will be attending in person or via VTC or telecon.

3 For further information about our Mentoring Program, including Mentoring Myth Busters, check out the revamped Mentoring SharePoint site <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/default.aspx>.

NOTEWORTHY

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PRESS EVENT

Following the January 27 sentencing of Colton Harris-Moore, aka "The Barefoot Bandit," I took part in my first press conference. Our investigation revealed that Harris-Moore—20, of Camano Island, Washington—piloted stolen aircraft without a valid airman's certificate. His crime spree, which began in the Pacific Northwest, ended with a crash landing in the Bahamas. At the sentencing, the U.S. District Judge noted that Harris-Moore had endangered others with his "reckless conduct" and that it was time for a "new life flight plan." Harris-Moore was sentenced to 78 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release.

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PSWG GS-13 SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the Process Standardization Working Group's survey of GS-13 Senior Auditors and Analysts are in! Nearly 70 percent of surveyed staff responded to questions regarding their duties and expectations. As you may recall, the purpose of the survey was to determine how each JA uses its GS-13 Auditor and Analyst staff. PSWG provided the survey to both GS-13s and their supervisors. This survey was an important effort as it has become clear there are some inconsistencies, not just among the various JAs, but with how managers in the same JA office use these critical staff members. The survey results have been shared with our performance standards working group, and they are using the results as part of our ongoing efforts to improve our performance standards.

The results, which we recently presented to senior management, are available on the PSWG SharePoint site, and can be viewed by clicking [here](#). A big thanks to all who participated.

— Deanne A. Titus, JA-50

OIG IN THE NEWS

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING GAPS WILL BE EX- ACERBATED BY NEXTGEN, SAYS OIG

January 30, 2012

fiercegovernment.com

Air traffic control facilities critical to management of the national airspace system face a training resource gap that roll out of a Federal Aviation Administration modernization effort will exacerbate, says the Transportation Department office of inspector general.

In a report dated Jan. 12, the auditors note [that] attrition of trainees at more than two thirds of...facilities [auditors considered to be critical to aviation safety due to the volume and complexity of air traffic] exceed the national rate of 24 percent.... At the New York terminal radar approach control, 77 percent of new controllers between fiscals 2008 and 2010 didn't become certified professional controllers.

Auditors say critical facilities lack training support and places the blame largely on training slot methodology used by the Air Traffic Control Optimum Training Solution program office.... Auditors in the past have suggested that Raytheon's staffing methodology may need examination, and in this report they point to a training resource allocation tool launched by the ATCOTS program office in February 2011.

"We also found critical facilities that have a high volume of trainees but not enough contract instructors to take full advantage of training simulators," auditors add.

The FAA training mission will become only more challenging as it begins to implement NextGen, since the entire controller workforce will require re-training to utilize it, the report says.

FAA FACES SHORTAGE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS BECAUSE OF RETIREMENTS

January 30, 2012

CNN

Despite a five-year hiring surge, the Federal Aviation Administration is at risk of not having enough senior air traffic controllers for its busiest and most critical facilities, where they are needed to run operations and train less-experienced controllers, according to the agency's independent inspector general.

Nearly one-third of the senior controllers at the nation's most critical facilities are eligible for retirement, according to a report by the FAA's office of inspector general. At a Dallas-Ft. Worth FAA facility, 65% of the controllers are eligible for retirement, it says.

Meanwhile, trainees are quitting jobs at high rates at those same demanding, high-volume facilities, according to the report. Between fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2010, critical facilities lost 40% of their trainees to attrition, well above the national average of 24%, the report says.

The inspector general's report looks at 21 facilities deemed "critical" to the nation because of the high volume of air traffic they control.

The FAA said Monday it has "progressively improved" hiring, training and certification of new controllers and has increased its ranks of senior controllers, known as "certified professional controllers."

The [inspector general's] office said that while the FAA is getting better at allocating staffing, "it still has not provided the training support these complex facilities need to slow attrition and ensure the success of new hires."

FTA LACKS RAIL SAFETY DATA, SAYS OIG

February 2, 2012

www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com

The Federal Transit Administration lacks the data necessary to nationally oversee transit safety, says the Transportation Department office of inspector general in a Jan. 31 report.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in 2009 called on Congress to approve legislation giving the FTA a direct role in setting rail transit safety standards and oversee their implementation in localities that take federal rail dollars. Currently 28 oversight agencies oversee 35 light rail and 13 heavy rail systems operated by 48 transit agencies across the country, leading to a disparity in standards such as rail car crashworthiness and train operator certification.

The only way FTA would be able to step into an expanded oversight role would be to adopt data-driven, risk-based oversight, the OIG report says. But, while FTA captures basic safety incident data such as fatalities and injuries, it doesn't have detailed information on matters such as the condition of rail transit assets.

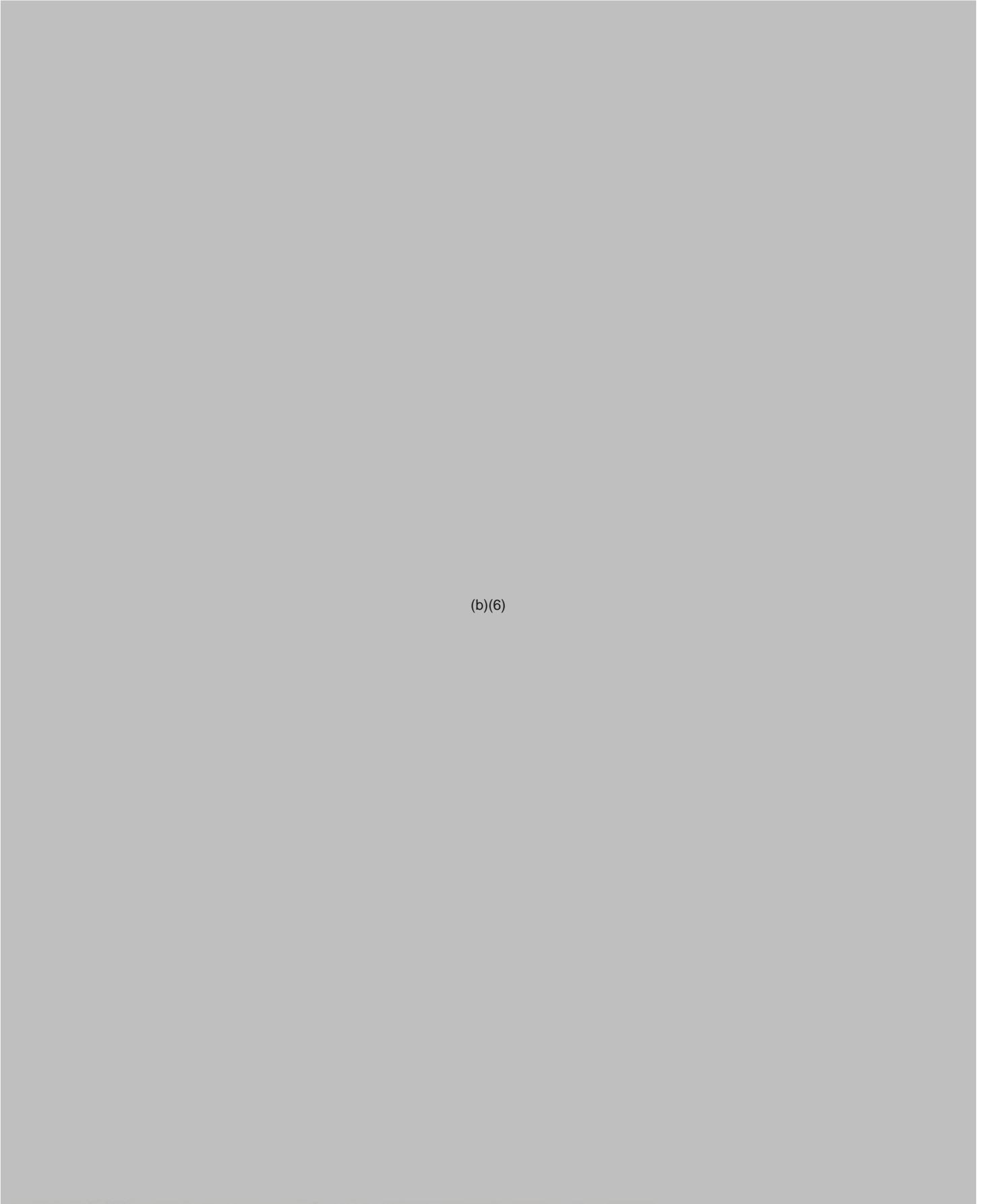
Were the FTA to increase its responsibilities, it would also have to institute new practices to ensure data quality, a problem that has plagued other Transportation Department regulators such as the Federal Highway Administration, the report adds.

The agency would also face the difficult task of articulating a uniform set of national safety performance measures.

Even without expanded authority, the report recommends that FTA improve its data collection, an effort FTA officials say they're undertaking in an assessment of current data gaps.

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

A NOTE FROM CAL

MENTORING PROGRAM “OPEN SEASON”

I am pleased to announce open season for OIG’s mentoring program. Survey results from the 6-month pilot program revealed that 86 percent of the mentees who participated in the pilot would recommend our Mentoring Program to their colleagues, and 92 percent of the mentors would recommend being a mentor.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, mentee, or both, please take a few minutes to complete the online forms (links below) by **Friday, February 10**. Note that

Everyone has something to learn and something to contribute

mentees and mentors from last year's pilot program still need to complete the forms.

The article on page 3 provides a concise overview of mentoring and OIG’s program. If you have any questions, contact a Mentoring Program team member: Marshall Anderson, Cordelia Bostic, Madeline Chulumovich, Michelle McVicker, and Olivia Starr.

As the calendar below shows, our goal is to kick off the 9-month Mentoring Program season on February 29. So please be timely in filling out the forms. And thank you for making this program a continued success.

Mentor form: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/MentorWiki/Mentor.aspx>

Mentee form: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/MentorWiki/Mentee.aspx>

FEBRUARY MENTORING SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6	7	8	9	10 Mentoring Forms Due
13	14 Mentor/Mentee Orientation	15	16	17 Mentees Notified of Mentor Matches
20	21 Mentees Select Mentors	22	23	24
27	28	29 Mentoring Program Begins		

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 1/30	TUE 1/31	WED 2/1	THU 2/2	FRI 2/3
	CAL —Senior Leader’s Meeting 11:00 am COP 2:00 to 3:00 pm EST		 <p>HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!</p>	

NOTEWORTHY

“MODAL INTELL-IG-ENCE” COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TOMORROW!

On Tuesday, January 31, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm EST in the DOT Media Center and via webcast Kristen Bidwell and Jim Quinn (JA-50) will discuss railroad operations, railroad interaction with Government agencies, and what makes the railroad different from other transportation modes. The event will include significant time for Q&A. Questions may be submitted in advance to luke.brennan@oig.dot.gov.

To receive one CPE credit, register in advance in TMS whether you plan to attend in person or via webcast at this link: https://tms.nbc.gov/plateau/user/deeplink_redirect.jsp?linkId=REGISTRATION&scheduleID=20847.

Please make sure that you sign in on the sheet provided to your training coordinator or, if you are attending in person, at the DOT Media Center. You must register in TMS *and* sign an attendance sheet to receive credit.

NEWS FROM THE QUARTERLY DIG MEETING

On Tuesday, January 24, I attended the quarterly meeting of DIGs, hosted by GSA. These meetings are invaluable to me as they are highly informative and I always learn a lot. This meeting was no exception.

Robert Erickson, Deputy Inspector General at GSA, began the meeting with an overview of GSA’s mission, organizational structure, operations, and results. Much of the discussion centered on budget realities and strategies GSA is employing to adjust to the loss of ARRA funds, a smaller appropriation, and an increasing workload. Clearly,

the sentiment is that these are unprecedented times and most Government agencies are feeling the pinch of a constrained budget environment. The discussion further validated the criticalness and value of the early and conservative approach we took to managing our budget.

Erickson’s discussion of GSA’s work on “Recovering Historical Works of Art” garnered lots of interest. GSA OIG, in conjunction with the GSA Fine Arts Program and DOJ, recovered historic works of art, commissioned by FDR’s Works Progress Administration, and returned

these pieces to the care of the U.S. Government. PBS filmed a segment for *Antiques Roadshow*, which aired last May. To date, GSA OIG recovered over 80 pieces of WPA art, valued at approximately \$1.15 million.

During the second portion of the meeting, GAO’s Chuck Young, Managing Director for Public Affairs, delivered a riveting presentation on the power and value of social media. I definitely walked away learning a lot about several platforms that focus on “users of our information and reports.”

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY

MENTORING: EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO LEARN AND CONTRIBUTE

Mentoring is a developmental partnership through which one person shares knowledge, skills, information, and perspective to foster the professional growth of someone else. The power of mentoring is that it creates a one-of-a-kind opportunity for collaboration, goal achievement, and problem solving.

OIG's Mentoring Program is open to *everyone*—all grade levels, all positions, and all locations. We hope you find the chart (next page) and information below useful in deciding how mentoring might best fit into your professional and personal life.

Choose one or more of the three types of mentoring (to help you decide, see the table on the next page):

INDIVIDUAL MENTORING

Individual mentoring involves pairing a mentor and mentee who meet regularly to discuss the mentee's personal and professional growth. Over 86 percent of the mentees who completed our survey would recommend his or her individual mentor to colleagues, mainly because they thought the topics were relevant and beneficial to development. One mentee who participated in the pilot



stated that "the experience, knowledge, and credentials of my mentor are amazing, yet she is also personable, funny, and genuinely committed to the program."

GROUP MENTORING

Group mentoring involves leaders facilitating discussions at regular meetings about personal and professional development topics. One mentee who participated in the pilot noted that the individuals who led the group monitoring session "had so much experience to share" and that the sessions "were the best part of my week."

FLASH MENTORING

Flash mentoring is a great opportunity for mentors to share their knowledge and experience without the long-term time commitment. Mentees have the benefit of hearing from our Senior Leaders about their professional and

personal goals, along with challenges and successes they experienced through their leadership journey. Mentees will gain valuable face time with the front office executives and other managers within OIG. We expect that most of Flash mentoring will be conducted during group mentoring and brown bags. However, another aspect of flash mentoring is individual (1:1) mentoring, specifically a one-time meeting about a specific developmental goal or concern. Stay tuned!

There are other types of mentoring, as well. For example, reverse mentoring is when mentors learn from their mentees. As mentors from the pilot program told us, the relationship can be mutually beneficial. In fact, the private sector has caught on to how younger workers can teach more experienced management about new tools, skills, and perspectives. Some businesses, such as General Electric have formalized this as a reverse mentoring program. To read more about reverse mentoring click on the link to the November 28, 2011, *Wall Street Journal* article: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/Shared%20Documents/Reverse%20Mentoring%20Article%20-%20WSJ.pdf>.

NOTEWORTHY

WHICH TYPE OF MENTORING IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

	Individual	Group	Flash
Content	You and your mentor will decide what to discuss and how to structure your meetings.	The group will determine the agenda collaboratively.	You and the mentor will discuss a specific personal or professional developmental goal or concern.
People	Your mentor will not be from your work group (e.g., if you're in JA-10, your mentor will not be from JA-10).	The group will be made up of roughly 10-15 of your peers and two group leaders.	Same as the Individual mentor.
Time Commitment	You and your mentor will schedule meetings at your mutual convenience, typically once or twice a month from 30 to 60 minutes.	The group leaders will try to find a time that works for all group members to meet, typically once a month for 90 minutes.	You will meet with the mentor only once from 30 to 90 minutes.
Feedback	Expect frequent, specific feedback from your mentor about the issues you discuss.	Expect general, but diverse feedback from group leaders and your peers on issues the group discusses.	Expect feedback only during your one meeting.
Unique Advantages	By working with the same mentor over a period of time, you and your mentor can monitor your progress towards goals and build a strong connection.	By working together in a group you bond and build a peer network. You also receive feedback from multiple sources.	You can get feedback on a particular issue without a long-term time commitment and insight from a senior leader.
Unique Challenges	Both the mentor and mentee need to commit time and effort for the mentoring relationship to work.	Confidentiality and trust may be more of a challenge.	It may not be easy to get an issue or discussion resolved or completed in one session.

JRI-2 PRESENTS AWARDS TO FEDERAL PROSECUTORS IN NEWARK, NJ

On January 20, SAC Doug Shoemaker, (b)(6), (b)(6) presented awards to the Platinum Jet prosecution team at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark, NJ. In November 2010, following a 4-week trial, the owners of Platinum Jet Management (PJM) were convicted by a Federal jury on a series of charges stemming from a February 2005 airplane crash in Teterboro, NJ. The jet overran the runway at Teterboro Airport, struck two cars as it crossed a roadway and crashed into a warehouse, resulting in injuries. Our criminal investigation of the accident was the cover story for OIG's first annual issue of *Impact* magazine (see <http://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/dot/files/ImpactMagazine.pdf>).

Michael Brassington, PJM's President, was found guilty of endangering an aircraft, conspiracy to defraud the Government, making false statements in flight log books, and providing false information to NTSB during its investigation; he was sentenced to serve 30 months in jail. Paul Brassington, PJM's Vice President, was convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud; he was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

After the awards ceremony, SAC Shoemaker and (b)(6), (b)(6) met with U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman and his senior staff to discuss DOT-OIG jurisdiction and potential casework beyond our aviation safety investigations. AUSA Fishman complimented DOT-OIG's investigative abilities and even commented that one of (b)(6) ongoing investigations was one of the most significant cases currently in his office.

Previously in December 2011, (b)(6) received awards from the Newark USAO for their exemplary work on the PJM trial.

— Doug Shoemaker, Special Agent-in-Charge, JRI-2

NOTEWORTHY

SPECIAL AGENT FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM BUILDS “DEEP SMARTS”

Investigations recently augmented its Special Agent Field Training Program (SAFTP) with weeklong peer-to-peer learning sessions.

These sessions are designed to cultivate and transfer knowledge held by seasoned investigators and agents. The knowledge sharing sessions apply Dorothy Leonard and Walter Swap’s theory of building “deep smarts” through capturing and codifying other people’s experience (*Deep Smarts:*

How to Cultivate and Transfer Enduring Business Wisdom, 2005).

By leveraging JI’s range of resources, new agents have the opportunity to supplement SAFTP’s written materials with senior agents’ know-how and expertise that comes only from years of hands-on experience. During an assigned topic, such as Anti-Trust or Public Corruption, senior agents discuss their personal experience and provide relevant gobys—such as copies of search

warrant affidavits, indictments, or plea agreements—or resource materials. Lessons learned, both good and bad, are shared because learning what not to do can be as valuable as learning what to do.

To date, Investigations has held four sessions—all well received. As one new agent commented, “Being able to learn from so many different and varied agents made it a very worthwhile experience.”

—
(b)(6)

(Continued from page 2)

Chuck discussed the power and the pros and cons of Twitter, RSS feeds, Facebook, Flickr, Podcasts, Mobile websites, and QR codes to name a few. The take away for me was if we want to stay relevant, we need to pay attention to how our clients and the public in general consume information, then post and disseminate our work and accomplishments accordingly. I’m happy to report that I was one of the few DIGs who could say we do more than maintain a website and use email. Thanks J3!

Still, there’s much more for us to consider, assess, and perhaps do. I

plan to bring the presentation to our staff—perhaps at an upcoming COP. I think you all would find it fascinating.

The final segment of the morning, was a presentation by Deborah Holmes, Senior Policy Advisor, Interior OIG, on the new requirement for SES performance appraisals. While we have 2 years to institute the framework, the talk was incredibly timely as we are now preparing for our new certification with OPM. In short, the system creates a more consistent and uniform way to communicate expectations and evaluate the performance of agency SES. The system focuses on the role and

responsibility of SES to achieve results through effective executive leadership and will be based on five performance elements or ECQs, with standard definitions: Leading Change, Leading People, Business Acumen, Building Coalitions, and Results Driven. Minimum weighting thresholds and related metrics are required for each. I am encouraged and excited about the new system as it appears to be a step towards ensuring consistency, greater accountability for demonstrating leadership skills while promoting clarity, transferability, and equity.

— Ann

NOTEWORTHY

PREPARING FOR 2012 OIG AWARDS

After the awards ceremony in December, HR sent out a brief survey to gather staff opinions on the new awards program as well as suggestions for improvements. We would like to thank the 76 employees who responded to the survey. Here is what some said they liked best:

- *"It was a positive reflection of the organization."*
 - *"Gave opportunity for everyone to provide input on awards and make nominations of those they thought were deserving."*
 - *"The awards were more meaningful this year. I also liked that the program ended on a high note with the IG Award and the*
- People's Choice. It was nice to hear Cal's comments on both winners."*
- *"Criteria were laid out in advance and expectations for receiving an award were known to all."*
 - *"It allowed more staff input in awarding those who are more deserving."*



- *"I thought the People's Choice Award was a great addition."*

Staff also provided comments for improving the awards program, such as decreasing the number of awards and shortening the length of the ceremony. Last Wednesday, the OIG Awards Working Group reconvened to discuss the survey results and recommendations. The group looks forward to building on the foundation set this year for an even more rewarding award process in 2012!

Stay tuned for additional enhancements in the way we celebrate our contributions and successes.

— April Lane (JM-20)

JEANS WEDNESDAY IS BACK!

To help defray the costs of the 2012 Holiday party, the Front Office has given us the go ahead to run Jeans Wednesday through Labor Day. Remember: Jeans should be "crisp" and free of holes, rips, patches, and the like. Also, jeans cannot be worn to meetings outside OIG.

One Jeans Wednesday sticker is \$3; a pack of 10 is \$20. To purchase stickers, see one of the following Morale Committee members:

- Angie Thorpe (3rd Street)
- Kristen Bidwell (JA-50)
- Aaron Rodgers (JA-10)
- Aisha Evans (JA-60)
- Jamila Mammadova (JA-40)
- Nicole Angarella (J-3)
- (b)(6) (JI)
- Jody Young (JM)

PEOPLE WE KNOW

(b)(6)

PEOPLE WE KNOW

(b)(6)

LAST PAGE

OIG IN THE NEWS**NORTH CAROLINA TRUCK-
ING COMPANY PRESIDENT
PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING**

JANUARY 18, 2012

LANDLINEMAG.COM

The owner of a North Carolina trucking company has pleaded guilty to lying about driver hours-of-service logs.

According to the DOT's Office of Inspector General, Roger D. "Butch" Mabe Jr., president and owner of Mabe Trucking Co. Inc., pleaded guilty Jan. 10 to one count of false statements related to falsification of driver's logs.

In an investigation conducted by the U.S. DOT Office of Inspector General and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Mabe, 49, and his company were

found to have falsified driver's duty status logs to hide illegal hours worked by truck drivers from the U.S. DOT.

Mabe and his corporation are scheduled to be sentenced on April 20. Mabe faces a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, and the company could pay as much as \$500,000 in fines.

END SHOT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE PROGRAM RECEIVES CLEAN "BILL OF HEALTH" FROM ETHICS OFFICIALS

The Office of Government Ethics recently conducted a follow-up review of OIG's financial disclosure program in response to recommendations made in its July, 2010 report. OGE characterized our program as "well managed" and identified two model practices, including the level of support and attention received from senior leaders.

OGE made one recommendation to enhance written procedures along with three other technical suggestions for improvement. In a letter dated December 20, 2011, OGE indicates that our follow-up actions have satisfied the recommendation, which is now officially closed.

Integrity goes to the very heart of OIG's mission and it is important to maintain the highest standards possible. We appreciate the commitment of every OIG employee towards this effort and want to also recognize our colleagues in JI and JM with whom we have collaborated to address OGE's comments.

Our ethics team—Omer Poirier, Seth Kaufman, and Fritz Swartzbaugh—strives for our program to be among the best in Government, not only at DOT but throughout the OIG community. They stand ready to provide advice on any ethics related questions you may have—just ask.

— Brian Dettelbach, AIG for Legal, Legislative, and External Affairs



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 1/23	TUE 1/24	WED 1/25	THU 1/26	FRI 1/27
	<p>Ann—Quarterly DIG meeting</p> <p>Cal—Senate Appropriations Briefing</p>			

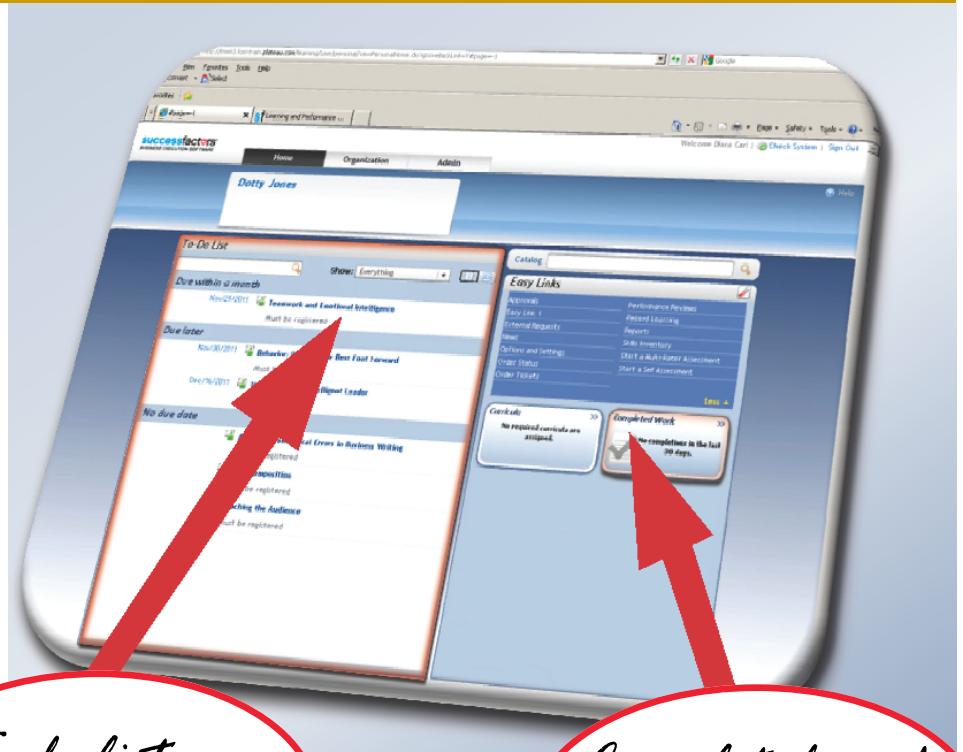
NOTEWORTHY

NEW LOOK AND FEEL TO TMS

Starting January 24, TMS will have a new look and will be easier to navigate. You'll be able to see your to-do list on the home page and access other information with just one click.

Go to <https://tms.nbc.gov/dot>.

If you have questions, please email training-HRDC@oig.dot.gov



To-do list on home page!

Completed work history one click away!

TIME TO FILE...CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM

Employees who are obligated to file a confidential financial disclosure form (OGE 450) must do so by Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Filing the OGE 450 helps prevent conflicts of interest related to financial or other private interests—a critical component of an agency ethics program. The time period covered by this reporting is January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011 (the previous calendar year).

NOTEWORTHY

ANN PROVIDES LEADERS FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATING EXPECTATIONS TO STAFF

On Wednesday, January 18, Ann hosted a leadership brown bag on establishing and following up on expectations with staff. The topic is important because as leaders, if we can't effectively communicate what we want to staff, we are unlikely to receive the work that we expect and need. Ineffective communication of expectations can lead to unhappy leaders, frustrated employees, and a lot of wasted time.

Ann presented her framework for effectively setting expectations:

FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATING EXPECTATIONS

1 Leaders should communicate and align the jobs of their employees with the goals of OIG using the strategic plan and tactical plans whenever possible. They should also explain how the current project will fit in with OIG's goals and how the employee's role in the project will help meet those goals. When possible, leaders should also explain how the work will be used by decisionmakers such as the Department or Congress.

2 Leaders should then discuss their expectations with their staff and get staff input. It's critical to be direct when discussing expectations. Expectations should have three components: What the performance should be, the criteria that it will be judged against, and the conditions under which performance will be expected. Several examples were shared and discussed.

3 Leaders should communicate (orally or in writing) clear expectations as part of the performance standards discussion with their staff. When developing expectations, focus on specific results with measures such as timeliness or frequency built in. While performance standards are important, they are just the starting point when it comes to setting expectations. We referenced examples of OIG performance standards for JA and JI as part of this discussion.

The discussion moved on to how this is just the beginning of expectation setting, and how we should always be assessing, recording, and communicating our expectations and opinions on the performance of our staff members, not just waiting until performance review time. It is also critical to be open to feedback.

Meeting participants then shared some of their best practices when it comes to setting expectations. After a vigorous discussion on individual versus team expectations and how to motivate staff, we realized that we had used all 90 minutes. We even ran out of time to decide what topics we would like to discuss in the future!

— Chris Frank, Project Manager, JA-10

OIG IN THE NEWS

NC TRUCKING COMPANY OWNER MAY FACE PRISON, FINES OVER FALSIFIED DRIVING LOGS

JANUARY 11, 2012

NewsObserver.com

11 hours on-duty. 10-hours off. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, that is the rule for drivers of property-carrying vehicles, which includes Mabe trucking company based in Eden, N.C. However, a recent investigation by the U.S. Department of Transportation revealed that at Mabe, the number of hours logged was not always the same as the amount of hours actually driven.

Roger D. "Butch" Mabe, Jr., owner of Mabe, pleaded guilty today to issuing false statements on the number of hours his drivers were clocking, according to the U.S. Attorney's office in Greensboro.

Mabe and the corporation are alleged to have falsified such logs in an effort to exceed the number of permitted driving hours, and avoid detection by law enforcement.

Truck drivers are required to record their driving hours on logs as a safety precaution to ensure they have sufficient rest before driving again, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Mabe faces a maximum penalty of up to five years imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$250,000. The corporation may be subject to a fine of up to \$500,000, the U.S. Attorney in Greensboro reported.

2 EX-EL PASO POLICE OFFICERS INDICTED IN IMPROPER OT PAY INVESTIGATION

JANUARY 12, 2012

El Paso Times

A grand jury has indicted two former El Paso police officers on charges they inappropriately charged overtime on a state traffic grant.

In September, police officials confirmed that investigators were looking into several issues surrounding federal grant programs called Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, known as STEP, and Impaired Driver Mobilization, or IDM.

City officials said the department received about \$479,000 in each of the past two fiscal years in STEP grants.

The city's internal auditor and Internal Affairs detectives are looking at discrepancies as part of an administrative inquiry.

A criminal investigation is being conducted by the El Paso police Special Investigative Group, which deals with crimes committed by officers, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General.

STEP is funded through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grant.

A spokeswoman with the El Paso County District Attorney's Office said prosecutors plan on presenting more cases to the grand jury.

In October, police officials said eight officers had resigned in the wake of the investigation.

POLICE SCANDAL: MORE TO COME

JANUARY 16, 2012

El Paso Inc.

So far, the investigation into overtime abuse at the El Paso Police Department has cost 18 veteran officers their jobs, suspended four police grants and brought two indictments, with more expected.

The city may also have to pay back more than \$700,000 in state and federal grants because of the alleged overtime abuse.

Federal authorities and the Police Department's Special Investigations Unit are conducting parallel investigations into allegedly false claims for overtime and making false documents to support them.

Out of 39 grants totaling about \$15 million that the Police Department was running, the city auditor's office found four had "poor" oversight and were administered by officers without proper training.

The overtime problems weren't discovered by the department or the city, but by federal auditors who spotted irregularities in overtime payments made from the \$479,000, grant-funded Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, known as STEP.

More than 200 officers and civilians usually participate in the El Paso program, which the state has effectively suspended until the investigation is complete.

Terry Pence, TxDOT's traffic safety director, explained that after the Fort Worth investigation began, the Office of Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Transportation started to look at other police departments in Texas.

ET CETERA

(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week.

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As the calendar flips to 2012, many staff are returning to work after well-deserved time off. I want to thank those who held down the fort during this time.

Despite the seasonal slowdown, our impact continued to be evident through news coverage of OIG investigations and audits. A Maryland construction manager was fined and sentenced for his part in providing subpar concrete for the building of Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and a former FMCSA field office supervisor was convicted of accepting bribes to postpone safety inspections. Our recently issued audit report on FAA's oversight of air carrier training programs and pilot per-

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

formance also received substantial media attention, as deliberations on pilot rest rules gear up.

Over the next few months, we plan to issue more than 20 audit reports, including those on PHMSA's hazmat grants, air traffic critical facilities, FAA's ARRA job reporting, transit safety, Dulles metro, FTA's charter bus rule, TIGER grants, Highway Trust fund solvency, Amtrak delays, high-speed rail forecasting, modal information security report cards, enterprise architecture, MMA penetration testing, SE-2020, MARAD oversight and coordination of port infrastructure projects, the management of MWAA, and DOT's DBE program. At the same time, we'll be initiating numerous program and financial audits, and there are indications that we will be asked to testify at several hearings this spring.

The Office of Investigations will continue with its successful rogue households goods movers project. Under this national project, JI has opened up 12 investi-

gations and complaints and executed five search warrants in furtherance of the investigations. JI also anticipates that its ongoing efforts in combating fraud in ARRA-funded grants and contracts will start paying dividends with the first Federal charges expected in the very near future.

Ann, along with the executive team and senior leaders, will be overseeing efforts to enhance our congressional outreach strategy; continuously improve budget oversight and management; develop a new strategic plan; finalize our enhanced EEO program; fully implement our mentoring program (see related article); implement improved performance standards, competencies, and related training; and other important cross-cutting OIG efforts.

I will be discussing these and other OIG happenings at an upcoming All Hands. In the meantime, here's to what I anticipate will be another productive and gratifying year. —Cal

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 1/9	TUE 1/10	WED 1/11	THU 1/12	FRI 1/13
				What a way to start a new year. At least we won't have 2 months in a row with Friday the 13th, since this is a leap year.

NOTEWORTHY

FIRST 2012 LEADERSHIP (GS-14-15) BROWN BAG IS NEXT THURSDAY

GS-14s and GS-15s are invited to join Ann on Thursday, January 19, from noon to 1:30 pm EST for a discussion on establishing and following up on expectations with staff. The session will be held in the IG conference room with VTC and Telecon for field staff. Please contact Ellen Craig (ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov) if you will be videoconferencing in. The conference call number is (b)(6).

NEW YELLOW BOOK STANDARDS NOW IN EFFECT

GAO's 2011 Revision to the Government Auditing Standards (GAO-12-331G) took effect for performance audits beginning on or after December 15, 2011. The effective date for financial audits and attestation engagements is for periods ending on or after December 15, 2012 (see [2011 Revision to Govt Auditing Standards](#)). Here are highlights of the revisions:

- A conceptual framework for independence was added to provide a means for auditors to assess auditor independence to activities that are not expressly prohibited. The framework requires auditors to make independence determinations based on facts and circumstances that are often unique to specific audit environments (3.07-3.26).
- Specific references to personal, external, and organizational impairments, and overarching independence principles have been removed (GAGAS 2007, chapter 3). However, the underlying concepts related to these categories have been retained in the new conceptual framework for independence.
- Requirements for auditors performing nonaudit services at entities they audit were established (3.33-3.44).
- Guidance on nonaudit services that always impair an auditor's independence with respect to audited entities and on certain nonaudit services that may be permitted under appropriate conditions was substantially revised (3.45-3.58).
- A summary of requirements on documentation necessary to support adequate consideration of auditor independence (3.59) was added, incorporating requirements applicable under the new conceptual framework.
- Certain SAS and SSAE requirements that were repeated in GAGAS have been removed.
- Three categories of attestation engagements, (1) examination, (2) review, and (3) agreed-upon procedures engagements are now separately discussed. Auditors are not permitted to deviate from AICPA reporting elements.
- The reporting requirement for fraud now includes only those occurrences that are significant within the context of the audit objectives for performance audits.

JA-2 will be making changes to our PPMs to reflect these revisions.

— Michelle Hill

NOTEWORTHY

SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE OIG'S MENTORING PROGRAM IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Over 80 percent of OIG staff who participated in the Mentoring Pilot Program responded to the Mentor/Mentee Survey, and the results overall were favorable:

- Over 88 percent of the mentees who responded rated the usefulness of the pilot program as good to excellent, and 86 percent of mentee respondents would recommend the Mentoring Program to their colleagues.
- Over 92 percent of the mentors who responded would recommend being a mentor to their colleagues, and 82 percent plan on participating as a mentor again.

We also received valuable input on how the Mentoring Program could be improved and are working to make these enhancements. For example, we are going to

- increase the length of the program from 6 months to 9 months,
- spruce up the SharePoint site and resource materials,
- more clearly explain the benefits of group versus individual mentoring,
- improve the matching process, and
- conduct more follow-up to ensure the mentee-mentor match is working.

We are moving forward at warp speed to bring you an even more robust Mentoring Program in 2012. The program will officially kick off in late February to early March and continue through November/December.

We want to thank everyone who took time to participate in the pilot program and respond to our survey. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will join the program as a mentor, mentee, or both.

— Michelle McVicker, Special Agent-in-Charge, JRI-5;
Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, J-2

Some Comments from Mentors

- *I was able to develop relationships with people from other areas of the organization that I would not have otherwise known.*
- *[I gained] enhanced listening, communications, and coaching skills; opportunity to share insights/experiences with mentees on a number of issues; staff development.*
- *[I gained] the satisfaction that I was helping someone.*
- *I learned how [others] handled difficult situations [and] what leadership traits they think are important.*
- *It can be very positive and fulfilling if both sides work to maximize the experience.*

Some Comments from Mentees

- *Great to have the perspective of someone outside of my reporting chain who could provide insight and advice on career issues.*
- *I gained useful information, especially how to go outside my comfort zone and seek challenging assignments.*
- *[Through] individual mentoring, [I gained] insight into work situations, perspective on my career, motivation and information to improve my job performance, [and a] deeper understanding of how my work relates to OIG's mission.*
- *I truly learned a lot about myself during this process.*
- *I gained perspective and input from a knowledgeable and respected long-term employee.*

NOTEWORTHY

DIG FOCUSES ON WORKING WITH DIVERSE PERSONALITIES AT DECEMBER LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

On December 15, 2011, Ann held the second Leadership Exchange session, "Adaptability and Communication Strategies: Dealing with Different and Difficult People." Success in life is directly related to our ability to interact with different individuals—some we interact with exceptionally well, while others can be more challenging.

The discussion began with a review of four basic communication styles (see side box). We learned that each of these styles is unique and that all four styles contribute to a high performing organization. Our discussion centered on how to best identify, understand, appreciate and interact with the varying behavioral styles. There was agreement that it is important for each of us to be open and adaptable to them as they all contribute to productive interactions and mission success.

We then transitioned to a discussion of some commonalities of difficult personalities, such as openly aggressive, confrontational, or complaining types and shared information on tools and techniques that could and have

Implementer	Innovator	Inter-Relater	Investigator
Style Preference			
Independent, practical, and dominating	Comfortable displaying their feelings	Display feelings openly and appear to be agreeable and cooperative	Appear to be reserved and unaggressive
Character Traits			
Active, forceful, aggressive, direct, initiated social interaction	Reactive, impulsive about showing others positive and negative feelings	Informal, causal, and easy-going	Cautious, serious, logical and thorough
Main Need			
Immediate results and take action	Endorsement from others or personal approval	Harmony and building trust	Accuracy and methodical thought process
Greatest Challenge			
Listening to others	Manage their impulses	Create productive tension	Affirmation

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proved successful. We also touched on some coping mechanisms and tips to consider including :

- Understand that you cannot change the person: It is better to work how you approach the situation or what you can change about yourself to change the situation.
- Don't take things personally.

- Don't try to appease difficult encounters.

Understanding the different communication styles enables us to proactively strengthen current work relationships by (1) recognizing your own communication style and possible perceptions (2) identifying your team members communication preferences and applying effective ways to communicate with them.

— Nichole Verdejo,
Senior Analyst, JA-50

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OIG SHARES BEST PRACTICES WITH NSA

On Friday, December 5, 2011,

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from the National Security Agency's OIG to share information about our quality assurance program.

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OIG IN THE NEWS

MAN FINED \$131K FOR SUB-PAR CONCRETE IN WILSON BRIDGE

DECEMBER 27, 2011

washingtonexaminer.com

A Maryland construction manager was fined more than \$131,000 and sentenced to a year of home detention in connection to a case of providing subpar concrete for the building of Woodrow Wilson Bridge and another massive federally funded project.

Santos Eliazar Rivas was sentenced last week to 12 months of home detention and 24 months of probation in Baltimore's U.S. District Court, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General's Office. As an undocumented immigrant, he is expected to be deported at the end of his sentence.

Rivas had been the director of quality control for Pennsylvania-based Frederick Precast Concrete, Inc., which produced precast concrete drainage structures for building projects such as the Wilson Bridge project and Interstate 70 near Baltimore.

But the materials failed to conform to state-approved specifications, according to a federal investigation. Some structures contained the wrong amounts and types of steel rebar, while others had unapproved wire mesh as the foundation for the concrete instead of stronger steel rebar.

"All of them were materially weaker than if they had been produced according to design," according to the Inspector General's Office.

The problems were found in 2007 when a precast structure on Interstate 70 cracked open, according to court records. It had only two layers of rebar instead of the required three.

PILOT SENTENCED TO PROBATION FOR LYING TO INVESTIGATORS AFTER CRASH

JANUARY 4, 2012

StarNews Online

Senior U.S. District Judge W. Earl Britt sentenced Jose Camillo Joga, 40, to three years of federal probation.

On Jan. 4, 2009, Joga conducted an unauthorized commercial flight into the United States. The flight, which began in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, was en route to Teeterboro, N.J., with a scheduled stop in Wilmington for refueling and customs.

Joga was piloting the plane for a family from New York. Joga told the family they should not tell customs officials in Wilmington that they had chartered the flight, but should falsely say they were friends of the owner of the plane.

Joga made the request because he was not qualified under federal regulations to conduct commercial flights.

Thick fog blanketed the Wilmington area as the plane approached. Air traffic control advised Joga to divert to Jacksonville, but Joga declined, citing his need to stop at customs in Wilmington.

He attempted to land at ILM several times before the aircraft ran out of fuel. Then, both engines failed and the landing gear would not cycle. The plane crash-landed and was significantly damaged, but no passengers were hurt.

Joga lied to an FAA inspector and said the flight was private in nature. The FAA suspended Joga's pilot certification.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Inspector General with the U.S. Department of Transportation investigated the incident.

FMCSA SUPERVISOR SENTENCED IN BRIBERY CASE

JANUARY 2, 2012

ohsonline.com

James H. Wood, a former field office supervisor for the Buffalo regional office of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, has been sentenced to 18 months in prison after being convicted of bribery, William Hochul Jr., U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York, announced Dec. 29.

Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny imposed the sentence in a Buffalo courtroom. Wood was ordered to forfeit \$41,300 to the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Trini E. Ross and Fauzia K. Mattingly, who handled the case, said from 2008 through 2011, Wood accepted bribes from consultants working for Canadian trucking companies. In exchange, he postponed safety inspections and ensured the companies would receive satisfactory ratings. He also provided consultants with internal agency information, including lists of other trucking companies scheduled to be audited.

"By accepting bribes, this defendant not only abused his position of public trust, he also potentially put those who use public highways at risk," Hochul said in the release, adding, "Our office will not hesitate to vigorously prosecute those who abuse their position."

The case was investigated by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christopher M. Piehota and by the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General Investigation Division under the direction of Ned E. Schwartz, special agent in charge.

OIG IN THE NEWS

TRUCK SAFETY BRIBE-TAKING NETS PRISON FOR EX-OFFICIAL

DECEMBER 29, 2011

BuffaloNews.com

A former truck safety supervisor for the U.S. Transportation Department was sentenced Thursday to 18 months in prison after pleading guilty to felony bribe-taking.

James H. Wood, 45, of Delevan, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny in Buffalo. Skretny also ruled that Wood must forfeit \$41,300 to the federal government.

In January, the U.S. Attorney's Office charged Wood with taking tens of thousands of dollars in bribes in exchange for initiating "complaint audits" that could put a company out of business, or for giving favorable audits to other firms. He also was accused of taking bribes to provide "inside information" that let some companies keep potentially unsafe trucks on the road.

Wood accepted bribes from consultants working for Canadian trucking companies, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement. In exchange, he postponed safety inspections and ensured that those firms would get satisfactory ratings, according to the office.

In addition, the defendant provided consultants with internal agency information, including lists of other trucking companies scheduled to be audited, the statement said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office worked on the case with agents from the Buffalo office of the FBI and the Transportation Department's Office of Inspector General. Emails between Wood and a cooperating witness were part of the evidence that led to his arrest.

OP-ED: A NEED FOR MORE INSPECTOR GENERALS

JANUARY 4, 2012

Washington Post

A recent study by the Government Accountability Office concluded that the 73 federal Offices of Inspectors General saved taxpayers \$43.3 billion in 2009 as a result of audits and investigations. Compared to the IGs' combined budget of \$2.3 billion, the study reported, the "savings represent about an \$18 return on every dollar invested." The amount of money saved or recovered does not take into account the thousands of civil and criminal actions triggered by IG investigations.

Yet the Center for Public Integrity noted in 2010 that 15 of the 73 inspector general posts were vacant, including those for important national security components such as the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department.

Currently eight IG slots are open. Michael E. Horowitz, a veteran federal prosecutor and currently a partner with a top-flight law firm, has been nominated for the Justice Department position vacated when Glenn A. Fine left the job nearly one year ago. Mr. Horowitz, nominated in late July, was recently approved unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee and should quickly be confirmed. Roslyn A. Mazer, who served as IG for the Office of Director of National Intelligence, has been tapped to fill the top IG slot at the Department of Homeland Security.

The State Department position has not been filled with a confirmed chief for nearly five years; it is occupied in an acting capacity by a career foreign service employee.

WILL THE FAA'S NEW FATIGUE RULES DO ENOUGH FOR PILOTS?

DECEMBER 28, 2011

newsfeed.time.com

The Federal Aviation Administration announced new rules on Dec. 21 that are aimed at reducing fatigue among commercial airline pilots.

Airlines must now consider several factors when scheduling, including pilots' duty periods, the number of time zones crossed and the time at which pilots start their first flight. The FAA has also increased the number of consecutive free hours pilots must have per week to 30 hours.

But the problem, some say, is that pilots might fear being reprimanded for not getting sufficient rest. As House Transportation Committee member John Mica noted, "Pilots must take personal responsibility for coming to work rested and fit for duty. The government cannot put a chocolate on every one of their pillows and tuck them in at night." While the new rules ensure that pilots aren't forced to work too much, they also place a bigger onus on pilots to make sure they aren't falling asleep on the job.

Another issue that critics say hasn't been addressed with the update, is that the rules aren't stringent enough to help commuting pilots. According to a July report by the National Research Council, 20% of the nation's airline pilots live more than 750 miles from their work stations and have to travel great distances and bunk in makeshift beds before their shifts, leaving them especially vulnerable to fatigue. ABC News airline consultant John Nance, a former pilot himself, called the changes "abysmal."

OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA PILOT OVERSIGHT 'LACKS RIGOR,' U.S. INVESTIGATOR SAYS

DECEMBER 22, 2011

Bloomberg

U.S. aviation regulators lack the "rigor" to identify and track pilots who repeatedly fail tests of their cockpit skills, according to a Transportation Department inspector general's report.

"FAA has yet to provide the level of oversight needed to identify and track poor-performing pilots and ensure air carriers have the information needed to hire qualified pilots," the report said.

Only 5 of 30 FAA inspectors interviewed by the inspector general's office kept historical logs or tracked cases of pilots who failed proficiency checks, according to the report.

The inspector general issued seven recommendations in the report that called for standardizing how airlines report pilot test failures to the FAA and for better training for the agency's inspectors.

The FAA said in a Nov. 28 written response to the report that it agreed with all or part of each of the inspector general's recommendations.

Pilots involved in eight out of nine serious regional-carrier accidents from 2000 to 2009 had failed multiple skill tests, according to National Transportation Safety Board accident records. The accidents killed 137 people.

By comparison, pilots from major airlines had failed tests in only 1 of 10 accidents, according to the records. Commercial pilots must undergo periodic so-called check rides in which inspectors from the FAA or airlines test their ability to fly and respond to emergencies.

DOT IG FINDS FAA TRAINING PROGRAMS 'LACK RIGOR'

DECEMBER 24, 2011

Aero News Network

A report issued by the office of the DOT Inspector General on December 20 concludes that the FAA's oversight of air carrier training programs and pilot performance and proficiency programs "lacks the rigor needed to identify and track poor performing pilots and address potential program risks."

The IG also says the FAA does not provide sufficient oversight of check airmen—who perform the majority of proficiency checks on air carrier pilots, and that FAA maintains extensive pilot information that air carriers can use to evaluate the competence and qualifications of pilots. However, its current request process hinders air carriers' ability to easily obtain all relevant data.

The DOT IG made seven recommendations to FAA to improve its oversight, and says the FAA concurred or partially concurred with each of its recommendations. However, the IG says that the FAA's responses did not meet the intent of four of its recommendations, and it is requesting additional information before resolving them.

In particular, the office says it is seeking further justification regarding FAA's response on the adequacy of inspector oversight of check airmen. In its report, the IG's office says the FAA has not provided guidance to its inspectors on how to evaluate and track pilot performance and training. For example, FAA requires inspectors to establish a process for air carriers to notify the agency of pilots who perform unsatisfactorily during training. However, the FAA has not issued procedures or guidance for developing an effective notification process.

WATCHDOG: HOLES IN FAA SAFETY NET FOR POORLY PERFORMING PILOTS

JANUARY 5, 2012

Flightglobal

US government safety auditors say the Federal Aviation Administration's oversight of airline pilot training and proficiency programmes "lacks the rigour needed to identify and track poor performing pilots and address programme risks".

The finding, by the US Transportation Department's office of inspector general (OIG) comes nearly three years after the February 2009 crash of a Colgan Air Bombardier Q400 near Buffalo, later attributed in part by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to the captain's failure to follow procedures.

"The Colgan accident highlighted differences between the hiring, training and safety programs of most regional and mainline carriers even though they are under the same regulations and oversight system," said the OIG.

From the regulator's side, the OIG said FAA inspectors do not include inspections of remedial training programmes into their air carrier surveillance plans.

Other observations in the OIG audit included pilots with repeated failures and remedial training "effectively absolved from scrutiny" after a carrier downgraded them from captain to first officer.

"Until the FAA takes a more active role in evaluating pilots and air carrier training programs and provides air carriers full access to pilot information, it cannot be assured that air carriers will maintain momentum in advancing these important initiatives," the audit concluded.

THE LAST PAGE

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG HONORS 2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

On Wednesday, December 14, OIG held its annual awards ceremony at HQ. Susan Dailey received the Distinguished Service Award, OIG's highest award, while Lorena Simpson took home OIG's first People's Choice Award. Congratulations again to all award recipients!



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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 12/19	TUE 12/20	WED 12/21	THU 12/22	FRI 12/23
	BRIAN —CIGIE Meeting (9:30 a.m.)		CAL —Out of Office →	

NOTEWORTHY

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BOARD CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN SPENDING

Reprint of December 15 feature story on Recovery.gov.

In June 2011, the Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GAT Board) was created by the President to provide ideas for advancing transparency and accountability to all federal spending based on the successes and lessons learned by the Recovery Board in tracking Recovery spending. The GAT Board has worked closely with the Recovery Board to formulate first steps that should be taken. They have outlined their ideas in their December 2011 Report and Recommendations to the President.

The GAT Board recommended the government should:

- Adopt a framework to track and oversee spending, which would increase oversight effectiveness, efficiency, and collaboration

between agencies and the Inspectors General community.

- Re-evaluate the systems and processes for collecting and displaying spending data, including consolidating and streamlining the numerous technologies currently being used.
- Implement a universal, standardized identification system for all federal awards, which will help to better reconcile spending information from multiple sources and allow for more effective analysis and oversight.

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The report indicated that the Recovery Board has the oversight framework as well as data collection and display technologies already in place, all of which can be expanded beyond Recovery to include all federal government spending.

The GAT Board and the Recovery Board will continue to explore methods for improving visibility on federal spending to taxpayers. The GAT Board's next report is scheduled to be issued in June 2012.

NOTEWORTHY

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OIG RELATED NEWS

SOME STATES KEEP HIGHWAY PROJECT OVERRUNS TO A MINIMUM

DECEMBER 11, 2011
StatesmanJournal.com

Not every highway project runs into multimillion-dollar cost overruns. States including Arkansas, California, Georgia, Iowa, Missouri, Oregon and Texas have adopted many of the same best practices.

In those states, transportation officials spend more time analyzing costs and identifying potential risks. They don't allow contractors with a record of delays or overruns on past work to bid on new jobs. And they monitor progress on projects and are prepared to stop payments if the work goes off track.

A Gannett analysis of 21 federally funded highway projects found several examples of states doing much better at keeping costs close to the original contracts.

For the majority of projects that fall under the \$500 million "major project" level, the Federal Highway Administration doesn't track or provide data on cost overruns, leaving that to states.

Experts say the federal government could keep better tabs on the billions it sends to states for highway construction if it bolstered staffing, linked funding to performance and required states to follow best practices.

Kenneth Mead, a former inspector general with the U.S. Department of Transportation...said efficiency could be improved without federal officials scrutinizing every single project. They could, he said, review about two dozen of the nation's largest projects, measuring cost, scheduling, risk and other factors, then use the findings to create a baseline of performance standards.

EDITORIAL: FHWA MUST BE VIGILANT IN TRACKING HIGHWAY PROJECTS

DECEMBER 11, 2011
Federal Times

Tight budgets are prompting federal programs to be smarter in their management of tax dollars and to show results of their spending.

Not so at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which dispenses roughly \$40 billion a year to states for highway projects. Gas taxes provide most of that money, which is dispensed to states under a formula set by Congress.

There is no link between federal highway funds and good project management. States receive the same amount of federal highway funds regardless of how well they manage that money.

Indeed, while the FHWA's division officers are involved with projects on a local level, working with state officials, the agency has no centralized means to manage or monitor states' performance on key metrics like cost and schedule.

It cannot say, for example, how many projects are over budget or behind schedule — either on a state or national level. Nor can it say which states are most effective, and which are least effective. Nor can it wield much pressure on states to become more effective.

Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez — who insists that stewardship of federal dollars is his top priority — could improve the cost and schedule performance of federal highway projects simply by collecting and posting that data in a searchable, public website.

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE MICA'S PLAN TO SHELVE NATIONWIDE HIGH-SPEED RAIL

DECEMBER 15, 2011
CQ Today Online

Democrats on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee lashed out Thursday at Chairman John L. Mica's call to refocus passenger rail funding on the popular, heavily traveled Northeast Corridor, reiterating their support for the Obama administration's vision for a nationwide high-speed rail program.

"I'm glad this committee wasn't in charge when the Eisenhower Interstate System was developed," Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., said at the panel's hearing on California's plan to connect Los Angeles with San Francisco via a high-speed rail line. "We'd be a third-world country, too."

California's plan has been widely panned by critics as a potential boondoggle, after the state's high-speed rail authority released a plan earlier this year that projected costs would soar toward the \$100 billion mark and the project would take nearly double the original time estimate.

Joseph Szabo, head of the Federal Railroad Administration, suggested that the panel's own contentiousness is contributing to rising project costs, especially regarding the California plan.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said... "We're not going to be dissuaded by a few detractors who fail to see the value in high-speed rail."

LAST PAGE

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TI TAKES A HOLIDAY

Our next issue will be the second week of January 2012. Have a wonderful holiday, and be safe.

Audre Azuolas, Dan Burd, Madeline Chulumovich, Emily Norton, Katy Novicky, Dan Raville, Angel Simmons, Karen Sloan

COMINGS & GOINGS

No comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG INVESTIGATION OF FRAUD LEADS TO SUPREME COURT CASE

On November 30, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *FAA v. Cooper*—a case that arose out of OIG's "Operation Safe Pilot" investigation and the first Supreme Court case involving our office. Operation Safe Pilot—a joint investigation with the Social Security Administration—sought to identify FAA-certified airmen who had falsified information on their FAA medical certificate applications. To identify fraud, OIG compared lists of FAA-certified airmen and SSA disability benefits recipients. Over 40 individuals pled or were found guilty of Federal crimes. After pleading guilty, one criminal defendant filed a civil lawsuit against FAA, DOT, and SSA for alleged violations of the Privacy Act, which regulates the Federal Government's use of personally identifi-

able information. The plaintiff alleged that the interagency disclosures between DOT OIG and SSA OIG were not permitted.



The issue before the courts was narrow: whether the Privacy Act allows plaintiffs to sue the Government for emotional distress damages. The Government argued that (1) the text of the Privacy Act shows that Congress did not intend the term "actual damages" to include emotional distress; and (2) traditional tools of statutory interpretation require all ambiguities in a waiver of sovereign immunity to be inter-

preted in the Government's favor.

To prepare for the case, we researched the Privacy Act—

reading relevant statutes, case law, and other legal sources. From early on, we saw that the plaintiff's claim for damages was vulnerable.

Our discovery efforts focused on obtaining the information necessary to prove our case, including written "requests for admission," interrogato-

ries, document requests, and depositions. Discovery required many trips between D.C. and San Francisco to review documents, talk to witnesses, and prepare for and attend depositions. We became regulars in the San Francisco office, where SAC Hank Smedley and (b)(6)

(b)(6) gave us all the human and technical resources we needed. As a result of our discovery efforts, there was no dispute that the plaintiff had absolutely

(Continued on page 3)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 12/12	TUE 12/13	WED 12/14	THU 12/15	FRI 12/16
	CAL - Senior Leaders Meeting (10:30 a.m.) BRIAN - CIGIE Leg Committee (9:30 a.m.)	2011 OIG Honor Awards Ceremony (10:00 a.m.) 	ETHICS TRAINING DEADLINE	

NOTEWORTHY

BATTER UP! ETHICS TRAINING DEADLINE IS THIS THURSDAY!

All GS employees and Special Government Employees—excluding new employees who came to work for OIG in calendar year 2011 and SES—are required to take the annual ethics training by this Thursday, December 15. The training is available on TMS in staff's learning plans.

— Fritz Swartzbaugh

LOOKING FOR A REWARDING DEVELOPMENTAL OPPORTUNITY?

Well, we have an exciting collateral duty assignment for you! We are looking for staff at the GS-7 through GS-12 level who is interested in helping shape the new mentoring program, which we plan to kick off in January. Working closely with the Mentoring Program coordinators, Michelle McVicker and Madeline Chulumovich, you would

- analyze survey responses and mentee/mentor requests,
- suggest and incorporate changes to the program,
- update the Mentoring Program SharePoint site,
- take charge of administration functions (draft emails, copy materials, set up meetings),
- brief the IG and DIG on the status and roll out of the new program, and
- market the mentoring program to all staff.

We estimate that these activities would take about 5 hours of your time per week for about a 6-week period (January to mid February). You will need your manager's approval.

If you are interested in being part of a project that is key to our human capital efforts and staff development, please let us know by Friday, December 16. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle or Madeline. We are also available to answer any of your questions. We look forward to you joining our team!

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

no out of pocket expenses. This clarified for the courts that the only types of damages being sought by the plaintiff were for emotional distress.

Given the size and scope of the investigation, Operation Safe Pilot generated tons of documentation. In the end, I reviewed thousands of pages of emails, spreadsheets, Word files, and paper records to determine which were relevant to the case, which must be produced to the other party, and which were irrelevant or privileged. Each privileged document must be logged with a description of its contents and an explanation of why it is privileged. The privilege log is given to the other party as a matter of fairness and is the basis for discussions between the lawyers and sometimes, as in this case, with the judge. The privilege log raised follow up questions for the other side, which created what seemed to be a never-ending chase for more and more records. Much of the information that I reviewed had to be redacted to protect privacy as well as to protect the Government's attorney-client and deliberative process privileges. SSA OIG attorneys had to do the same for their

records, and an FAA lawyer had significant work as well.

In hearing the case, the Federal district court in San Francisco ruled in favor of the Government on a motion for summary judgment, which is granted when there are no material facts in dispute and one party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The district court judge held that the Privacy Act is a waiver of sovereign immunity and that the term "actual damages" is ambiguous. Accordingly, the district court interpreted the statute in favor of the Government and dismissed the case. However, the plaintiff appealed the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, and a three-judge panel disagreed and found the statute was not ambiguous. The 9th Circuit ordered the case remanded to the district court. The Government's request for a rehearing with all the judges on the 9th Circuit was denied, but eight judges signed a strongly worded dissent.

After the district court's ruling, the Government appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court. At this point, the role of agency counsel changed considerably. Because the appeals concerned interpretations of the Privacy Act, common law on damages, and

sovereign immunity, DOJ's Office of Solicitor General took the lead. To assist, we reviewed drafts of written briefs to ensure that the facts and agency-specific laws were described accurately. We provided comments on the Government's important brief in support of the motion for the Supreme Court to accept the case. In addition, the OIG General Counsel assumed a coordinating role between DOT and DOJ. After the court agreed to hear the case, we helped the Assistant Solicitor General prepare for the oral argument.

An Assistant to the Solicitor General in DOJ argued the case before the High Court. Eight justices sat in the courtroom for the argument. The two sides presented their cases with tough questions being asked by nearly all the justices. Based on past practice, we expect the Court to issue its opinion between January and June 2012.

The case received substantial national media coverage, including the *Washington Post* and National Public Radio. Scotusblog published a detailed analysis of the case. For more on Operation Safe Pilot, see Cal's July 2007 testimony.

— Seth Kaufman, Senior Counsel

NOTEWORTHY

PERSPECTIVES ON CYBER ESPIONAGE AND WARFARE

On December 8, Government Executive and the SANS Institute hosted “Cyber Security: A Global Effort” at the Ronald Reagan Building, with Estonian Ambassador Marina Kaljurand and Dmitri Alperovitch, President, Assymetric Cyber Operations LLC.

Kaljurand discussed what many consider to be the first use of cyber warfare. In 2007, Estonia’s information infrastructure was bombarded with 400 times its normal traffic, specifically targeting government and financial entities. Investigations into the attack directly attributed the source as Russia, but no definitive proof of the Russian government's involvement was found.

Kaljurand noted that the Russian government did nothing to discourage the posting of directions for attacking Estonia on Russian websites or investigate attacks constructed on Russian language keyboards. While the attack lasted only 3 days and did not cause long-term damage, it helped push the need for better cybersecurity to the forefront. Estonia now has a Cyber Defense Force, which is equivalent to the National Guard. Private industry

specialists work for the government a few weeks a year and can be called in if an attack occurs. Estonia also pushed for better cybersecurity in NATO and established the NATO Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, which has 11 member countries, including the United States.

Alperovitch—an expert in cybercrime, cyber espionage, and cyber warfare—spoke on recent major security breaches against companies and governments. Compared to cybercrime, which accounts for a few billion dollars of damage and receives most public concern, the damage caused by cyber espionage is incalculable. Alperovitch stated that attackers based in China have infiltrated all Fortune 2000 companies. In early 2010, Google and other major companies were attacked by Operation Aurora; information was stolen, including trade secrets and competitive information. Operation Night Dragon, which went undetected for at least 4 years, targeted natural gas, oil, and other resource companies. Industry executives that Alperovitch interviewed identified specific negotiations they lost to Chinese companies using information that

wasn't externally available. Operation ShadyRAT—a multiyear intrusion into nearly every major industry—allowed attackers to steal information that might give them a competitive advantage. While many companies think they are immune to such attacks because they do not have the public profile of a Google or a defense contractor, information such as internal emails, trade secrets, and product plans can provide a huge advantage to competitors.

Alperovitch also discussed current cyber warfare trends, citing the U.S. doctrine released earlier this year that states we will consider a major cyber attack the same as a traditional attack of the same magnitude. Alperovitch and Kaljurand discussed actions that could be considered an act of war, how attribution would be made, and what deterrence looks like in the cyber world.

Alperovitch concluded that while significant economic damage occurs daily via wide-scale theft of intellectual property, a cyber 9/11 or Pearl Harbor with significant physical damage remains infeasible.

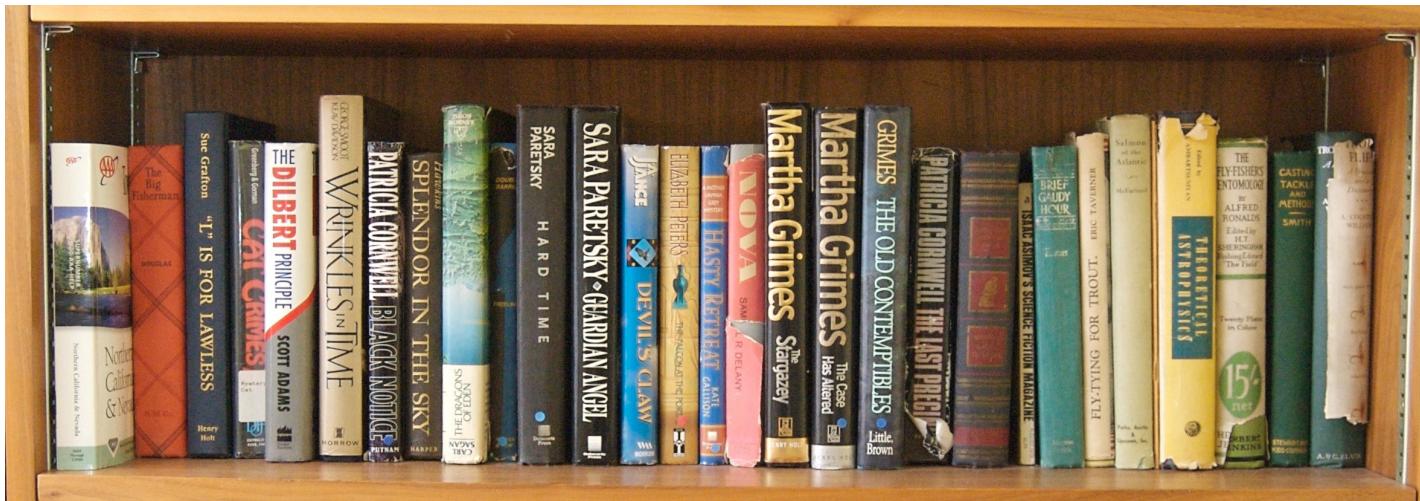
— Gerald Steere, JA-20

NOTEWORTHY

CFC: ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT!

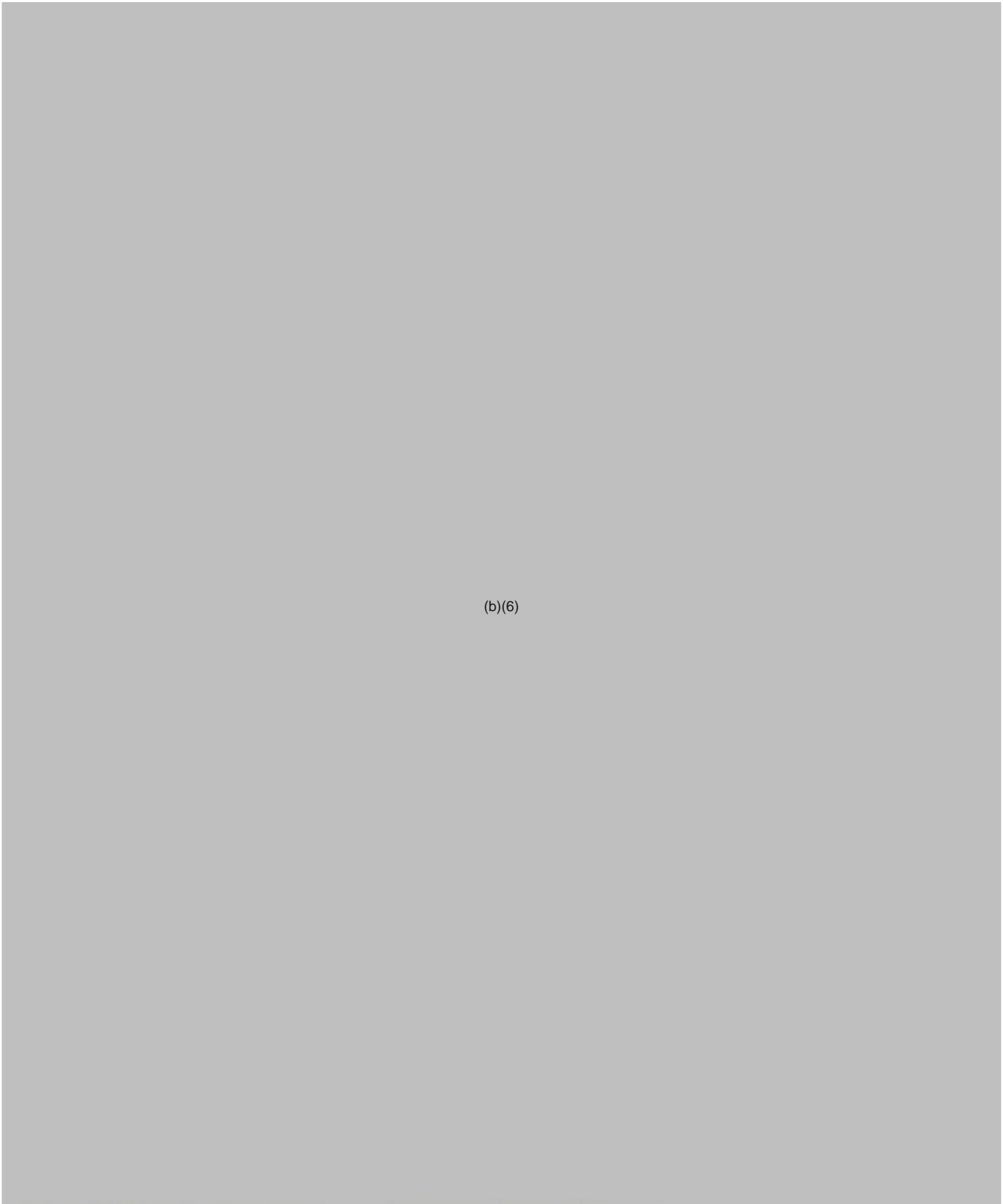
CFC is scheduled to end at the end of the month, and OIG is working hard to meet its goal. There are lots of books to sell...and to move them, we've reduced all books to

\$1.00

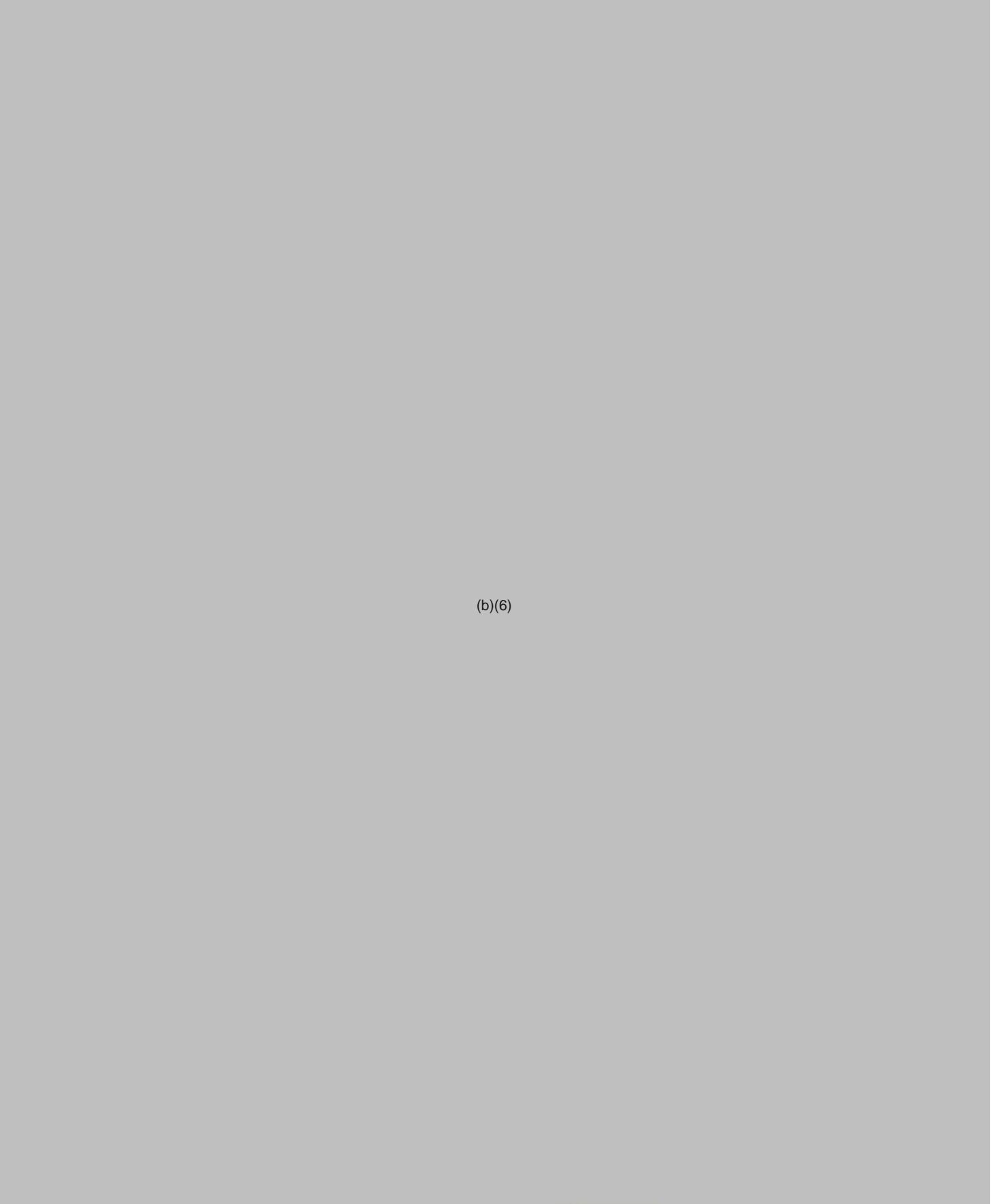
**PENNY WARS AS OF DECEMBER 5**

Ranking	Team	Points
First	Team JI-1, JI-2, JI-3, JRI-3, & JA-2	10,882
Second	Team J-3 & JA-10	5,004
Third	Team J-1, J-2, JM-1, JM-10-20-30-40	3,986
Fourth	Team JA-40 & JA-60	2,874
Fifth	Team JA-1, JA-20, & JA-50	1,859

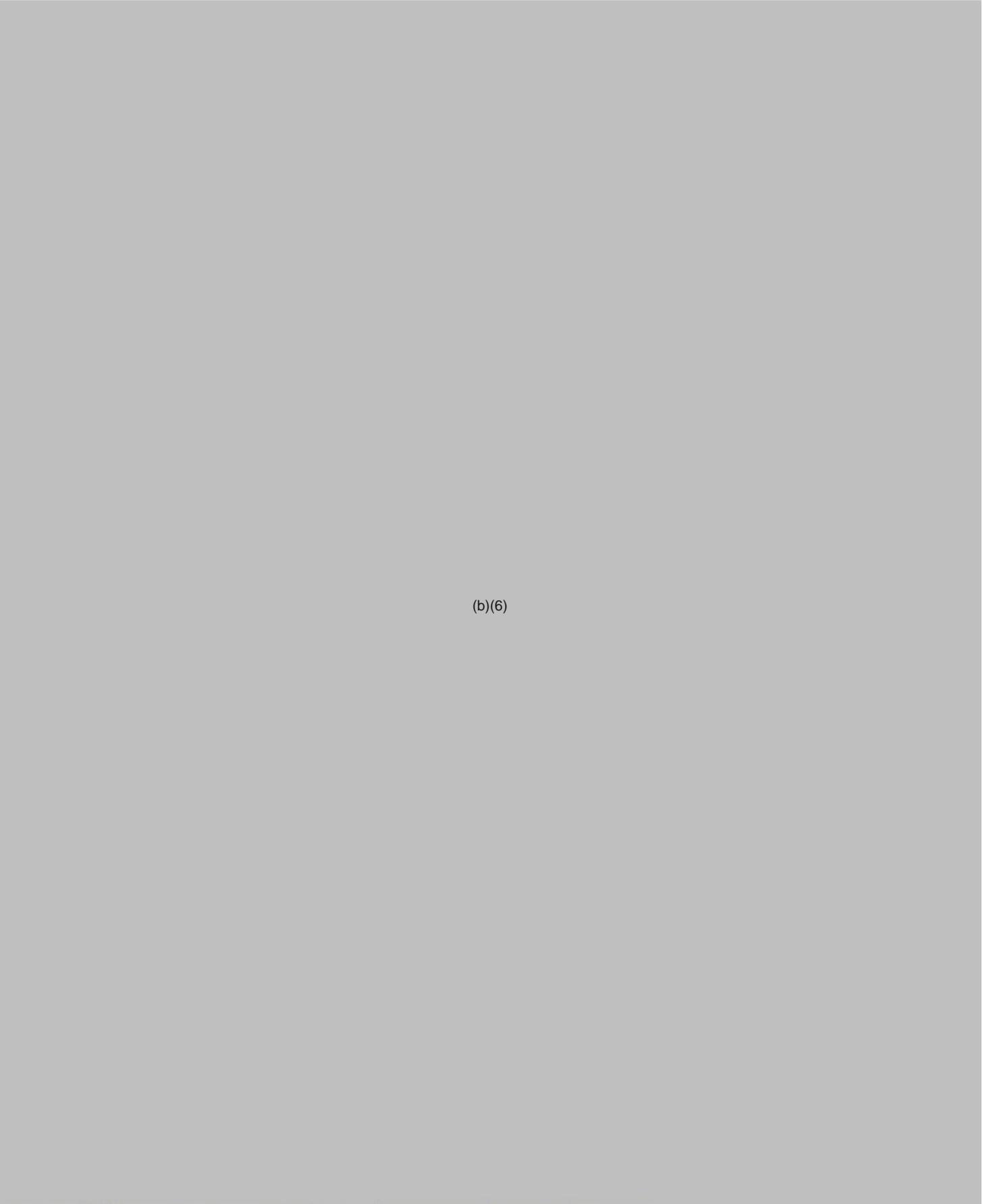
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OIG IN THE NEWS

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY SCRUTINIZED FOR "SLOPPY BOOKKEEPING"

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Washington Post

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which is also overseeing the \$6 billion Dulles rail project, has come under increased scrutiny about whether it is transparent enough and how it is monitoring the construction of the Metrorail extension.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's inspector general is auditing the authority, a move requested by lawmakers worried about a lack of oversight.

A Washington Post review of travel records for MWAA's 13-member board, which are not examined by an external auditor, according to a spokeswoman, revealed errors that had not been caught by the authority's internal system of checks and balances.

That lack of independent supervision concerns some, such as Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), who, along with Iowa Rep. Tom Latham (R), requested the inspector general's audit this year.

"They should be held accountable," said Wolf, who was concerned about spending on the Dulles rail project. "They oversee taxpayer money. They determine the economic viability of the airport, and that affects the economic impact of the region. I think people are losing confidence in the airports authority. There must be total and complete openness and accountability."

DOT CONTINUES TO LAG ON RESOLVING CYBERSECURITY PROBLEMS

NOVEMBER 18, 2011

www.fiercegovernment.com

The Transportation Department continues to have difficulty remediating cybersecurity vulnerabilities, the departmental inspector general says in an annual assessment on Federal Information Security Management Act compliance.

The Nov. 14 report reviews DOT FISMA performance during fiscal 2011, which ended on Sept. 30. Over the course of that year, DOT tracked 4,668 known vulnerabilities requiring a plan of action and milestones, but didn't resolve 1,565 of them on time. 374 of the vulnerabilities have been outstanding for more than 365 days, data from the report says

In the fiscal 2010 report, the DOT OIG criticized the Transportation chief information officer for instituting a policy that in effect prioritizes the remediation of lower priority problems by giving them a shorter timeframe than higher impact vulnerabilities in which resolution must occur.

That policy continues to be in place, although DOT has said it will change it, the report says. DOT "has yet to issue its final revised timeframes," the report adds, stating that a draft policy document would require the resolution of high and moderate POA&Ms within 90 days and give no deadline for low priority vulnerabilities.

The report also says office of the secretary of transportation, which provides the network infrastructure support to DOT's headquarters and remote offices (except FAA and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration field sites) has disagreed with the office of CIO over a revision to cybersecurity policy, resulting in the OST operating without one.

U.S. PROBE LINKS CALTRANS PAIR TO THEFTS

NOVEMBER 27, 2011

sacbee.com

A federal investigation has found that two Caltrans employees recently fired over problems in the agency's unit that tests underground foundations for bridges were involved in the theft of construction materials owned by the state and federal governments.

State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, said the report sheds new light on a possible nexus between the thefts, which benefited former unit chief Brian Liebich, and the handling of fabricated test results for three freeway structures by his subordinate, technician Duane Wiles. Both issues originally were reported in a recent Bee investigation.

The investigation by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General found that Wiles took part in the theft of federal and state building supplies on behalf of Liebich. Liebich later downplayed the extent of Wiles' data fabrications, based largely on an examination of the test data by an engineer who called his own assessment "cursory" and inadequate.

In a memo to Liebich the engineer expressed alarm about public safety hazards posed by possible data fabrication that had not been detected.

No public statement has been made about what prompted the federal investigation, and the U.S. Department of Transportation declined to comment.

(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

No comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG'S ENGINEERS DISCUSS THEIR ROLE IN DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORT DEVELOPMENT AT COP

On November 29, JA-40's Rodolfo Perez, Anne-Marie Joseph, and Aron Wedekind talked about their role as engineers at OIG. Our three engineers explained how their decades of collective practical experience bring value to OIG's audits and investigations. They also recounted their most memorable assignments, including their work on Boston's Big Dig and the I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis.

Rodolfo said that the role of the OIG engineer is, in part, to become "the interpreter of the engineering language." They read lab reports and other documents to ensure that building materials adhere to regulations. Their knowledge of cost of materials enable them to sniff out fraud on a variety of types of projects. Because the business of our Department often focuses on large-scale engineering projects, OIG engineers are absolutely essential for interpreting DOT's work.



Rodolfo Perez, Anne Marie Joseph, and Aaron Wedekind have a laugh while recounting their experiences assisting with OIG audits and investigations

The engineering team talked about their work in responding to crises, like the I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis and faults with Boston's Big Dig. The team analyzed the technical selection process used to evaluate the bid proposals for the new I-35W bridge, and performed site visits and inspections of the Big Dig following the tunnel ceiling collapse and significant leaks.

The Community of Practice was a great way for our engineers to show off their work and educate OIG on their substantial contributions to our mission, and how they can offer even more to audit and investigation offices. Great job!

—Dan Burd, JI-3

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 12/5	TUE 12/6	WED 12/7	THU 12/8	FRI 12/9
		(b)(6)		CAL—Quarterly Meeting w/ FAA (9:30 a.m.)

NOTEWORTHY

UPCOMING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EXCHANGE—ADAPTABILITY AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES: DEALING WITH DIFFERENT AND DIFFICULT PEOPLE

On Thursday, December 15, 2011, Ann will be leading the Leadership Development Exchange discussion on “Adaptability and Communication Strategies: Dealing with Different and Difficult People.” The discussion will be held from 2:00 PM-3:30 PM in the IG’s Conference Room (W70-300). The overflow conference room at HQ will be the Atrium Conference Room (W76-102).

Please let Ellen Craig (Ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov) know if you will be videoconferencing in for the brown bag. If VTC is not available to you, the conference call number is (b)(6).

If you would like CEUs/CPEs, please register for the brown bag via TMS. The direct link is <https://tms.nbc.gov/nbc/user/deeplink.do?linkId=REGISTRATION&scheduleID=19647>

OIG-WIDE MENTORING PILOT SURVEY CLOSES THIS FRIDAY

It’s hard to believe that 6 months have gone by and we have completed our OIG-wide pilot mentoring program. Now we need your input to let us know what worked well and what you would improve going forward. I know, not another survey! But this survey only takes 5 to 10 minutes.

If you participated in the program as a mentee or mentor, scroll through your email inbox or deleted folder for an e-mail from MichelleT.McVicker@oig.dot.gov via Survey Monkey, and complete the survey by COB Friday, December 9. Please let me know if you cannot complete the survey by the deadline. Also let me know if you didn’t receive my email and should have.

We would love to have a 100-percent survey completion rate. Your responses will help us as we work toward rolling out the mentoring program in January 2012. Thank you again for participating in the pilot program and sharing your experiences.

— Michelle McVicker, SAC, JRI-5

SAC SHOEMAKER RECEIVES INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

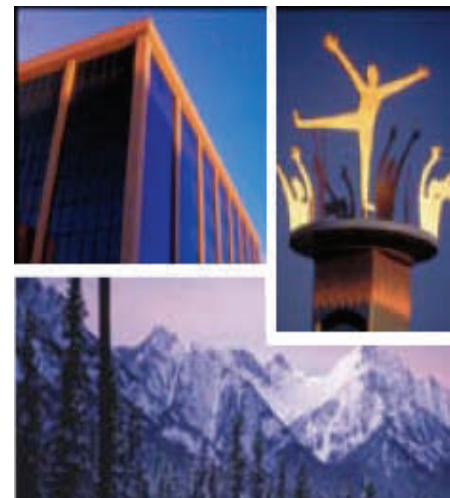
On November 18, SAC Doug Shoemaker (JRI-2 NY) and the other core members of the Federal Construction Fraud Task Force for the Eastern District of New York received "Investigator of the Year" awards from the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation. The award ceremony was held at the landmark Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in New York City.

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The award recognized the team's outstanding results in investigating corruption, fraud, and organized crime influence in the NYC construction industry. The Task Force was formed in 1999 and to date, their investigations have resulted in 32 search warrants executed, 60 criminal prosecutions, and 28 debarments ordered. Their efforts have examined 124 prime construction contracts in the New York Metro area valued in excess of \$1.9 billion. The prosecutions have yielded forfeiture orders exceeding \$150 million.

SUN, SNOW, AND BLACKOUT AT WMDC

During the week of October 24, I attended OPM's "Coaching and Mentoring for Excellence" course at the Western Management Development Center—a self-contained campus in Denver for living and learning. After starting off the week with sun and 75 degree temperatures, the weather quickly changed to 19 degree mornings and 8 inches of snow on the ground. Fortunately, the frigid temperatures and the rampant power outages throughout Denver (including at WMDC) did not put a damper on the learning environment. The talented and highly energetic course facilitators assisted the class in fine tuning our coaching and mentoring skills through interactive role playing and group discussion. Key topics included listening as a meta-skill for coaching/mentoring; MUSE communication model for mentoring; levels of listening; and the CARE feedback model.



The course ended with participants digitally recording one another as we put our coaching and mentoring skills to use—a great learning tool. Whether you are participating officially in OIG's Mentoring Program or just want to fine tune your coaching skills as a manager, supervisor, or peer, this course is for you. But if you travel to Denver in October, be sure to pack a ski jacket, snow boots, and a flashlight for the bathroom!

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NOTEWORTHY

OST HOLIDAY ETHICS REMINDER

In a memorandum from Rosalind Knapp, OST's Ethics Official, we're reminded of the Department's ethics regulations governing gift giving and receiving:

During the holiday season, representatives of concerns that do business with or are regulated by the Department or from organizations that lobby on behalf of these concerns may try to spread cheer by sending gifts, or offers of gifts, and party invitations to Departmental officials. Scrooge that I am, I must remind you that, pursuant to the regulations of the Office of Government Ethics, Departmental employees may not accept gifts, gratuities, meals, and refreshments, or anything worth \$20.00 or more from these concerns and organizations. One possible exception is attending, with Counsel's approval, a non-lavish (no pheasant under glass and truffles) function which is not aimed specifically at Departmental employees and is widely attended, such as by Congressional representatives, other governmental officials, representatives of various sectors of industry, and members of the press. But, beware! If the invitation is from a nonsponsor of a function, more than 100 persons must be expected to attend and the market value of the invitation must not exceed \$350 (\$175 if attendance of an invited guest has also been approved). Notwithstanding, you should not attend if at the time of the event the host is a specific party to an action currently before you for decision, such as a ruling in an air carrier fitness case, an enforcement action, or the award of a contract or grant. Finally, be warned that this and other exceptions to the general rule are very narrowly interpreted.



Questions about the rule, or possible exceptions, should be directed to the Chief Counsel's office for modal administration employees or to the Office of the Secretary (OST) Ethics Office x69150 for OST employees.

A Reminder from Scrooge:

Presidential appointees may not accept a holiday invitation or gifts from a registered lobbyist or lobbying organization without approval.

— Seth Kaufman

NOTEWORTHY

AUDIT PROCESS A-TO-Z GUIDE

Do you worry about missing steps in the audit process? Do you often ponder which OIG stakeholders to involve and when at various audit stages? If you've been wandering aimlessly through the audit process maze, never fear! PSWG is on the case to light the way! We are happy to announce that a new checklist tool is on its way to guide you through the audit process wilderness. Located under SharePoint's Audit Process-Guidance section, this checklist provides "a one-stop shopping" experience as it

captures the process steps of each audit phase and provides references to relevant audit policy. We hope that you will find this tool useful in providing a comprehensive A-Z view of the audit process. This tool includes guidance on every audit phase from Project Proposal to Audit Follow-up. Click here to view the [Audit Process A-to-Z Checklist Tool](#) located on the Audit Process Website.



— Aisha Evans, JA-60, Process Standardization Working Group

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TAKES OIG's TOP GUN AT CFC EVENT

(b)(6)

FRAUDIGATORS RUN FOR CFC

Cambridge can feel far from the bustling Government environment many enjoy down in D.C. Particularly when CFC season rolls around, and we read about Crock Pot cook-offs, bake sales, jeans Wednesdays, and many, many, many other fun activities that raise money for good causes. Sometimes a regional employee can get a little....jealous.

Well, no more. This year, OIG Cambridge decided to change that. This year, we decided to get involved.

Being a physically fit region, we figured the best way to get involved in CFC would be to participate in the Volpe Center's First Annual CFC 2-Mile Fun Run. JA-40's [REDACTED],

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On Tuesday November 22, the Fraudigators took to the pavement. Knowing that Thanksgiving was only a couple days away, we knew we could use a little extra exercise. It was a brisk and sunny 44 degrees, and the team was raring to go—mostly because it's cold when standing around waiting for a race to start in November. All team members ran and walked their way to glory and the finish line.

And we won a trophy! But the best part? OIG raised \$220 for CFC, more than any other team. We thank each member of the team for donating \$20, and our generous team sponsors: [REDACTED] (JRI-1) and [REDACTED] (JA-40) at the "gold elite level" of \$20, and [REDACTED] (b)(6) (JA-40) at the "platinum elite executive level" of \$40.

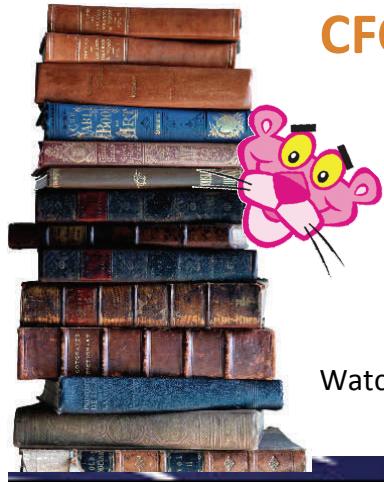
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NOTEWORTHY

CFC GIVING PROFILE**COMPASSION
OF INDIVIDUALS**

(b)(6)

**CFC BOOK AND DVD SALE CONTINUES!**

Donate your used books and DVDs to benefit CFC charities. Some new books and movies have recently been added, so check them out!

- Each book and DVD costs \$3, and all proceeds will go to CFC.
- If you see something you like, put \$3 in the jar and take it home with you!

Watch, read, and recycle!

PEOPLE WE KNOW

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END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

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THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CAL PARTICIPATES IN HOUSE AVIATION SAFETY ROUNDTABLE

Increases in the reported number of operational errors—when air traffic controllers fail to maintain safe separation distances between aircraft—prompted Congress to hold a hearing last May on FAA's oversight and management of air traffic operations, with Cal among the witnesses. In his statement, Cal concluded that until FAA takes action to develop comprehensive data, conduct astute trend analyses, and develop timely action plans to address controller workforce risks and vulnerabilities, FAA cannot ensure it has a sufficient number of alert, competent, and certified controllers needed to effectively manage the challenges of the

next generation of air traffic control.

Last Thursday, November 17, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation held a safety roundtable and again asked Cal to participate, along with Rick Ducharme, Senior Vice President of Operations in FAA's Air Traffic Organization; Joseph Teixeira, Vice President for Safety in FAA's ATO; Dr. Gerald Dillingham, Director of Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; Paul Rinaldi, National Air Traffic Controllers Association President; and David Conley of FAA's Managers Association.

Cal explained that FAA does not have a baseline to measure the number of operational errors, and without such a metric, the Agency cannot accurately determine why errors have increased. FAA contends that increases in reported operational errors are due to enhanced reporting via better detection technology and a new voluntary safety reporting program, the Air Traffic Safety Action Program



(ATSAP). Cal pointed out two major flaws in FAA's reasoning: first, incidents reported through ATSAP are not applied towards FAA's total operational error number count, and second, FAA's program to detect terminal operational errors, the Traffic Analysis Review Program (TARP), only operates for 2 hours a month. Therefore, ATSAP and TARP do not drive the increases in reported errors.

Bob Romich of JA-10's Air Traffic Control Operations division led the effort to prepare Cal for the roundtable. David Wonnenberg, Jeff Guzzetti, Bob Romich, Chris Frank, Kevin Montgomery, and Andrew Olsen had the privilege of sitting in on the discussion.

— Andrew Olsen



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MON 11/21	TUE 11/22	WED 11/23	THU 11/24	FRI 11/25
			Happy Thanksgiving! 	

NOTEWORTHY

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: MEET OIG'S ENGINEERS

The next Community of Practice will be held Tuesday, November 29, at 2:00 p.m. in the DOT Media Center. Engineers Rodolfo Pérez, Anne-Marie Joseph, and Aron Wedekind will discuss their work and how they can provide assistance across the organization. The event will include significant time for Q&A, and questions may be submitted in advance to luke.brennan@oig.dot.gov.

We anticipate offering 1 CPE for event attendance. This event will be available by webcast, but we encourage those in headquarters to join us in the DOT Media Center to provide our speakers with a strong audience. We hope to see you there!

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NOTEWORTHY

LOU'S ALL-HANDS FOCUSES ON THE GLASS HALF FULL

Last Thursday, November 17, Lou held her second all-hands meeting with audit staff. After thanking staff for making her job easier, Lou held up a bottle of water and asked that we look at it as half full when we think about the past year's challenges and successes:

- We now have full contingent of AIGs and Deputies.
- Congress has taken note of our return on investment and praised us for our responsiveness and continued good work, while it noted that other OIGs needed to step up their game.
- Ann's training initiative is expected to result in a new training curriculum—and around the same time that the new performance standards take effect next summer.
- Process standardization, "A to Z Guide"—which links to all policies and processes, such as PPM—is completed and soon be announced.
- Resources have been put in place to help teams achieve OIG's 10-month goal, including up-front assistance with scoping jobs.

OIG issued 181 written products—a 44 percent increase over last year.

- The pilot Project Management class has provided useful tools to teams, including "Stop. Start. Go." and gap analysis.
- AIGs are looking to streamline the Yellow Grid, but the form is critical to our operations as it helps Cal meet his commitment to the Secretary of "no surprises."

Lou focused on the accomplishments on the audit side of the house. We issued 181 written products—a 44 percent increase over last year. Lou cited a number of products that were either unique, had significant financial impact, required complex matrixing, or received high-level media coverage.

To work better, smarter, and more efficiently, Lou noted that

OIG management is working hard to ensure staff have the right resources needed to do their work, including supervisory training, indexing and references classes, writing staff, and mentoring.

Staff at HQ and in the regions asked several questions. The first concerned our congressional outreach efforts and how they are going. Lou responded that we are doing great on this front.

Another staff member asked for an example of a job that had to be scoped down. Lou quickly cited JA-10's repair station audit. Given the broad scope, it was decided that the job would become two: one on domestic repair stations and one on foreign repair stations.

The third and final question concerned how the 20 percent cut in travel would impact our work. Lou said that we would need to watch our travel funds but emphasized that she does not like phone audits.

The meeting wrapped up well under the 2 hours allotted. Now that's efficient!

NOTEWORTHY

“NATIONAL DISGRACES” DEFEAT “ETHICS GIANTS” IN ETHICS BASEBALL AMID ALLEGATIONS OF QUESTION-RIGGING

WASHINGTON, DC—On Opening Day of OIG’s Ethics Baseball Challenge, intercity rivals—the Ethics Giants and National Disgraces—faced each other in a much anticipated game on DOT Media Center grounds. Over 70 ethics baseball fans were in the stands, while hundreds more OIG fans enjoyed the spirited game online, satisfying their annual ethics training requirement.

Both teams handled Hatch Act pitches with ease, which bodes well

for players as election season approaches. Other pitches included the Principles and Standards of Ethical Conduct and the dangerous criminal statutes. However, Pitcher Seth Kaufman struggled in the early innings to get outs. The National Disgraces put together run after run with

correct answers to Kaufman's pitches. In the top of the second inning, the National Disgraces, led by veteran special agent Ricky Bostian, hit around the order before Kaufman invoked "the mercy

declared the National Disgraces the winner without announcing the score. Swartzbaugh was radiant after the game, telling all who would listen, "I am the greatest! It's hard to be humble

when you're as great as I am."*

Ethics Giants vs National Disgraces

Nicole Angarella

Peter Barber

Luke Brennan

Dan Burd

Scott Harding,

Wendy Harris

Benjamin Huddle

Gary Middleton

Dave Wonnenberg

Ricky Bostian

Jill Cottonaro

Yana Hudson

Len Meade

Lissette Mercado

Elise Phillips

Gerald Steere

Aron Wedekind

Eric Weems

Kaufman, who signed an oath of office in 1999, added, "I had good stuff in pre-game warm-ups, but I have to hand it to Fritz. He really worked on his game last night while I sat on the couch watching TV."

rule." Hurler Fritz Swartzbaugh, on the other hand, kept the Ethics Giants off balance with a dizzying array of subject changes and variations in degree of difficulty.

The game became so lopsided that Chief Umpire Omer Poirier

Kaufman's soft lobs led to widespread speculation of game fixing. Kimberly Leading posted online: "Me thinks the ball game has been rigged." Questioned about rumors of pitch-rigging, Kaufman said, "Everyone who knows me knows that I always

(Continued on page 5)

ALL EMPLOYEES MUST COMPLETE REQUIRED ETHICS TRAINING BY DECEMBER 15

Telecast of the game will be available through video on demand. All employees who have not yet received ethics training this year **must register with TMS and view the telecast by December 15, 2011**, to satisfy the requirement. Employees are encouraged to view the game as soon as possible after it is made available. details to follow.

"Ethics Baseball" was created by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ethics program. OIG's Karen Hayden and DOT Media Center staff produced the webcast and video.

NOTEWORTHY

JRI-2'S (b)(6) RECEIVES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK

On Tuesday, November 15, (b)(6) received an award from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (USAO-SDNY).

(b)(6) was recognized for (b)(6) outstanding efforts in the EEA/Skanska USA Civil Northeast, Inc. ("Skanska") DBE fraud investigation. (b)(6) and (b)(6) team uncovered a pervasive fraud scheme spanning more than a decade, which involved almost \$20 million in fraudulent DBE subcontracts. The investigation to date has resulted in two guilty pleas and a settlement with Skanska wherein they paid the U.S. Government \$19.6 million. Congratulations, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(Continued from page 4)
put forth an honest effort in the performance of my duties."

In a post-game interview, Ethics Giant Angarella dismissed Kaufman's defense as "flimsy," adding that "just because it's not in your

character doesn't mean you're innocent." Swartzbaugh added, "Allegations about Seth's impartiality are unfair. They divert attention from my actual greatness."

Despite controversy and some opening day jitters, the crowd

got what it came for: a fun afternoon activity and mandatory ethics training. Spectator Michelle Hill remarked, "It was a really fun way to get our required training!"

— Tesh Fankaum, *The Inspector*
Sports Writer



FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

November 14 - December 12, 2011



Federal Benefits Open Season for health, dental, vision, and flexible spending accounts runs from November 14, 2011 to December 12, 2011.

NOTEWORTHY

LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG FOCUSES ON LESSONS FROM RECENT COP

Managers in HQ and seven regions gathered via video- or teleconference to listen and contribute to Ann's November 2011 Leadership Brown Bag. The session focused on Developing Emerging Leaders—drawing on lessons learned during the Women in Leadership COP, including the following (in no particular order):

1 Leaders make mistakes, and acknowledging this helps avoid many sleepless nights. Managers can't know all and be all. No one can. Managers should trust that their staff are smarter when it comes to aspects of the job. Self-awareness is key.

2 Good leaders have done their homework and are prepared to participate in meetings. One manager said that to prepare for an audit interview, he asks staff to articulate where they are going, why they are going, who they are meeting with, and what is the minimum they expect to learn. Another manager related it to fishing when staff pushed back on the preparation: What kind of fish are you looking for? Do you have the right equipment? Are you willing

to miss a great fish because you have no idea about the lake conditions?

Two important messages came through:

Model good behavior; model what it takes to do a good job.

Empower others—especially staff—to be a part of the vision and solution.

3 Leaders need to be adaptable to change and think outside the box. The importance of supportive people was also underlined—be they friends, family, or a spouse.

4 Taking risks is important. Volunteering for that job no one else wants can provide key growth opportunities.

5 Create some balance in your life—you can have it all, but not all at once. Choices have to be made—friends and a job or family and a career—what com-

bination works is a very personal decision.

Before closing, Ann asked for feedback on the leadership brown bags: What went well? What didn't? Most agreed that the sessions have been helpful. One manager commented he even calls in when he's on personal leave because he sees such a value in them.

Ann plans to resume the leadership discussions in the new year and asked for potential topics. The managers came up with several:

- Learning from our SES on their paths to success
- Establishing and following up on expectations with staff
- Discussing leadership classes and programs managers have participated in
- Building effective and high functioning teams
- Doing more with fewer resources

Ann also suggested—as a developmental opportunity—that managers volunteer to facilitate sessions.

— Amanda Barton, JA-2

NOTEWORTHY

OIG'S

(b)(6)

KEEPS IT CASUAL FOR CFC

(b)(6)

OIG BIDDERS GO WILD; CFC AUCTION RAISES OVER \$1,000

On Wednesday, November 16, the bids closed at the end of OIG's first CFC auction of the year, featuring items donated by OIG staff. The auction was a huge success, bringing in a total of \$1,105! Big thanks to all who participated through gifts and bids.

Auction Item High Bidders

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NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

CFC CARNIVAL

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NOTEWORTHY

CFC GIVING PROFILE

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THE NEXT CFC UPCOMING EVENT

The next OIG CFC Event is Marksmanship, to be held November 29 through December 1. More information on this CFC Event and others will be available after Thanksgiving.

PENNY WARS AS OF NOVEMBER 21

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Points</i>
First	Team JI-1, JI-2, JI-3, JRI-3, & JA-2	9,081
Second	Team J-3 & JA-10	4,370
Third	Team J-1, J-2, JM-1, JM-10-20-30-40	3,276
Fourth	Team JA-40 & JA-60	2,506
Fifth	Team JA-1, JA-20, & JA-50	1,657

NOTEWORTHY

OIG IN THE NEWS

DOT Falls Short in Annual FISMA Audit

CIO Responds that Lack of Resources Hinders Remediation

Excerpted from GovInfoSecurity.com, November 14, 2011

The Department of Transportation has once again failed to meet federal information security requirements, DOT's Office of Inspector General says in its annual Federal Information Security Management Act security audit.

"These weaknesses significantly increase the risk that systems will become victim to cyberattacks or disruptions that can compromise the integrity, availability and confidentiality of data needed to fulfill DOT's missions," DOT Inspector General Calvin Scovel III writes in the report dated Nov. 14.

DOT Chief Information Officer Nitin Pradhan, in a written response, outlined a number of steps his office has taken to improve IT security but conceded that the money and people to correct every shortfall the IG raised will be difficult to achieve.

"Resources are increasingly constrained and it is unlikely that our

cybersecurity program will receive the additional resources as anticipated in our earlier planning," Pradhan says. "As a result, it is neither realistic nor plausible to commit to addressing all of the issues described in the OIG draft report in a single year. While the issues discussed in the OIG draft report are integral to FISMA objectives, it is imperative that we focus our constrained resources on the highest priority actions."

The inspector general audit says DOT showed improvement in the past year in improving IT security but points out that the department only successfully addressed 19 of the 25 recommendations the IG made in 2009 and six of 27 suggestions offered in 2010.

Among the IG's findings for 2011, DOT:

- Failed to develop a strong and flexible cybersecurity policy for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. Pradhan told the IG that the secretary's office had differing views on needed policy changes and is operating without a policy.
- Hadn't sufficiently implemented enterprise-level con-

trols. For instance, the IG says, DOT cannot effectively track how many contractors it uses or manage security baseline configurations for all of its systems.

In addition, the IG says, DOT's compliance with Federal Desktop Core Configuration requirements, which prescribe secure settings for Windows XP operating system, has dramatically declined to 70 percent from 90 percent since the IG's last review despite the availability of more administrative tools employed to assess compliance.

DOT also lacked adequate controls over continuous monitoring of system security, oversight of contractor-operated systems and its security and remote access and account management.

CIO Pradhan offers another explanation why the department can't address all of the IG's recommendations: "These efforts are complicated by the fact that our systems must be operational around the clock every day of the year, and any changes must be completed while 'keeping the lights on,' to support the critical day-to-day operations of the Department of Transportation."

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END SHOT

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email your suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov
by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

*The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by
providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.*

NOVEMBER 7, 2011

THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SPECIAL OIG SPOTLIGHT:

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 11/7	TUESDAY 11/8	WEDNESDAY 11/9	THURSDAY 11/10	FRIDAY 11/11
		CAL—Salute to the Marine Corps (2:00 p.m.)		 A circular logo featuring three white stars on a blue background at the top, followed by the text "Remember Our VETERANS" in red, and a field of red vertical stripes below.

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NOTEWORTHY

OIG SECRETARY AWARD WINNERS

As reported in the October 17 issue of *The Inspector*, several OIG staff and teams were honored with 2011 Secretary Awards. Last Thursday these recipients received their awards.

The Whistleblower Safety Disclosure Investigations Team

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The Information Security Audit Team



Pictured with Cal: Susan Neill, Louis King, Michael Marshlick, Lissette Mercado, Tracy Colligan, Martha Morrobel, James Mullen, Petra Swartzlander, and Tim Roberts (not pictured) received the *Secretarial Team Award* for excellence in indentifying security weaknesses throughout the Department and its Operating Administrations and for recommending expert solutions.

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WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

On October 27, the Deputy Inspector General and Meredith Howell (JA-60) moderated a dynamic conversation with three distinguished women who shared their experiences and thoughts on their paths to success and leadership—the Honorable Deborah Hersman, Chair of NTSB; Jacquelyn Williams-Bridgers, Managing Director of International Affairs & Trade at GAO and former Inspector General at the Department of State; and (b)(6)

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In describing how they arrived at their current post, all agreed that their paths chose them and led them to embrace the challenges inherent in being prominent figures in their field and in pioneering women's representation in upper management.

They discussed the importance of taking risks, relying on good advice, maintaining work-life balance, and taking advantage of mentoring opportunities, both formal and informal. They noted that "it can be lonely at the top"—a stark contrast to the team-centered atmosphere they enjoyed in previous positions. All agreed that doing one's home-

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work, working hard, teambuilding, and leading by example were critical to individual and team success.

Field and HQ staff raved about the COP! Staff valued the sincerity and "realness" of the panelists, their diversity, and the "real life" examples. The COP also made a powerful impression on the panelists. Chairman Hersman wrote to personally thank Cal and Ann for being invited to participate: "I learned a lot from the other panelists and appreciated hearing about their experiences."

Based on the positive response, Cal would like to see the Women in Leadership video as part of future leadership brown bags with the Deputy and in the Sup course series to further bolster OIG's emphasis on developing strong leaders.

If you missed this one, don't worry. The video and the panelists' biographies are available on [SharePoint](#).

— Cynthia Auburn (JA-40, NY)
and Meredith Howell (JA-60)

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NOTEWORTHY

NOVEMBER 16 LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG TO REFLECT ON COP

Our last Leadership Brown Bag for the year is fast approaching—November 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m. EST. Our topic, "Developing Emerging Leaders," will reflect on our recent Women in Leadership COP. For those of you who weren't able to attend it but would like to participate in the November discussion, you can watch the video on the COP [SharePoint](#) site. It is also available for those of us who did attend but would like to refresh our memories. From the comments I received following the COP, the 2-hour video contains leadership information that you just can't get from a course or book. So, during the brown bag, I would like to hear from you, our emerging leaders, as to your key takeaways from the COP—what resonated with you and why? Also, given that we are at our 1-year mark with the Leadership Brown Bags (yes, our first Leadership Brown Bag was held on November 18, 2010), I'd like to take time to brainstorm topics for next year and obtain your feedback, including suggestions for improvements. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing from those of you interested in attending on November 16.

— Ann

NEXT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: MEET OIG'S ENGINEERS

The next Community of Practice will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at 2 p.m. in the DOT Media Center.

Engineers Rodolfo Pérez, Anne-Marie Joseph, and Aron Wedekind will discuss their work and how they can provide assistance across the organization. The event will include significant time for Q&A, and questions may be submitted in advance to luke.brennan@oig.dot.gov.

We anticipate offering 1 CPE for event attendance. This event will be available by webcast, but we encourage those in headquarters to join us in the DOT Media Center to provide our speakers with a strong audience. We hope to see you there!



FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

November 14 - December 12, 2011



Federal Benefits Open Season for health, dental, vision, and flexible spending accounts runs from November 14, 2011 to December 12, 2011. There will be a health fair in the West Atrium on November 16, 2011, for employees to be able to speak with representatives.

NOTEWORTHY

JA-60 INITIATES QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH OST'S SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE

On November 2, Mary Kay Langan-Feirson (AIG, JA-60) and JA-60 Program Directors held its first quarterly meeting with Willie Smith, DOT's Senior Procurement Executive, and his management team. JA-60 initiated these exchanges to foster communication and awareness between OIG and DOT. These meetings will also help ensure our audits best support both OIG's and the Department's strategic goals in areas such as acquisitions and grant management, which account for significant dollars. According to DOT data reported to the Office of Management and Budget, DOT will spend an estimated \$6.9 billion in contracts and \$108 billion in grants in fiscal year 2012.

During our first meeting, JA-60 discussed its organizational structure, audit planning process, areas of focus, and its ongoing audits. DOT shared its plans to address the Administration's procurement initiatives and discussed how OIG's work can support DOT's acquisition efforts.

— Tony Wysocki, Program Director, JA-60

FRANCINE BENKO, OIG'S NEW DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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NOTEWORTHY

ATLANTA HALLOWEEN CFC EVENT NETS \$60

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JA-10 Atlanta CFC Key Workers Andrew Farnsworth and Aiesha Gillespie teamed up with several offices of the 17th floor of the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center to host a CFC Halloween Bash! The event featured several different kinds of chili, hot dogs, and a variety of selections to entice everyone's sweet tooth. Free cookies were given to those who showed up in costume, and several OIGers took advantage of that great deal! The proceeds from the sale were split between the offices, and DOT OIG made almost \$60!

HQ GHOULS AND GOBLINS COME OUT FOR CFC

To those who were brave enough to step out on a limb and wear something bizarre like hot dog suit or a werewolf costume, you had a chance to don the crown and ribbon. Unfortunately that privilege would only be enjoyed by one; and the winner is: (b)(6), revealing his look-alike Steve Jobs of Apple.

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— (b)(6)

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

HQ'S CFC HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST IS A HOWLING GOOD TIME

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NOTEWORTHY

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NOTEWORTHY

CFC GIVING PROFILE



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THE NEXT CFC UPCOMING EVENT

Get ready for a carnival of "Minute to Win it" games. CFC Key Workers will lay out a series of games to see who is the sharpest tack in the box. Keep your calendar free for this Wednesday, November 9.

PENNY WARS AS OF NOV 3: TEAM JI-1, JI-2, JI-3, JRI-3, & JA-2 REMAINS ON TOP!

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Points</i>
First	Team JI-1, JI-2, JI-3, JRI-3, & JA-2	6,952
Second	Team J-3 & JA-10	3,432
Third	Team J-1, J-2, JM-1, JM-10-20-30-40	2,617
Fourth	Team JA-40 & JA-60	1,786
Fifth	Team JA-1, JA-20, & JA-50	1,449

NOTEWORTHY

CFC CROCK-POT COOK-OFF LURES HORDES OF HUNGRY HQ STAFF

Not one, not two, but 13 crockpots entered the competition to see whose dish would prevail. In actuality, they all prevailed. After only 55 minutes, all 13 crockpots were empty. No

food wasted, no leftovers, just 120 satisfied customers.

As for the winner, it was so close: One vote separated 1st place from 2nd. Congratulations goes to (b)(6)

(b)(6) for her chicken tortilla soup.

The Crock-Pot cook-off was a huge success, generating over \$470—all to be donated to CFC.

— (b)(6)

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NOTEWORTHY

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Here's your crockpot line-up and the chef to go with it—in case you want to hunt one down for a recipe! In the meantime, here's the winning one.

Chef**Crock-Pot**

(b)(6)

Chicken Wings

Taco Soup

Pulled Pork BBQ

Buffalo Chicken Dip

Baked Apple

Vegetarian Chili

Chili

Meatballs

Chicken Tortilla Soup

Turkey Meatballs

Beef Stew

Chili

Beef Stew

Chicken Tortilla Soup

**1 pound (2 large) boneless chicken breasts, halved crosswise to form two thin cutlets
 1½ tablespoons olive oil, separated
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon chili powder
 1 large onion, cut into medium dice
 4 large garlic cloves, crushed
 2 tablespoons canned chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, minced
 2 quarts low-sodium chicken broth
 1 14.5-ounce diced tomatoes (fire-roasted, if you can find)
 2 cans black beans (15 or 16 ounces), not drained
 6 ounces tortilla strips
 1 lime, cut into 8ths**

Directions:

1. Heat a Dutch oven or soup kettle over medium-high heat. Toss chicken with salt, chili powder and 1½ teaspoons of the oil to coat. Add chicken to hot pot; cook, turning only once, until impressively brown on both sides, 5 to 6 minutes. Transfer to a plate and cut (or shred when cool enough) into bite-size pieces.
2. Heat remaining tablespoon of oil in the hot empty pot; add onions and sauté until softened, 4 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and peppers; continue to sauté until fragrant, about a minute longer. Add chicken broth, tomatoes and black beans. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium low. Simmer partially covered and skim foam as it surfaces, to blend flavors, about 5 minutes. Stir in chicken and turn off heat.
3. Place a portion of tortilla strips in each bowl, ladle over hot soup and top as desired, letting each person squirt in a little lime.

Servings: 6 to 8

Nutrition per serving (for 6): 352 calories; 42g carbohydrates; 29g protein; 7g fat; 1g saturated; 48mg cholesterol; 9g dietary fiber; 1,131mg sodium.

NOTEWORTHY

OIG-RELATED NEWS

MILLIONS POWERLESS AS SNOW SMACKS NORTHEAST - WEATHER - TODAY.COM

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. — One of the darkest HALLOWEENS ever loomed for about 3 million households left without power on Sunday by a rare October snowstorm in the Northeast that bedeviled transportation.

Jack-o'-lanterns peeked through record-breaking snow, the heaviest of which was 31.4 inches measured in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, according to the National Weather Service.

Roads, rails and airline flights were knocked out, and passengers on a JetBlue flight were stuck on a plane in Hartford, Conn., for more than seven hours. And while children across the region were thrilled to see snow so early, it also complicated many of their Halloween plans.

Some 48 passengers on an Amtrak train bound for Boston were stranded for 13 hours overnight when a rockslide blocked the tracks near central Massachusetts, company spokeswoman Verna Graham said. They were bussed to their final destinations before noon on Sunday.

Other Amtrak service was suspended between Providence and Boston; New Haven, Connecticut and Springfield, Massachusetts; and Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

New Jersey Transit and Metro-North Railroad suspended service on several lines into New York City on Sunday.

The JetBlue passengers stranded Saturday at Hartford's Bradley International Airport were on a flight from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Newark, N.J., that had been diverted. Passenger Andrew Carter, a football reporter for the Sun Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, said the plane ran out of snacks and bottled water, and the toilets backed up.

JetBlue spokeswoman Victoria Lucia said power outages at the airport has made it difficult to get passengers off the plane, and added that the passengers would be reimbursed. In 2007, passengers in JetBlue planes were stranded for nearly 11 hours at New York's Kennedy Airport following snow and ice storms.

There were other flight delays in the region over the weekend, and commuter trains in Connecticut and New York were delayed or suspended because of downed trees and signal problems. Amtrak suspended service on several Northeast routes, and one train from Chicago to Boston got stuck overnight in Palmer, Mass. The 48 passengers had food and heat, a spokeswoman said, and they were taken by bus Sunday to their destinations.

Airports slowly returned to normal service on Sunday, although there were some residual delays due to wind at Newark International Airport.

'Totally unprepared'

Many of the areas hit by the storm had also been hit by Irene. In New Jersey's Hamilton Township, Tom Jacobsen also recalled heavy spring flooding and a particularly heavy winter before that.

"I'm starting to think we really ticked off Mother Nature somehow, because we've been getting spanked by her for about a year now," he said.

SALUTING OIG VETERANS...THANK YOU

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END SHOTS

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THE INSPECTOR



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CAL REFLECTS ON OIG'S 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Despite budget constraints, periodic threats of a shutdown, and an East Coast earthquake and hurricane, fiscal year 2011 was an exceptionally productive year for OIG. Our work this past year continued to reflect our strong commitment to in-depth audits and investigations on key transportation issues to serve and inform the Secretary, lawmakers, and the public. We can be proud that our achievements not only exceeded last year's but that our audit and investigation work was recognized with awards from the Secretary, CIGIE, the Council of Counsels to the Inspectors General, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, and the New York Federal Executive Board.

Let me quickly address an issue always on everyone's mind—our budget and staffing situation. I can report "no changes" since my October 4 email to you on this topic. With the goal of preserving FTEs, we are eagle-eyed to reduce our overall operational costs, and the bottom line remains: we have no plans to release office space or to reduce staffing levels beyond those steps outlined in my email. I greatly appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation, and assure you that I will communicate immediately with you should the picture change.

Now, let's talk, as we often do, in terms of "Mission First, People Always."

Mission First

Our FY 2011 audits and investigations resulted in numerous recommendations and prosecutorial actions aimed at improving safety and stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Specifically, we issued 181 reports with a total of 602 recommendations, including financial recommendations totaling over \$1.7 billion, more than \$160 million of which was for funds to be put to better use in the Airport Im-

provement Program. Our investigative work resulted in 76 indictments, 79 convictions, and a total of \$286 million in fines, restitutions, recoveries, and costs avoided. As a result, our return on investment went up significantly from last year, from \$19 for every dollar spent to \$25—and that may be an all-time high for this office and certainly in the first rank among all OIGs.

Our audits and investigations continue to identify significant concerns related to air safety and system modernization, motor carrier safety, highway and transit infrastructure projects, high-speed rail, procurement and acquisition oversight, and information security and controls.

Our aviation work identified cost, schedule, and performance risks

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 10/31	TUESDAY 11/1	WEDNESDAY 11/2	THURSDAY 11/3	FRIDAY 11/4
OIG HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST FOR CFC (12:00 p.m.)			CAL—44th Annual Secretary's Awards Ceremony (1:00 p.m.)	

FISCAL YEAR 2011 WRAP-UP

(Continued from page 1)

in implementing key NextGen technologies, and challenges FAA faces in managing its controller workforce and overseeing contractor-owned and managed air traffic control systems. Our investigations exposed fraudulent activities related to the sale of aircraft parts, aircraft maintenance records, pilot medical certification, and the transport of ammunition primers—underscoring the need for increased rigor in FAA's oversight of the airline industry.

We continued to track FHWA's progress in targeting oversight to higher priority bridge safety risks, and provided undisputed findings on FMCSA's cross-border trucking program within short timeframes. Our investigations of rogue motor carriers revealed cases of fraud with significant safety implications, and highlighted the ongoing challenges FMCSA faces in countering fraud in its CDL program. Our highway and transit investigations uncovered other greed-based schemes to defraud the

Government. One investigation resulted in our presenting OST and FTA with a \$9.8 million check from Skanska USA Civil Northeast, Inc. for misusing another company's DBE status.

Our rail audits focused on the quality of service U.S. railroads provide to commodity shippers, and on FRA's efforts to ensure prudent investments in the Government's \$10 billion High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail grant program. We also continued our vigilant oversight of Amtrak's operational reforms and long-term capital planning. Our maritime work identified weaknesses in MARAD's oversight of the multi-billion dollar Title XI Loan Guarantee Program, and led to the sentencing of violators who failed to comply with Federal, State, and local environmental laws and regulations.

We also identified opportunities for the Department to improve its contract administration and IT system management. Weaknesses in OST's acquisition function and FAA's acquisition work-

force have limited the Department's capacity to support its mission, and FAA's poor cost and price analysis processes have created the risk of overpaying for noncompetitive contracts. The Department's IT portfolio—one of the largest among Federal civilian agencies—continues to have significant vulnerabilities, particularly in the area of cybersecurity. While DOT and FAA earned clean audit opinions over the past 3 years, additional improvements are needed to strengthen the Department's financial management, such as deobligating \$1.5 billion in funds to make available for other DOT priorities. Our investigations further identified abuse of DOT dollars—more than \$80 million through DBE fraud.

Finally, we maintained momentum in our ARRA-related work, including initiating eight new audits and issuing five audit reports and one testimony. We also have 62 ongoing investigations—47 of which have been accepted for review for prosecution.

(Continued on page 3)

FISCAL YEAR 2011 WRAP-UP

(Continued from page 2)

Staff across the organization have worked diligently to achieve these accomplishments, but this substantial body of work also indicates that our streamlined and collaborative audit and investigation processes have yielded results. Implementation of the JI Priorities Memorandum, which provides guidance to our Regional Offices on aligning their work more directly within these areas, and our rolling 24-month audit plan should further enhance our efforts to better leverage our resources. In addition, new guidance aimed at streamlining our operations and continuing efforts to provide staff with the latest IT tools are helping us to work smarter.

Other Government and private entities are taking notice. This past year, we were asked to present at numerous Government and industry forums, including Aviation Week's Air Transportation Modernization conference, Avionics Magazine's "Avionics for NextGen" Conference, RTCA's 2011 Symposium, the Excellence in Government's "Managing in a Cutback Climate" Conference, and the Intergovernmental Audit Forum Conference. The Partner-

ship for Public Service singled us out—along with IRS and SEC—as a higher performing organization.

We also continued our proactive outreach to Congress, Government agencies, and industry. JI issued Impact magazine to inform Members of Congress, Operating Administration officials, and Federal prosecutors of our top investigations for the prior year and the significant role our special agents and investigators play in the oversight of various transportation programs. We also implemented Congressional and Media Communications Policy, which includes a new SharePoint-based on-line tracking system to document congressional engagements and agreed-upon commitments. We partnered with FMCSA on Operation Boxed Up, a special project focusing on minimizing fraud in the transport of household goods. In addition, the Computer Crimes Unit hosted a CIGIE IT Investigations Subcommittee meeting; Ann led the quarterly meeting of DIGS, focusing on streamlining the audit process; JA-60 organized an FAEC conference on procurements; and Ann and I attended the annual CIGIE-GAO coordination meeting.

People Always

Over the past year, we have made significant progress with regard to strengthening OIG's leadership. In addition to filling AIG positions for JA-20 and JA-60 and the DAIG position for JA-40, we continued to emphasize accountability through supervisory training as well as through the 360° feedback process, which was expanded to all GS-14s and included SES and GS-15s who had not previously gone through the program. The confidential feedback managers receive on their leadership style and skills will allow them to target areas they need to improve to become more effective leaders. By linking this initiative to our performance management process, we can hold leaders accountable for addressing their feedback.

We also launched our formal mentoring program, as requested by many of you in last year's OIG Survey. Our 6-month pilot program, which began in early May, is wrapping up, and I look forward to identifying lessons learned and rolling out the next phase of the program. Leadership brown bags, a corresponding initiative currently facilitated by Ann, continue to be well re-

(Continued on page 4)

FISCAL YEAR 2011 WRAP-UP

(Continued from page 3)

ceived. We have begun offering similar sessions to all staff, and more than 100 GS-13s and below attended the first.

Results from OPM's 2011 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey are helping to guide our continuous improvement efforts. While the results were encouraging—especially in the areas of personal accountability, pride in our work, communication from management, and job teaming and sharing—we have more work to do on performance management. The survey results indicate that employees are less than satisfied with knowing what is expected of them, their performance assessments and corresponding opportunities, and recognition and awards. As I mentioned mid-year, several initiatives are under way to address these concerns, which include workgroups focused on writing new standards and job

behaviors, changes to the performance-rating process, and more comprehensive OIG position descriptions. We also revised our awards process—which we used this year—in an effort to make awards more meaningful and the process more transparent. OPM's survey provided valuable information on how we move forward, but it does not replace our internal survey, which I plan to resume in 2012, budget permitting.

The Deputy Secretary commended us for our partnership with the Department's Office of Civil Rights and our work to collect and present informative data on a number of important EEO indicators. While we have concentrated our training on EEO efforts as well as provided training on generational and work style differences, our refreshed and enhanced EEO and diversity work will begin early in 2012.

The senior leaders and I continued our outreach to the field, from Cambridge to Los Angeles to Sunrise and nearby Baltimore. Finally, we are in the last phase of moving JA-60 staff at 3rd street back to HQ. This action not only saves us dollars but helps to facilitate teamwork and collaboration—especially critical for this group given its increasing matrixing with other JAs.

Looking Ahead

I expect our work will continue to receive intense attention in FY 2012. The Congress continues to look to us to provide undisputed facts and data. Major projects are in the pipeline and will be the basis for debate on key issues as they roll out in the next few months.

As always, I want to thank all our staff for your continued hard work and dedication.

Best regards, *Cal*

Fiscal Year 2011 Numbers at a Glance

- 181 reports
- 602 recommendations
- \$1.7+ billion in financial recommendations
- 76 indictments, 79 convictions
- \$286 million in fines, restitutions, recoveries, and costs avoided
- \$25:1 return on investment

NOTEWORTHY

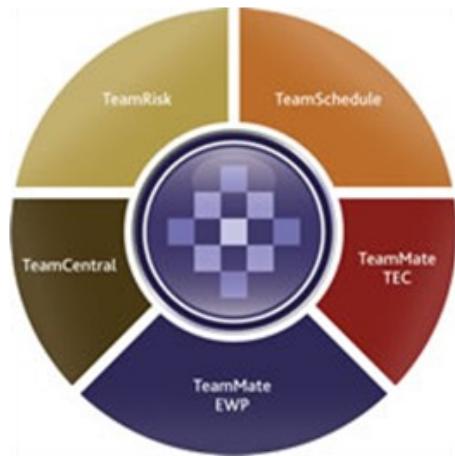
OIG STAFF ATTEND 12TH ANNUAL TEAMMATE USER FORUM 2011 IN ORLANDO, FL

As the new fiscal year started, Akilah Boston and Kim Bolding (JA-2), and Marisol Vasquez (JM-40) attended the 12th annual CCH TeamMate Conference. The conference is held annually to unite TeamMate users from around the globe to share best practices while networking and interacting with colleagues, TeamMate executives, product managers, and staff.

Akilah, being a veteran attendee, knew what to expect but was still pleasantly surprised. While Marisol and I, as first time attendees, were shocked at the diversity of customer base and level of expertise pre-

sent. There were attendees from as far away as South Africa, Australia, China, and Saudi Arabia. Did you know TeamMate is used by more than 85,000 auditors from more than 2,000 organizations? Some companies represented were attendees from Bally's, Rent-A-Center, and Wal-Mart, just to name a few.

I had no idea how popular TeamMate was and that in actuality, the Federal Government represents a small group of TM users. There were over 70 federal agencies represented at the conference using various TeamMate versions. When comparing TeamMate versions in use by other Inspectors General Offices, DOT-

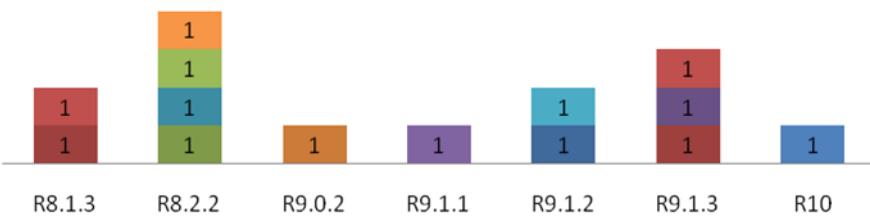


OIG is right on track with our upgrade to version 9.1.3 (see chart below.) As of September 2011, Smithsonian upgraded to TeamMate 10 with at least four other agencies testing and having implementation dates within the next year.

At the conference, I also learned how much more TeamMate has to offer OIG in helping to make our work more manageable. In addition to TeamMate EWP, there are

- TeamRisk—an advanced risk assessment system that enables us to develop a risk-based audit plan;
- TeamMate TEC—a web-based tool for capturing and reporting on time and expenses related to audit projects and tasks; Team Schedule--a comprehensive tool for schedule staff and audits; and

TeamMate Version for Federal IGs



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- TeamCentral—a powerful database with web-based access for tracking audit projects, issues, and recommendations.

From 8 am to 5 pm we were inundated with all things TeamMate. We attended many classes, which covered a broad range of topics, including **Training your New TeamMate User, Advanced IT Support 1 & Advanced IT Support 2, and TeamMate Central**.

CCH introduced us to the next version of TeamMate R10, and demonstrated future technological innovations like improvements to the Audit Trail, Digital Reporting, TM App for mobile

phones, and the ability to run TM on electronic tablets.

At one of the general sessions, CCH conducted a mock "Dr. Phil" production with the host, cue cards, and all! There was a huge debate among attendees whether it was the "real" Dr. Phil. Akilah was convinced the real Dr. Phil was at this general session. Not convinced, I polled several CCH staff, and they quietly confirmed it was not him.

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—Kim Bolding (JA-2)

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NOTEWORTHY



What began last August as a response to the many requests from participants for new chairs turned into an extreme makeover for the 3rd Street Human Resources Development Center. Staff have come to realize that under Cal's direction, OIG has become a "continual learning" organization with training offered onsite at every level and in every occupation during the training year.

Throughout the year we listened carefully to staff and responded with additional upgrades resulting in HRDC becoming a state-of-the-art destination for learning. New chairs and furniture have received rave reviews from participants and instructors alike. The instructors were quick to note that the chairs with no arms cannot be used for dozing during lectures. That was just the beginning. JM-40 research resulted in the old tables being replaced with workstations that could effectively secure laptops for use during information technology courses and reconfigured to fit the course.

HRDC upgrades include two 70-inch LCD monitors, which are used as the primary displays in the class for presentations and videoconferencing. A third 70-inch LCD smart board was installed in the rear of the room to allow the instructors and participants to work together on the screen by providing a touch interface to the laptop being displayed. For video-

conferencing, a new high-definition system was installed with dual front cameras that can automatically track the speaker. An rear camera was also installed, which can be used to focus on other parts of the room, such as a lectern for instructors. Multiple input panels allow a laptop to be connected from different locations, then redisplayed on any of the monitors. To improve sound quality, new in-ceiling speakers and microphones were installed throughout the room. As part of the videoconference infrastructure upgrades, a new system for recording any presentation at HRDC, including videoconferences from HRDC or between other OIG offices, will also be installed. All these systems are controlled by a wireless touch-panel interface that allows for dynamic reconfigurations of the displays, and the ability to quickly change camera settings for videoconferencing. This was accomplished under the direction of Jason Carroll, our Chief Information Officer, in partnership with Angie Thorpe, our Training Officer.

Lorena Simpson and Dottie Bowie prepared the bones of the Center with contractors to paint and repair the walls and replace the solid door with a clear, more inviting glass door. Connie Harshaw worked with Maria Sturniolo to customize the DOT mural found on the walls of the Secretary's Disaster Center in the Headquarters Building, and Maria completed the design of the room with the mural as the central focal point of HRDC. She made sure that all OIG regional offices were represented in the Center through amazing landscape photography. Maria worked with Francis Knab, General Manager of Graphic Visions Associates, to add the finishing touches, pulling everything together, which will make for a great training experience.

Please plan to stop in and visit the new Human Resources Development Center and see for yourself!

NOTEWORTHY

HRDC Before (sad looking)**HRDC After!**

Ty Pennington and ABC's *Extreme Makeover* would be proud of our extraordinary HRDC Makeover Team!



NOTEWORTHY

OIG IN THE NEWS

AUDIT: NHTSA NEEDS TO IMPROVE RECALL INVESTIGATIONS [DETNEWS.COM](#)

OCTOBER 25, 2011. The **Transportation Department's Office of Inspector General** says that after an 18-month review NHTSA needs better training, better documentation on responding to complaints and deciding whether to open an investigation—and issued 10 recommendations for improvements.

The audit found that NHTSA failed to complete 57 percent of preliminary investigations on time. NHTSA also left personal information in public view from its records in at least three cases that should not have been disclosed, the audit said.

The report issued earlier this month came at the request of Congress and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in the wake of Toyota Motor Corp.'s sudden acceleration recalls.

NHTSA came under harsh criticism from congressional leaders in early 2010 for failing to do more to investigate sudden acceleration incidents. Rep. Ed Towns, D-N.Y., said last year NHTSA "failed the taxpayers."

But despite criticism, Congress failed to pass any new safety legislation in the wake of the incidents.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation doesn't track whether it reviews a consumer complaint in a timely fashion. It also doesn't thoroughly document decisions by its defect assessment panel to decide whether to open a preliminary investigation, the audit said.

David Strickland, NHTSA administrator, said in a letter to auditors that the agency was committed to ensuring transparency.

"It is critical that the American public understand that ODI provides objective and thorough analysis and does every-

"Without comprehensive documentation of pre-investigation activities, ODI's decisions are open to interpretation and questions after the fact, potentially undermining public confidence in its actions," the audit said.

thing within its statutory authority to enhance vehicle safety," Strickland said.

Reliance on 'on-the-job training'

In a 2009 investigation into General Motors Co.' Saab 9-3, the Detroit automaker submitted documents requested by NHTSA behind schedule. NHTSA said it granted an extension—but there was no evidence of any extension granted or even sought.

The agency also needs a systematic process for deciding whether to seek outside assistance and should "develop a formal training program to ensure staff has the necessary skills and expertise," the audit found.

The agency "relies heavily on its on-the job-training," the report said.

NHTSA said it plans to complete a review of its defects office by April 2013, including deciding whether it has proper staffing and training.

The agency also routinely fails to document meetings with automakers. The audit recommended NHTSA establish "a complete and transparent record system with documented support for decisions that significantly affect its investigations."

The report raised questions about NHTSA's information sharing with other countries—and it noted that the cooperation agreement with the United Kingdom expired in 2007.

In Japan, safety investigators conduct site visits to automakers' to ensure they are turning over all data, and Germany's auto safety office assesses the plausibility of the manufacturer's data. NHTSA does neither, the report said.

"Relative to its foreign counterparts, NHTSA is unquestionably the most transparent regulatory automotive safety organization," Strickland said.

Late investigations

The Defects office has 53 employees. Between 2002 and 2009, the office reviewed 321,000 consumer complaints, prepared 811 investigative proposals and conducted 613 investigations.

Of those, 203 were upgraded to engineering analyses.

NHTSA denied 78 percent of all defect petitions it received.

The agency also didn't complete 57 percent—23 of 42 investigations reviewed—on time, according to random sample.

The agency's internal goal is to complete a preliminary investigation within 120 days—and engineering analyses within a year. A total of 40 percent of engineering analyses reviewed weren't completed on time.

Strickland said many factors—outside of NHTSA's control—can extend investigations. But he added that NHTSA "recognizes that there may be value to more fully documenting why some investigations may extend beyond timeliness goals."

NOTEWORTHY

CFC GIVING PROFILE

(b)(6)

CFC CROCKPOT COOK-OFF THIS WEDNESDAY!

On Wednesday, November 2, prepare to enter your best recipe in the Crockpot Cook-off.

- If you think you've got what it takes, let your Key Worker know that you'd like to enter.
- Oh, and for this event, there will be *two* 4-hour time off awards presented!

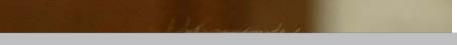
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Penny Wars Week 2

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Earnings</i>	<i>Points</i>
First	JI-1, JI-2, JI-3, JRI-3, and JA-2	\$57.00	4,700
Second	JA-10, J-3	\$46.20	3,420
Third	J-1, J-2, JM-1, JM-10-20-30-40	\$23.27	2,327
Fourth	JA-1, JA-20, JA-50	\$13.20	1,320
Fifth	JA-40, JA-60	\$11.82	1,182

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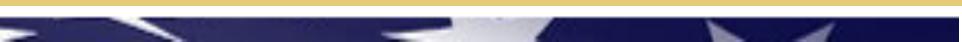
COMINGS & GOINGS

 (b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Please email your suggested articles to karen.sloan@oig.dot.gov
by COB Wednesday to be published in the following week's issue.

*The Inspector supports OIG's commitment to excellence in communication by
providing timely news and information about our work and people across the organization.*



THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY, ABOUT, AND FOR THE U.S. DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CIGIE RECOGNIZES DOT OIG's OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On Tuesday, October 18, DOT OIG received multiple honors, including the highest award from the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency at its annual awards ceremony, with the Honorable Eric Holder, Attorney General, as the keynote speaker. Three teams and two individuals were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at what is considered the IG community's Academy Awards.

The Alexander Hamilton Award

JA-40's Bridge Safety Improvement Team—Kimberly Bolding, Chris Brothers, Michael Dzandza (NY), Stephen Gruner (NY), Eric Mader, Regan Maund (NY), Jeffrey Ong (NY), Rodolfo Perez, Jean Tanaka, Aron Wedekind, and Tom Yatsco—received CIGIE's highest award for its significant contributions to enhance the safety of our Nation's bridges by improving Federal and State inspections and oversight. The team identified major weak-

nesses in DOT's National Bridge Inspection Program and relentlessly worked with DOT officials to ensure that audit recommendations were transformed into programmatic improvements. As a result of compelling audit reports and testimonies over 5 years, the Department overhauled its business practices, and earlier this year, the Secretary announced a sweeping new bridge safety initiative.

*Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY*



Bridge Safety Improvement Team accepting Alexander Hamilton Award

(Continued on page 3)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 10/24	TUESDAY 10/25	WEDNESDAY 10/26	THURSDAY 10/27	FRIDAY 10/28
		CFC Mini-Golf Championship Playoff	Women in Leadership, 1:00 to 3:00 pm	

NOTEWORTHY

THIS THURSDAY: OCTOBER 27 COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE *Women in Leadership: A Dialogue with Distinguished Women*

This Thursday, October 27, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, the Communities of Practice team welcomes several dynamic leaders for our first presentation of fiscal year 2012: "Women in Leadership."

Participants include the Honorable Deborah Hersman, Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board; Jacquelyn Williams-

Bridgers, Managing Director, International Affairs and Trade at GAO, and former Inspector General, U.S. Department of State;

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Deputy Inspector General Ann Calvaresi-Barr and Meredith Howell, Analyst (JA-60 HQ), will

be moderating the discussion as the speakers share their unique career experiences and paths to the leadership positions they hold today. We anticipate a full house and great audience participation!

—Meredith Howell,
Analyst, JA-60



The Honorable Deborah Hersman



Jacquelyn Williams-Bridgers

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NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

Award for Excellence in Multiple Disciplines

FTA's Oversight of the Region's Core Project Audit Team—JA-40's Michael Dzandza (NY), Anne Marie Joseph, George Lavanco (NY), Regan Maund (NY), Rodolfo Perez, Rosa Scalice (NY), Joseph Tschurilow (NY), Aron Wedekind, and Tom Yatsco and JRI-2's Ned Schwartz (NY)—was recognized for outstanding collaboration between audit, engineer, and investigative staff to ensure effective oversight of the Access to the Region's Core Project. The matrixed team identified significant cost, schedule, funding, and fraud risks on this \$9 billion project in New York and New Jersey, and exposed weaknesses in FTA's oversight. The Governor of New Jersey cited the team's compelling explanation of project risks, as one of the reasons for withdrawing New Jersey's participation in the project. As a result, FTA canceled the project and sued the State of New Jersey to return the Federal dollars it had already spent.



FTA's Oversight of the Region's Core Project Audit Team accepts the Award for Excellence in Multiple Disciplines



*Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY*

NOTEWORTHY

Award for Excellence



Jim Mallow accepts the Award for Excellence in Audit, on the behalf of the Airmen Medical System audit team, with Lou and Cal

Airmen Medical System Audit

Team—Joanne Adam, Maria Dowds, and Tim Roberts, JA-20

Oklahoma City —received this award in recognition of significant contributions to the safety of our skies through improvements to systems that track airmen's medical information.

Based on the team's recommendations, FAA instituted a number of short and long-term measures to fix and protect the integrity of its Airmen Medical Support System.

Award for Excellence in Investigation

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NOTEWORTHY

JRI-2 PARTICIPATES IN ROUNDTABLE WITH CZECH DELEGATES

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NOTEWORTHY

Senior Leaders and OMB Officials Meet on FY 13 Budget

I had the privilege of joining the senior leadership team at OIG's annual budget hearing with OMB last Thursday, where Cal and the SES discussed OIG's planned and ongoing work and priorities in support of our fiscal year 2013 budget request. The meeting took place in the Truman Room at the White House Conference Center.

This picture was taken just outside the center in President's Park in front of a statue of General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, also known as Baron von Steuben, who served as Inspector General and Major General of the Continental Army.

—Nathan Richmond



TIGR Migration Update

Since January 2011, HRDC has been working diligently with the Department, National Business Center, and OIG's IT Division to migrate TIGR training records to TMS. The purpose of the migration is to have one consolidated learning management system that will allow us to store and manage OIG employee's training records. We were scheduled to transfer the TIGR data on October 1, 2011; however, due to unforeseen issues with the test data, the migration has been moved to the early part of fiscal year 2012. Once we have adequately tested the sample data and are happy with the results, we will ask the Department to proceed with the migration of all TIGR training data.

Upon completion of the migration, we will notify everyone of the official shutdown of the TIGR Training Module. In the meantime, we will continue with business as usual by recording training courses in TIGR that have travel and/or travel costs associated with them. We thank you for your patience and support as we continue to migrate to one learning management system.

— Yolanda Perry

NOTEWORTHY

CIGIE HOSTS SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT CONFERENCE

The Suspension and Debarment Working Group of CIGIE's Investigations Committee held its second OIG Suspension and Debarment Conference on October 14, 2011, at the Hilton, Crystal City. Suspensions and debarments are tools that may be used at the discretion of agencies to protect the Government's interest. These tools permit the exclusion of parties found to be unethical, dishonest, or otherwise irresponsible from receiving contracts and grants that involve Federal funds.

Cal spoke on a panel on *Audit Efforts in the Suspension/Debarment Area* alongside DOJ Acting IG Cynthia Schnedar and USAID AIGA Tim Cox. Cal spoke about DOT's implementation of its suspension and debarment program and OIG's work to assess the effectiveness of this program. A January 2010 DOT OIG audit found that DOT's suspension and debarment decisionmaking reporting, policies, and procedures could be improved. (Click [here](#) to see the full report.)



Chairman Darrell Issa

Cal stated that the suspension and debarment program has been part of the OIG's top management challenges for the past several years. Cal noted that the synergy between various OIG units—audits, investigations, and legal—contributed to the success of the 2010 audit.

Chairman Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, was the conference keynote speaker. Chairman Issa stated that suspensions and debarments are means by which Federal agencies award contracts only to responsible sources—those that are deter-

mined to be reliable, dependable, and capable of performing required work. He stated that all agencies need to put forth additional efforts in order for the program to gain its full potential.

Attendees at the conference included Mary Kay Langan-Feirson, Tony Wysocki, Rachel Alderman, and Meg McHugh (JA-60); Nick Coates and Barbara Hynes (J-3); and (b)(6) (JI-2).

—Armit Dahliwal

NOTEWORTHY

CFC KICKOFF BREAKFAST NETS OVER \$600!

Monday morning at 8:00, the crowd showed up to get in line for a hot homemade meal but mostly to kick off the start of the Combined Federal Campaign. After many customers proceeded through the breakfast line, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Bob Westbrooks, made the opening remarks. Setting the tone for the next few months, Bob was able to capture the audience with his humor, while letting folks know that this was our chance to make a difference in someone's life. Cal followed up with his personal experience and why he gives to CFC (see next page) and ceremoniously signed his CFC pledge form. After some inspirational comments and lots of delicious home baked goods, the kickoff net for the day: \$601.60. Great job OIG!

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Penny Wars Week 1: Team J-3 and JA-10 is in the lead...for now.

Ranking	Team	Earnings
First	J-3 and JA-10	\$19.10
Second	JI-1, JI-2, JI-3, JRI-3, and JA-2	\$12.45
Third	JA-1, JA-20, and JA-50	\$10.91
Fourth	J-1, J-2, JM-1, and JM-10-20-30-40	\$5.82
Fifth	JA-40 and JA-60	\$2.75

NOTEWORTHY**CFC GIVING PROFILE**

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CFC BOOK AND DVD SALE CONTINUES!

There's been a bit of activity at the CFC Book and DVD table, with new choices being added almost daily. Donate your used books and DVDs to benefit CFC charities! Here's how it works:

- Leave your unwanted books and DVDs on the table outside W76-102 (Atrium conference room).
- Each book and DVD costs \$3, and all proceeds will go to CFC.
- If you see something you like, put \$3 in the jar and take it home with you!

Watch, read, and recycle!



NOTEWORTHY

Upcoming CFC Events

All proceeds go to the Combined Federal Campaign!

ANNUAL MINI-GOLF CHALLENGE

On Wednesday, October 26, show off your golf prowess.

- The winner gets a 4-hour time off award!
- *Golf attire optional.*

Halloween Costume Contest

On Monday, October 31, Show off your scariest, funniest, most authentic yet tasteful Halloween costume for a chance to win one-month of free Jean Wednesdays and your picture in *The Inspector*!!

- Atrium - Front Elevators, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- Entering is \$3 per person!
- Judging will be done by a volunteer panel. Please contact Michelle Starkey at 6-1935 by Friday, October 28 if you'd like to be a judge.
- The winner will be announced immediately following the event..

Crockpot Cook-off

And for you chefs, on Wednesday, November 2, prepare to enter your best recipe in the Crockpot Cook-off .

- If you think you've got what it takes, let your Key Worker know that you'd like to enter.
- Oh, and for this event, there will be *two* 4-hour time off awards presented!

Keep an eye on the next issue of *The Inspector* for details.

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END SHOT

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG TO RECEIVE THREE AWARDS AT THE 2011 SECRETARY'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

It is with great pride that I announce that the following OIG staff will be recognized at the Secretary's 44th Annual Award Ceremony on Thursday, November 3, 2011.

The Whistleblower Safety Disclosure Investigations Team

JL-3's Bob Westbrooks, Ron Engler, (b)(6) Joseph Garcia, Liz Hanson, Brian Uryga, and Sharon Smith; JA-10's Robin Koch, Kevin George, Jeannette McDonald, Mark Perrill, and Travis Wiley; and several OST and FAA staff will receive **the Partnering for Excellence Award**. This award recognizes inter-modal teams and groups that have used the Partnering for Excellence model to further ONE DOT activities supporting one or more of the Department's strategic goals. In the last year, the team addressed over 20 whistleblower disclosure cases that the Office of Special Counsel referred to the Secretary. The investigations frequently substantiated the whistleblower's safety disclosures. As a result of the investigations, FAA—with input from OIG and the OST's Office of General Counsel—made changes in policy, procedures, and personnel to make flying safer and took action to hold its employees accountable for lapses in safety.

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JRI-2 New York

will receive the **Secretarial Award for Excellence**. This award is granted to employees who have achieved outstanding performance in all aspects of their work, warranting special commendation. (b)(6) is being recognized for (b)(6) extraordinary performance and accomplishments in conducting complex grant fraud investigations that protect and uphold the integrity of the Department's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. For example, as a result of (b)(6) efforts on one DBE case, a defendant was convicted on all counts—conspiracy, mail fraud, and conspiracy to launder money—as part of fraud scheme to obtain over \$250 million of public works contracts. This prosecution and others resulting

A NOTE FROM THE IG



This week marks the beginning of the annual Combined Federal Campaign, the Nation's leading workplace giving program.

In the National Capital Area last year, military, civilian, and postal workers contributed \$67 million to a wide variety of charities. With 35 percent of employees participating in 2010 (OIG had 41 percent participation), DOT raised \$1.6 million—\$100,000 more than the Department's goal. This year JL is leading the effort.

For more on the CFC kickoff, activities, and key workers, see page 13 and upcoming editions of *The Inspector*.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 10/17	TUESDAY 10/18	WEDNESDAY 10/19	THURSDAY 10/20	FRIDAY 10/21
	CAL—CIGIE 2011 Awards (10:00 am)	CFC Kickoff Breakfast (8:00 am, HQ by the main elevators) Leadership Development Exchange with Ann (2:00 pm)	TIM—AIGI Meeting (9:30 am) CAL—OIG OMB FY13 Budget Hearing (10:00 am)	

NOTEWORTHY

NEW LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR GS13s AND BELOW

You asked for it, and Cal has answered. On October 19, Cal will introduce Ann's *Leadership Development Exchange*—a new program for GS13s and below. The program is an offshoot of the Leadership Brown Bag discussions that Ann has been holding over the past 10 months with GS14s and above.

Ann will lead staff in an exchange of ideas, feedback, and experiences on topics that you identify as important to your role, development, and career overall. The goal of the exchanges is to assist staff with developing leadership abilities that are critical at every grade level and in every discipline. So, whether you are with JA, JI, JM, J1, J2, or J3, come join Ann, with opening remarks from Cal, during the first session on Wednesday, October 19, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm EDT in the IG conference room with video and teleconferencing for field staff. Find out what all the buzz is about!



OCTOBER 27 COP— WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: A DIALOGUE WITH DISTINGUISHED WOMEN

This month, please join the Communities of Practice team in welcoming several dynamic leaders for our first presentation of fiscal year 2012: "Women in Leadership." Deputy

Inspector General Ann Calvaresi-Barr and Meredith Howell, Analyst (JA-60 HQ), will be moderating the discussion as the speakers share their unique career experiences and paths to the leadership positions they hold today.

Participants include the Honorable Deborah Hersman, Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board; Jacquelyn Williams-Bridgers, Managing Director, International Affairs and Trade at GAO, and former Inspector Gen-

eral, U.S. Department of State; Maria Rodriguez, President, Vanguard Communications; and Ann Klenk, Producer of *Hardball with Chris Matthews* on MSNBC.

We anticipate a full house and great audience participation! Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 27, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Stay tuned for updates on this presentation.

—Meredith Howell,
Analyst, JA-60

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

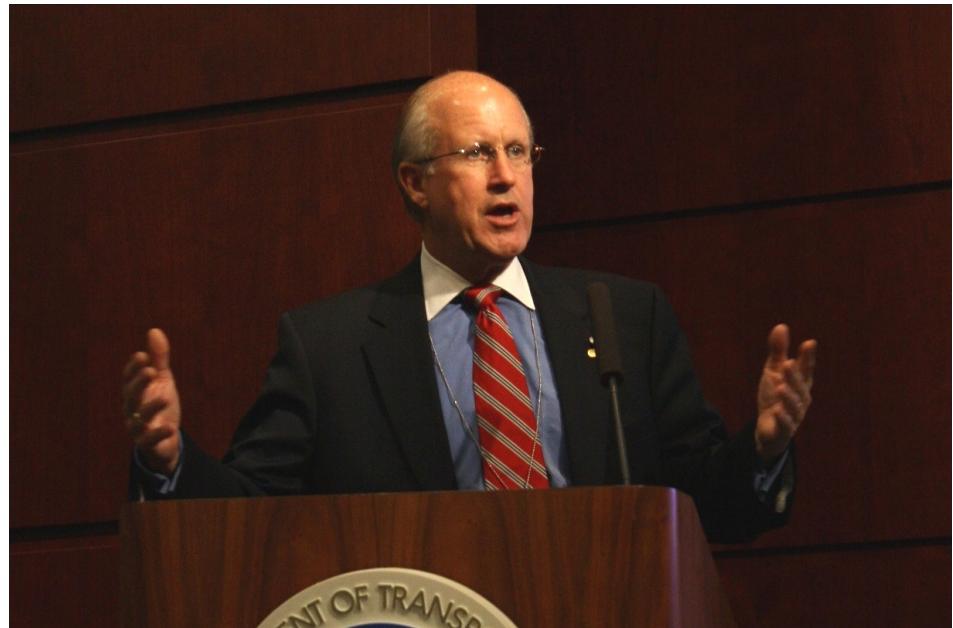
from (b)(6) outstanding investigative work will have a significant impact on the construction industry in the New York area preserving the integrity of future DOT-funded projects and the Department's DBE program.

The Information Security Audit Team JA-20's Michael Marshlick, Martha Morrobel, Louis King, Lissette Mercado, James Mullen, Tim Roberts, and Tracy Colligan; JA-2's Petra Swarzlander; and J-2's Susan Neill will receive the **Secretarial Team Award**. This award recognizes teams' meritorious contributions of high value to DOT in meeting one or more of the Department's strategic goals as well as exceptional performance that results in the improvement, reinvention, or reengineering of practices, operations, and customer services. The matrixed team of auditors, IT specialists, computer scientists, statistician, and writer-editor was recognized for excellence in indentifying security weaknesses throughout the Department and its Operating Administrations and for recommending expert solutions.

FORMER U.S. COMPTROLLER GENERAL DAVID M. WALKER TALKS TO OIG

Armed with statistics, thoughtful analysis, and candor, former Comptroller General of the United States David M. Walker discussed the Nation's financial challenges, his recent transportation-related work, and the potential future role of the accountability community at a special OIG event on October 6, 2011.

Mr. Walker, who recently founded the "Comeback America Initiative" to promote national fiscal responsibility and sustainability, presented a sober review of Federal spending and obligations. To underscore the seriousness of his assessment, Mr. Walker provided detailed charts and graphs showing the nearly threefold increase in Federal



spending since 1970, the growing U.S. reliance on foreign lenders, and the projected Social Security cash flow.

Mr. Walker also discussed his recent transportation report for the Carnegie Endowment for Interna-

tional Peace and the report's recommendations. Working with former Senator Bill Bradley and former Governor Tom Ridge, Mr. Walker developed a "Road to Recovery," which calls for significant changes to current surface transportation policy, including

(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 3)

restructuring transportation programs and establishing stronger transportation funding.

In closing, Mr. Walker emphasized that the empirical data gathered by the accountability community can help Government

leadership make informed decisions when faced with difficult choices.

Following the presentation, OIG staff in attendance and in the field asked Mr. Walker a variety of questions on topics ranging from

transportation public-private partnerships to the foreign policy impact of defense budget reductions.

To view the charts and graphs used in Mr. Walker's presentation, click [here](#).

—Luke Brennan, Analyst, JA-40

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CAL INTERVIEWED ON FEDERAL NEWS RADIO

On Thursday, October 13, 2011, Cal was interviewed live on Washington's Federal News Radio 1500AM. During the interview, which lasted approximately 6 minutes, Cal discussed some of the challenges that FAA continues to face in implementing and executing the NextGen program. Similar to his testimony at the October 5 House Subcommittee on Aviation's hearing on NextGen, he stressed that such a significant and costly undertaking by FAA would require careful and diligent oversight. He spoke about the current problems and cost overruns of the En Route Automation Modernization, which he referred to as the "key log" in the NextGen "log jam," but also stated that OIG should do its part to verify that FAA will "get NextGen right."

Click [here](#), then click on the forward arrow in the  Listen box to listen to Cal's interview.



Eric Weems, Legal Assistant, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

CAL TESTIFIES ON FAA'S NEXTGEN CHALLENGES

On Wednesday October 5, 2011, Cal joined Government and private industry representatives to testify before the House Subcommittee on Aviation on the current status, potential benefits, and implementation problems of FAA's NextGen program.

The hearing was split into two panels, the first featuring FAA Deputy Administrator Michael Huerta and industry representatives to explain the benefits of NextGen. While Mr. Huerta's fellow panelists agreed that NextGen held great potential, Mr. Tom Captain from Deloitte

captured the feelings of the industry representatives stating, "The business case appears to be an open and shut case. The real challenge is in its execution."

Cal was on the second panel, alongside GAO's Dr. Dillingham and Air Transport Association's Mr. Hendricks. Cal tempered the criticism directed at FAA in his first response by assuring the subcommittee that OIG supports NextGen, but was concerned about its execution. In particular, Cal cited contract issues with the En Route Automation Modernization, a large NextGen air traffic control program, that set the

program up for failure from the start.

Cal also cited FAA's challenges with implementing key recommendations from RTCA, which proposed "to clarify timelines for improvements at key sites or integrate recommendations from other key areas that are critical to this initiative." Dr. Dillingham of GAO concurred with our findings on issues delaying NextGen.

Numerous staff from JA-10 and JA-60 worked on the testimony and had less than 2 weeks to pull together the full and short statements and prep Cal for the hearing. As always, Cal was poised, professional, and fair. It was clear subcommittee members had read our written statement carefully and used it to formulate their statements and many of their questions. Near the end of the hearing, Freshman Republican Representative Chip Cravaack thanked Cal and the entire audit team for our audit work.

To read the full statement, please click [here](#). To view the webcast, please click [here](#).

—James H. Ovelmen,
Analyst, JA-10

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COMPUTER CRIMES UNIT LAB EXPERIENCES A BUFFER OVERFLOW

The Office of Investigations' CCU, Washington, DC lab recently completed a badly needed expansion of their space to more comfortably accommodate the four agents and IT Specialists who are currently housed there. "As well as we all get along, it is really nice having the extra room to move about without bumping into each other. We really appreciate management's support in making this expansion happen," says Tobin Craig, the CCU's Laboratory Chief.

HR WORKGROUPS BEGIN REVISING OIG PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

(b)(6)

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) initiated two workgroups that have begun an extensive effort to revise the position descriptions and performance standards for OIG's front-line positions. This is a collaborative effort between OHR and both Investigations and Auditing and Evaluation. Connie Harshaw, Acting Director of OHR, kicked off the JA Position and Performance Workgroup on September 20, 2011. This workgroup will be focusing on auditor and analyst positions. Francine Benko, Human Resources Specialist, kicked off the JI Workgroup with a meeting at headquarters on September 27 and 28, 2011. This group will focus its efforts on investigator and criminal investigator positions. Both groups have moved full speed ahead and anticipate finalizing their new and improved products over the next few months, so stay tuned.

—Francine Benko,
HR Specialist, JM-20

NOTEWORTHY

AUDITING REPAIR STATIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE

Major U.S. airlines are increasingly relying on FAA-certificated repair stations to perform aircraft maintenance. Yet our audits and investigations over the past decade have identified numerous safety and oversight weaknesses at these aircraft repair stations, including falsified repairs and the sale of fraudulent parts. As part of a congressionally requested review to evaluate FAA's risk-based oversight of foreign and domestic repair stations, six members of JA-10's Atlanta office were sent to gather evidence at repair stations in Singapore, China, and New Zealand, which perform major airframe and engine overhauls for U.S. airlines. Tina Nysted, Program Director, Kevin George, Anne Longtin, Tanieisha Snell, Manny Ramos, and Nate Caldwell share some of their experiences on their 2-week trek.

Singapore

After 21 restless hours in coach, we arrived in Singapore early Sunday morning (what happened to Saturday?) to balmy tropical temperatures. We got a couple hours of shuteye, then ventured out to see some sights. We quickly learned how to use the city's rail system—traffic in Singapore is treacherous with cars zig-zagging and zagging from lane to lane. Our first stop: Marina Bay Sands hotel, which has breathtaking views from its skypark.

On Monday, it was time to get down to a grueling week of work. Kevin and Nate headed to FAA's Singapore field office to conduct interviews, while the rest of us broke out the red pencils at the GE Aviation Service Operation repair station, which repairs engine turbine blades used on Delta and American Airlines fleets. We also audited the ST Aerospace repair station, which repairs FedEx air-



Airbus 380 Changi Airport, Singapore

craft airframes, and Eagle Services, which overhauls engines for several U.S. carriers.

At the end of the week, we were back at Changi Airport and marveled at all the things to do while waiting for a flight—which we were too tired to notice when we arrived. In addition to amenities like beauty salons, game rooms, and free Internet services, the airport has butterfly, fern, and orchid gar-

dens. But as aviation geeks, the most exciting part of the airport was seeing the giant Airbus 380 aircraft for the first time.

Then it was time to split up again, as Team China (Kevin, Taniesha, and Nate) headed for Shanghai, and Team New Zealand (Tina, Anne, and Manny) took the overnight flight to Christchurch.

NOTEWORTHY

China

Our mission in China: Visit repair stations in Shanghai, Zhuhai, and Beijing and interview an FAA safety inspector at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

On the way to China, we learned that “coach” on U.S. carriers and “coach” on Singapore Airlines are defined quite differently. The Boeing 777 looked like something Donald Trump designed, with everything drenched in gold. And forget the pack of peanuts. We were treated to premium headphones, foot rests, traditional Chinese tea, and ice cream.

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Early Monday morning, we were back to work, conducting an audit at Boeing Shanghai Services—which according to its Web site is a joint venture among Boeing, the Shanghai Airport Authority, and China Eastern Airlines and performs a range of aircraft repairs, including line and heavy mainte-

nance. World Airways is among its clients.

After completing our audit at Boeing Shanghai, we headed to Zhuhai (JOO-hi)—sandwiched between Macau and Hong Kong—to visit our next repair station: MTU Maintenance Zhuhai—a German-Chinese repair station, which performs engine overhauls for a number of carriers, including JetBlue and US Airways. To get to Pudong Airport to catch a plane to Zhuhai, we took a high-speed maglev train. At a top speed of over 260 mph, we made the 20-mile trip in 8 minutes flat. Typical travel time by car in heavy traffic takes more than an hour. If only we had a maglev train in Atlanta.

After a busy day of auditing at MTU Zhuhai, Team China boarded yet another Chinese airline—Air China—and headed north to the capital city, Beijing.

By this time in the trip, the detailed work and malodorous luggage was starting to take its toll, but each team member was ready to dig deep to get through the final 2 days in Beijing.

We conducted an audit at Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering



View from the top—Shanghai, China

(Continued on page 9)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 8)

Corporation (Ameco Beijing), a joint venture between Air China Limited and Lufthansa located at Beijing Capital International Airport. Ameco Beijing is a sprawling repair station, which boasts over 5,000 employees, and according to its Web site holds 14 certificates issued by airworthiness authorities, including FAA. The company's Web site also states that Ameco services almost all modern Boeing and Airbus aircraft and provides repair and overhaul services for nearly 10,000 aircraft components, including landing gears, wheels & brakes, hydraulics, pneumatics, and avionics. The second day, we went to the U.S. Embassy to interview an FAA



safety inspector responsible for oversight at Ameco.

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New Zealand

Team New Zealand departed Singapore and headed "down under" aboard a Singapore Airlines 777 to the cooler climates of Christchurch and Auckland. Our mission in Christchurch was to audit two repair stations—Air New Zealand Engineering Services, which repairs auxiliary power units for U.S. air carriers, and Pratt & Whitney, which overhauls JT-8 and IAE V2500 engines.

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We finished our Oceania tour auditing another Air New Zealand facility in Auckland. The Air New Zealand repair station is a major overhaul

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facility for Hawaiian Airlines and we watched a Hawaiian 767 being overhauled in the hangar during our visit.

The start of the Rugby World Cup complicated our visit on our last day. The 8-week tournament features teams from around the world, with their crazed fans descending upon this relatively small country. For anyone who has never watched a rugby match, it is defi-

nitely a full contact sport—and they don't wear any pads, ouch!

We left the rugby-crazed city aboard Air New Zealand—as a United Airlines' code share—for the long trans-Pacific flight back to the States. The safety video featured New Zealand's rugby team demonstrating the use of seatbelts and oxygen masks. We arrived in Atlanta on the same day we departed New Zealand—making up

for our lost Saturday 2 weeks earlier.

The team now faces the daunting task of all of our work from this 2-week trip as well as audit documentation obtained from Peru, Brazil, and the States we visited during verification.

—Kevin George, Project Manager; Anne Longtin, Senior Analyst; and Nate Caldwell, Auditor, JA-10

OIG HOSTS FIRST CIGIE CIO WORKGROUP

Last Monday, OIG hosted the first CIGIE CIO Workgroup, which was formed to give CIOs at Federal Inspectors General a platform for discussing IT challenges unique to the IG community and best practices for addressing these challenges. The first meeting focused on setting up group logistics and identifying potential topics to work on, such as case management systems, enterprise applications, outsourcing, data centers, procurement, HSPD-12, and mobile devices. We also discussed how the group could work together on common services that could be shared. Everything from enterprise licenses for applications like TeamMate, and a common IG network and data center were brought up. Going forward, the group will be looking at how these services might be provided centrally to all IGs to improve performance as well as cut costs so the savings could be used for new services. The group will be tackling a variety of issues in the coming months.

—Jason Carroll, Chief Information Officer, JM-40

NOTEWORTHY

JA-10 STAFF ATTEND FIFTH ANNUAL PBN CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE



Claudia Estrada signs up

In the last week of September, Claudia Estrada (JA-10 HQ), Henning Thiel (JA-10 Seattle), and Wayne Van de Walker (JA-10 SF) attended the fifth annual Global Performance-based Navigation Summit in Seattle. The summit brings together airline operators,

air navigation service providers, aviation regulators, and other key aviation stakeholders from around the world to share their knowledge and experiences in implementing PBN.

This year's summit included presentations on global strategies for successful PBN deployment; air traffic controllers' perspective on airspace modernization efforts; and PBN programs in South America, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. In addition to various presentations from PBN experts and users, there were interactive displays at the summit, including a simulation of air traffic control based on PBN.

We gained a lot of insight into the varying perspectives on PBN—insight that can help in-

form our work on NextGen, which relies on the successful implementation of PBN.

The conference was a great opportunity to learn more about global PBN/RNP successes and challenges. There are clear, common themes that span across the various nations and influence the aviation industry around the globe.

The conference was also very timely, coinciding with Cal's October 5 testimony. Information gathered at the summit was funneled to the team that directly worked on Cal's testimony prep. It was a national OIG team effort!

—Henning Thiel, JA-10 Seattle



Wayne Van de Walker



Henning Thiel



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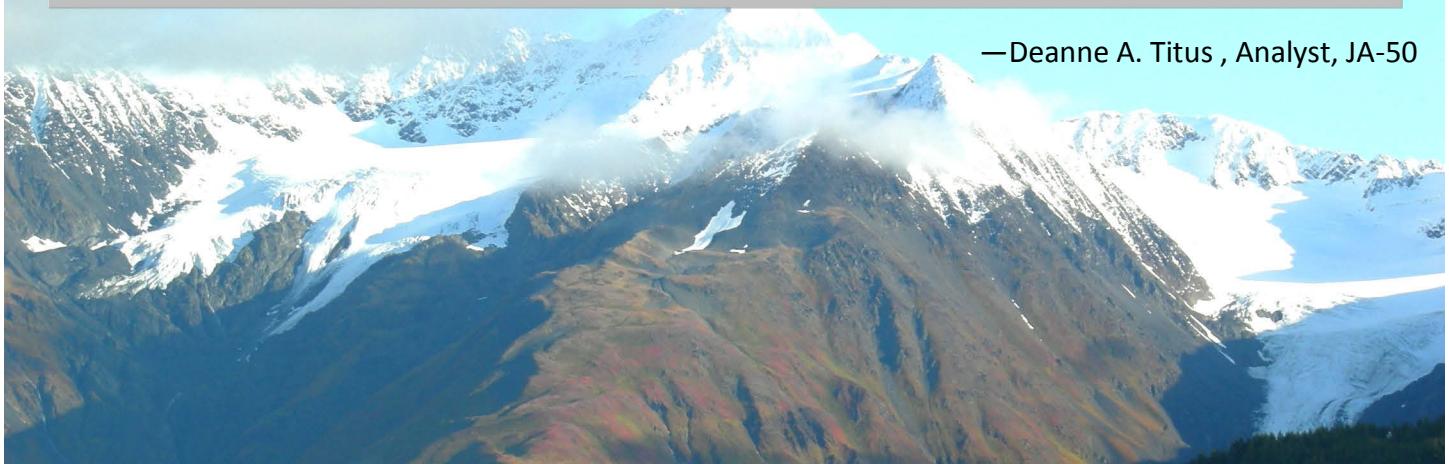
JA-50 GOES TO ALASKA (SANS CHUCK WARD)

Escaled Federal and State funds price for the Port of Anchorage expansion project = \$1 billion. Current preliminary cost estimate to finish Phase 1 construction = \$322 million. Four JA-50 auditors on the ground = Priceless!

During the week of September 19 to 23, members of the JA-50 Team descended upon the “last frontier” to begin field work for the Port of Anchorage Expansion Audit. After adjusting to the 4-hour time difference from the East Coast, the team conducted numerous interviews of State and local officials, met with various port and maritime administration staff, and went on a site visit conducted by the (b)(6)

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—Deanne A. Titus , Analyst, JA-50



NOTEWORTHY

CFC Giving Profile

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A NOTE FROM

OIG'S 2011 CFC VICE CHAIRMAN

As OIG's CFC Vice Chairman, I'd like to announce our CFC Kickoff Breakfast, this Wednesday, October 19, at 8:00 by the west elevators. It's the start of a busy CFC season, which will see many of our favorite activities from past years as well as some new ones.

One of our new activities has already been in place. You may have noticed a table with books and DVDs outside of the Atrium conference room, W76-102. This is CFC's Book and DVD Sale, with sales going to CFC. If you have unwanted books or DVDs that you would like to contribute, place them on that table. Books and DVDs can be purchased for \$3 each...simply put your total sale in the jar.

Penny Wars start today! Don't forget to drop your loose change and/or bills into the jars by the main elevator windows.

This is just one of the many new fundraising activities we have in store. Stay tuned for more!

CFC BOOK AND DVD SALE!

Donate your used books and DVDs to benefit CFC charities! Here's how it works:

- Leave your unwanted books and DVDs on the table outside W76-102 (Atrium conference room).
- Each book and DVD costs \$3, and all proceeds will go to CFC.
- If you see something you like, put \$3 in the jar and take it home with you!
- Please contact Dan Burd (JI-3, x6-6581).



NOTEWORTHY

FEDS FEED FAMILIES 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

DOT's goal for Feds Feed Families was 58,100 pounds. As a Department, we collected a grand total of 53,691 pounds, which translates to **39,731 meals** collected.

- OIG collected a total of 2,686 pounds of food—almost as much as a new Volkswagen Beetle weighs!
- DOT HQ (including FAA) collected 23,628 pounds.
- DOT field offices collected 30,063 pounds.
- FAA field offices had two Hall of Famers—individuals who donated more than 250 pounds of food.

POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED

OA	WEIGHT
FAA	4,507
PHMSA	1,359
RITA	280
FHWA	2,439
FTA	1,256
MARAD	556
FRA	5,369
SLSDC	59
NHTSA	825
OST	3,690
FMCSA	562
OIG	2,686
STB	40
TOTAL HQ	23,628
TOTAL FIELD	30,063

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OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA'S NEW AIR TRAFFIC SYSTEM HITS TURBULENCE

OCTOBER 5, 2011

(Omaha.com)

The government's program to modernize the nation's air traffic control system has run into serious problems that threaten to increase its cost and delay its completion, a government watchdog said. The Federal Aviation Administration's program to replace the current air traffic control system with a system based on satellite technology is being held back by software problems that have delayed full deployment of a critical flight tracking system, **Transportation Department inspector general Calvin Scovel** said in prepared testimony to be delivered at a House hearing Wednesday.

The agency also hasn't set deadlines for when key aspects of the new air traffic control system will be in place, **Scovel** said. Nor has FAA made clear to airlines and other air traffic system users exactly what benefits they can expect and when they'll be achieved, he said.

As a result, airlines and others are being discouraged from spending money on cockpit equipment necessary to take advantage of the new air traffic system, Scovel said. Many of the new system's benefits hinge on airlines equipping their planes with expensive new equipment to communicate with air traffic controllers and broadcast their location to other planes and controllers.

DOT INSPECTOR GENERAL LISTS SERIES OF NEXTGEN CHALLENGES BEFORE U.S. CONGRESS

OCTOBER 10, 2011

(Ainonline.com)

"Pressing challenges remain" in the FAA's progression to the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), says the **U.S. Department of Transportation inspector general**. In testimony October 5 before the House aviation subcommittee, **DOT IG Calvin L. Scovel III** cited the FAA's Metroplex initiative, en route automation modernization (Eram) program and cost and scheduling uncertainties with other programs as potential stumbling blocks. Gerald Dillingham, representing the Government Accountability Office, said the FAA's most important challenge is to "establish and maintain credibility with NextGen stakeholders," adding that "this is especially true for airlines."

The FAA's optimization of airspace and procedures in the Metroplex initiative embodies a seven-year effort to improve air traffic flows and reduce delays at airports in 21 major metropolitan areas. Scovel said the agency has completed studies at five of the 21 Metroplex locations and started work at two more sites. But the agency has not established "definitive start dates or detailed milestones," causing concern among airspace users.

The FAA plans to complete Eram four years late, in 2014, at an additional cost of \$330 million. However, a Mitre study and DOT analysis project as much as a six-year delay and a \$500 million cost overrun, **Scovel** said. He warned that ongoing problems with Eram could affect NextGen programs, including automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B), data communications (DataComm) and system wide information management (Swim), as well as complicating the transition.

NEW AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AT RISK OF COSTLY DELAY, FEDS SAY

OCTOBER 6, 2011

(WashingtonPost.com)

Two key government watchdogs warned Wednesday that a \$40 billion project to revolutionize air travel still is at risk of costly delays, even as its congressional champions worried that funding cuts might set it back further.

Sitting side by side at a House subcommittee hearing, the **inspector general for the Transportation Department** and a director at the Government Accountability Office said that initial management mistakes could haunt the program even as the Federal Aviation Administration mounts an aggressive effort to accelerate implementation.

With a special committee tasked with finding \$1.5 trillion meeting behind close doors this week, members of the House aviation committee said they fear the big price tag on the Next Generation Air Transportation System is bound to attract attention.

"My concern is, what happens when we add severe budget constraints on top of logistical program delays?" said Rep. Jerry F. Costello (D-Ill.), the committee's ranking Democrat.

About \$2.8 billion already has been appropriated for the program, commonly known as NextGen, and the FAA estimates that between \$20 billion and \$27 billion from federal revenue will be needed by 2025 to get the system running. The balance of the estimated \$40 billion would come from airlines, which would equip their fleets with the necessary new technology.

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

REFRESHING OUR CORE CURRICULUM



As Cal mentioned in the September 19 issue of *The Inspector*, he is committed to providing all OIG staff with the tools, training, and time needed to perform at the highest levels. I am happy to report that our efforts to ensure OIG has a robust training curriculum are well under way.

SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS

TO DATE You may recall in Cal's end of fiscal year 2010 email, he spoke of our annual requirement and his interest in conducting an OIG training needs assessment—which we did with the help of a contractor. He also approved the hiring of a Training Director (our

own Angie Thorpe) and alignment of key staff into a newly formed Human Resources Development Center (HRDC). Since then, we have further upped our game through improvements based on survey and focus group feedback that include several new classes—Sup I & II, So You Want to Be a Supervisor, writing courses and workshops, Difficult

although many of you would not consider this an improvement! But I promise that we are working on fixing all that is within our control and responsive to the challenges you've identified. Finally, we established training hubs in Atlanta and San Francisco, which has produced benefits beyond those that come with new training and learning!

**As we move
through our
strategy, we will
continue to need
your views.**

Conversations, Generational Differences, and MBTI for Teams. Similar needs-based classes are in development and include Sup III and Project Management. The 360 Leadership Assessment Program is also under way and we transferred to DOT's Training Management System TMS—

VISION GOING FORWARD

At our recent SES offsite, we spoke of the criticality of developing a comprehensive plan to rebase and refresh our training curriculum, and Cal asked that I help ensure this happens. We have a design for that charge—which has been derived from and vetted with OIG's senior leaders—and I am excited to share it with you.

The goal is straight-forward: Develop a robust training curriculum that further advances a well-trained and skilled workforce.

Our strategy is multifaceted:

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 10/3	TUESDAY 10/4	WEDNESDAY 10/5	THURSDAY 10/6	FRIDAY 10/7
	CAL —Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB) meeting (9:00 a.m.)	CAL —NextGen Hearing (10:00 a.m.)	The Honorable David M. Walker, Former U.S. Comptroller General (3:00 p.m., DOT Media Center, HQ)	

NOTEWORTHY

THIS THURSDAY: DAVID M. WALKER SPEAKS ON BUDGET AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES



PHOTO: JOE PUGLIESE

Please join Cal on October 6 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the DOT Media Center to welcome the Honorable David M. Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General and CEO, Comeback America Initiative. Mr. Walker will speak on the state of the budget and the impact of current proposals, including his thoughts on those that would transform America's transporta-

tion and infrastructure systems. Mr. Walker will also discuss the role of key players, including the accountability community, in addressing our Nation's challenges. Prior to this October 6 event, you may want to read the report, *Road to Recovery: Transforming America's Transportation*, which Mr. Walker wrote along with former Senator Bill Bradley and Former Pennsylvania Governor and DHS Secretary Tom Ridge. Click [here](#) for this report and related documents.

OCTOBER 27 COP— **WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: A DIALOGUE WITH DISTINGUISHED WOMEN**

This month, please join the Communities of Practice team in welcoming several dynamic leaders for our first presentation of FY 2012: "Women in Leadership." Deputy Inspector General Ann Calvaresi-Barr and Meredith Howell, Analyst (JA-60 HQ), will be moderating the discussion as the speakers share their unique career experiences and paths to the leadership positions they hold today.

Participants include the Honorable Deborah Hersman, Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board;

Jacquelyn Williams-Bridgers, Managing Director, International Affairs and Trade at GAO, and former Inspector General, U.S. Department of State;

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We anticipate a full house and great audience participation! Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 27, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Stay tuned for updates on this presentation.

—Meredith Howell, Analyst, JA-60

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

- Establish a committee consisting of designated representatives (chosen by Lou, Tim, Brian Dettelbach, and Susan Dailey) who will work with the committee principals: Susan, Angie Thorpe, Madeline Chulomovich, and myself.
- Assess our current core curriculum for each job series in OIG and to the extent possible; identify basis/justification for current content.
- Establish a refined framework and proposal for new course content and core competency requirements by (1) surveying best approaches from other OIGs, CIGIE's Training Institute, GAO, and comparable private sector entities; (2) revisiting results from the October 2010 needs assessment along with gaining new staff input based on a soon-to-be released survey of current training needs; and (3) identifying needs based on QAR results and observations from audit, investigations, JM, and J3 senior leaders and senior staff. The approach to identifying course content will expand beyond technical skills to include the softer skills of leadership and team building.

- Fully vet proposed core curriculum to ensure we separate needs from wants and arrive at courses and related training supports that will grow and tailor the talent and skill needed by us all.
- Assess our budget and operational capacity to support the agreed upon needs-based curriculum. We will explore use of experts, our own in-house capacity to build an adjunct faculty and interagency training opportunities, such as those the CIGIE Training Institute is negotiating.

We are aiming for a late Summer 2012 deliverable and ask that you all continue to work with our current TMS line-up for purposes of your ILP and IDP plans.

We will continue to rely on key input from our Senior Leaders and all of you. As we move through our strategy, we will continue to need your views. Your thoughts, comments, and ideas can be shared with your senior leaders or directly with Susan, Angie, Madeline, or me.

I am excited about the prospects of our continued training development for all of us!

—Ann

NEW LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR GS13s AND BELOW

You asked for it, and Cal has answered. On October 19, Cal will introduce Ann's *Leadership Development Exchange*—a new program for GS13s and below. The program is an offshoot of the Leadership Brown Bag discussions that Ann has been holding over the past 10 months with GS14s and above.

Ann will lead staff in an exchange of ideas, feedback, and experiences on topics that you identify as important to your role, development, and career overall. The goal of the exchanges is to assist staff with developing leadership abilities that are critical at every grade level and in every discipline.

So, whether you are with JA, JI, JM, J1, J2, or J3, come join Ann, with opening remarks from Cal, during the first session on Wednesday, October 19, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EDT in the IG conference room with video and teleconferencing for field staff.

NOTEWORTHY

OIG 2011 EMPLOYEE VIEWPOINT SURVEY RESULTS

We received the results of this year's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. OIG's response rate was almost 60 percent, and the results are encouraging. We continue to fare better than governmentwide results across the majority of questions and "always better" than the Department in the five main areas deemed critical to human capital and organizational accountability success.

Our results continue to head in the right direction, especially in the areas of personal accountability, pride in our work, com-

munication from management, and job teaming and sharing, but we have more work to do on performance management. The survey results indicate that employees are less than satisfied with knowledge about what is expected, assessments of their performance and corresponding opportunities, and recognition and awards. As you know, we have several initiatives already under way to address those concerns, which include workgroups focused on writing new standards and job behaviors, changes to the actual performance-rating process, more comprehensive OIG

position descriptions, and a revised awards process and ceremony.

Please know that this feedback is important and we will continue to incorporate it as we plan for the future and make organizational and operational decisions.

-Cal

1. [OIG 2011 Employee Viewpoint Survey - Feedback](#)
2. [OIG 2011 Employee Viewpoint Survey - Results](#)
3. [OIG 2011 Employee Viewpoint Survey - Trend Report 2006-2011](#)

DOT NEW ATTORNEY TRAINING

On September 20 and 21, Chief Counsel Omer Poirier discussed OIG's role within DOT at a training session for new DOT attorneys held at headquarters. The training session was designed to introduce new attorneys to DOT's goals and missions, provide general instruction in various practice areas, and promote collaboration among DOT attorneys. Topics covered on the first day included challenges for Government attorneys, handling generational differences in the workplace, and introductions to each operating administration, the Office of the Secretary, and OIG.



New attorneys also enjoyed lunch with senior DOT lawyers where they were able to learn more about practicing law within and outside DOT. Day two of the training consisted of breakout groups focused on specific practice areas including procurement, environmental law, grants and loans, and employment law. Associate Counsel Barbara Hines and J-3's current Honors Attorney, Analiese Marchesseault, attended the training session.

—Analiese Marchesseault, Honors Attorney, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

JA-40 TEAM HITS MICHIGAN ON ARRA AUDIT

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Peter Babachicos, overseeing undercutting work at the Lansing project

Cambridge's JA-40 "ARRA Full Oversight" audit team—Peter Babachicos, Bill Lovett, John Hennen, and Kristi-Jo Preston—just completed an action packed, 10-day site visit in Michigan.

No good audit is complete without solid background research. In addition to reading *Michigan's Standard Specifications for Construction* (2003 edition), we

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(b)(6) With this knowledge in hand, we knew we were prepared to tackle the challenges ahead.

Upon arrival, the team split into two groups—one headed to Kala-

mazoo while the other ventured to the State's capital, Lansing. We reconvened in Port Huron, just a short bridge trip from Canada. In

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addition to in-depth reviews of certified payrolls, DBEs, change orders, claims, project closeout, utilities, railroads, and progress

payments, the team inspected construction works in progress.

Over the 10 days, we conducted numerous interviews, accumulated about 40 pounds of paper, and oversaw construction inspections—enough testimonial, documentary, and physical evidence to develop our findings.

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—Kristi-Jo Preston, Analyst, JA-40

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

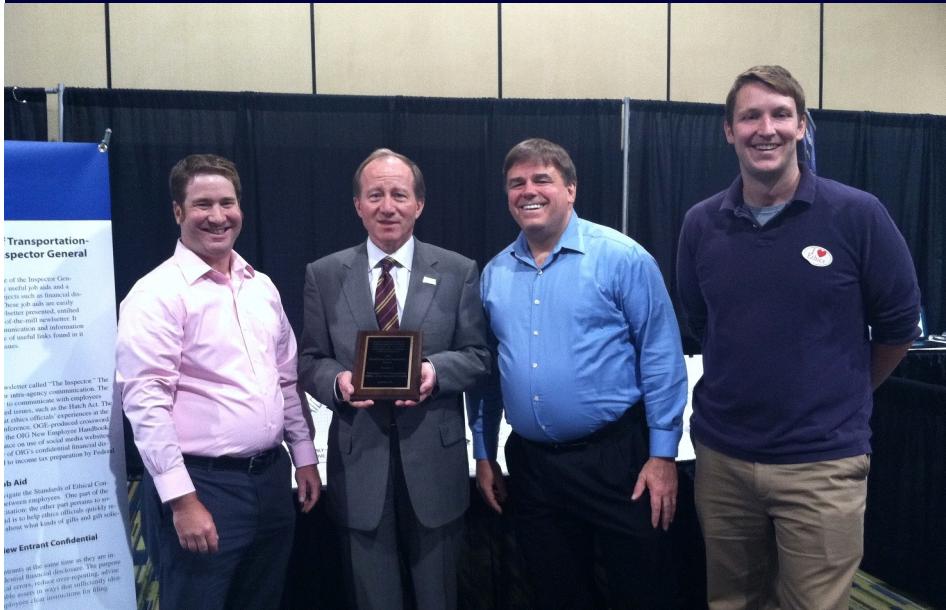
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Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Transportation-
Inspector General

The Inspector Gen-
eral's job is to detect and
discourage wrongdoing.
These job ads are easily
accessible online through
the Office of the Inspector General's
new newsletter. It
includes news and information
of interest taken from its
newsletters.

Job Aid
The Standards of Ethical Con-
duct for Federal Employees. One part of
the standards that pertains to gifts and gift
receipts is designed to help others understand what
is allowed and what is prohibited.

New Entrant Confidential

Agencies at the same time as they are in
position. This document is for personal
use only. It is not intended for public
release or distribution outside of the agency.

Don Fox, Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Governmental Ethics (*second from left*), presents Seth Kaufman (*far left*), Omer Poirier (*second from right*), and Fritz Sportsbow (*far right*) with a "2011 Excel-
lence and Innovation Award"



Seth Kaufman showcases several ethics program products at the conference exhibit hall

OIG'S ETHICS PROGRAM WINS AN OGE 2011 EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION AWARD

From September 13 to 15, Omer Poirier, Seth Kaufman, Priss Swartzbaugh, and Nicole Angarella from J-3 and Brian Uryga of JI-3 were in Orlando, Florida, attending the 18th National Government Ethics Conference, sponsored by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE). The theme this year was "Organizational Integrity: A Shared Responsibility." Hundreds of ethics officials from across the Federal Government attended,

including over 15 DOT employees.

The conference, which is held approximately every 18 months, is an opportunity to share best practices for ethics program management; develop skills to improve ethics program; gain substantive knowledge about ethics and related laws, such as Government travel and political activity by Federal employees; and to interact with ethics offi-

cials from other agencies and OGE staff. Attendees were given the opportunity to share thoughts with colleagues during and after breakout sessions.

This year, OIG won OGE's 2011 Excellence and Innovation Award! The award, presented by Acting Director of the Office of Governmental Ethics, Don Fox, recognizes executive branch agencies that demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence

(Continued on page 3)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 9/26	TUESDAY 9/27	WEDNESDAY 9/28	THURSDAY 9/29	FRIDAY 9/30
		<p>Leadership Brown Bag: “Communicating and Reaching Out to Staff” (1:30 p.m.)</p> 		

NOTEWORTHY

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 THE HONORABLE DAVID M. WALKER, FORMER U.S. COMPTROLLER GENERAL, WILL SPEAK ON BUDGET AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES



PHOTO: JOE PUGLIESE

Please join Cal on October 6 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the DOT Media Center, to welcome the Honorable David M. Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General and CEO, Comeback America Initiative. Mr. Walker will speak on the state of the current budget environment and the impact of current proposals, including his thoughts on those that would transform America's transportation and infrastructure systems. Mr. Walker will also discuss the role of key players, including the accountability community, in addressing our Nation's challenges. Prior to this October 6 event, you may want to read the report, *Road to Recovery: Transforming America's Transportation*, which Mr. Walker wrote along with former Senator Bill Bradley and Former Pennsylvania Governor and DHS Secretary Tom Ridge. Click [here](#) for this report and related documents.

REMINDER: LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG THIS WEDNESDAY

Ann's next Leadership Brown Bag for GS-14/15s, "Communicating and Reaching Out to Staff," will be held on September 28 from noon to 1:30 p.m. EDT in the IG Conference Room. Field staff will be connected via videoconference and teleconference.



NOTEWORTHY



Omer Poirier, with Judy Kaleta, participated in a panel on OGE program reviews

in ethics program management, employ innovative approaches to teach employees about ethics, use model practices to encourage understanding and awareness of ethical behaviors, and create a stronger ethical culture as a result of these efforts. OIG was honored for its submission to the conference exhibit hall, including the ethics program's contributions to *The Inspector*; our new tips for new filers of confidential financial disclosures; a job aid for interpreting the Standards of Ethical Conduct regulations regarding gifts between Federal employees; and a graphic illustrating the roles and responsibilities of employees, supervisors, and ethics officials in resolving potential conflicts of interest.

While OIG ethics officials accepted the 2011 Excellence and Innovation Award, the award is truly an organizational award.

Omer Poirier, OIG Chief Counsel, participated in a panel on the topic of "Reflections on OGE Program Reviews: What You Need to Know." As you may recall from the [August 26, 2010 issue of The Inspector](#), OGE conducted a "program review" of DOT's confidential financial disclosure system. The program review is a key mechanism for assessing the abil-

ity of an ethics program to engender faith and confidence in the work of an agency. Other speakers in the panel included DOT Assistant General Counsel for General Law, Judy Kaleta, and David Meyers, who led the OGE review team.

While OIG's ethics officials were presented the award from OGE, the award is truly an organizational award. The ethics program is indebted to *The Inspector*—and to OIG senior management for supporting the newsletter—which has been a great medium to provide OIG staff with ethics easy-to-read information on ethics. The conflict of interest graphic illustration was inspired by and developed for the ethics program's portion of the "Sup II" management training course, which has been a major OIG initiative. If thanks are to be given, the critical analytical, writing, and artistic contributions of past J-3 undergraduate interns—including Brian Guayante, Erik Kelly, and Emily Sairafian—cannot be overlooked.

— Seth Kaufman, Senior Counsel, and Amrit Dhaliwal, J-3's new undergraduate intern from University of California, Irvine, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

CORROSION EXPERTS FROM THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BRIEF OIG EXECUTIVES ON THE DULLES CORRIDOR PROJECT

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On September 13, experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Illinois, Vincent F. Hock and James B. Bushman, briefed Lou and senior JA-40 executives on their evaluation of the potential for corrosion in the 30-year old steel piles used in the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

The experts recently assisted OIG engineers in independently examining how the project builders tested corrosion that may have occurred in the piles after decades of exposure to electrical current from the Metro Orange

Line tracks. This phenomenon—"stray current corrosion"—can occur when the direct current used in electrified railways strays from its intended path and follows a buried structure like a pipeline or steel pilings. The stray current will flow back to its intended path but corrosion occurs at the point where it leaves the buried pile. Estimating the steel lost over time due to corrosion becomes important in projecting how many years of service may be expected from the piles in question.

Since 1998, the Corps has been a valuable resource to supplement

the services the OIG engineering group provides to audits and investigations. Under an interagency support agreement established with the Corps, OIG can tap the expertise of engineers and scientists in many specialties that work at the Corps' laboratories and operational divisions throughout the United States.

The Corps has assisted OIG in tackling a suite of complex engineering issues that emerged during the audits of controversial transportation projects and programs, such as the Safety Review of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project in Boston (known as the Big Dig), and the Oversight of Load Ratings and Postings of Structurally Deficient Bridges on the National Highway System. For example, just within weeks after the tragic ceiling collapse in one

(Continued on page 5)

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PHILADELPHIA WOMAN CONVICTED FOR ROLE IN FRAUDULENT COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES SCHEMES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

(Department of Justice.gov on JI, Region 2 work)

A Philadelphia woman was convicted yesterday for her participation in a fraud scheme to provide out-of-state residents with Pennsylvania driver's licenses and Pennsylvania commercial driver's licenses (CDL), announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney Zane David Memeger of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Special Agent in Charge George Venizelos of the FBI and Special Agent in Charge Douglas Shoemaker of the **U.S. Department of Transportation-Office of the Inspector General (DOT-OIG)**.

According to evidence presented at trial, Rakhman and her co-defendants used a company owned by the Kroshnevs, International Training Academy (ITA), to arrange for hundreds of non-residents of Pennsylvania to fraudulently obtain Pennsylvania driver's licenses and CDLs from 2006 to 2010. The defendants provided applicants with false Pennsylvania residency documents, as well as foreign language interpreters who, under the guise of providing translations, gave CDL applicants the answers to the written CDL permit test. The evidence at trial also established that the Kroshnevs paid members of the conspiracy, including Rakhman, for allowing their home addresses to be used by ITA clients who resided out-of-state to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as false proof of Pennsylvania residency.

of the Big Dig tunnels, the Corps assembled for OIG a team of experts, including structural, civil, construction and fire protection engineers, and a physicist from the National Institute of Standards and Technology who is an expert in tunnel fires.

I invite auditors and investigators to consult with OIG engineers for their technical support needs and remind them that the Corps is a proven resource that we have to tackle the engineering challenges ahead.

— Rodolfo Pérez, P.E.,
Engineer Advisor, JA-40

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

JRI-3 LEARNS JUDGMENTAL SHOOTING IN CHELTENHAM, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

A NOTE FROM THE IG



Twice a year, OIG senior leaders take a day to assess progress and priorities, discuss challenges and expectations, share best practices, and enhance individual and collective leadership skills. At the August 16 offsite, we focused on several challenges identified in the SUP II classes. As part of that learning process, class participants developed recommendations in response to a challenge presented by an SES sponsor. The ideas and suggestions were so compelling, we wanted to make this a key part of our offsite agenda.

We focused on one challenge that was deemed most timely and pressing: *How can we create a culture of open, honest,*

meaningful, and ongoing discussion, dialogue, and feedback on performance? At the offsite, Chuck Ward, Joe Hance, (b)(6)

represented their teams and briefed us on their recommendations for creating such a culture. First, they recommended that we continue several initiatives that have improved communication and employee morale:

- All Hands meetings with Cal and senior leaders
- Monthly leadership brown bags with Ann
- *The Inspector* newsletter and *Impact* magazine
- The Special Agent Field Training Program
- The mentoring program
- SES field visits
- Entry-level audit training

The teams recommended several new actions, and we have already started implementing them. Many of these relate to performance management:

- We established HR work groups to better define performance standards and related behaviors with the goal of producing a more objective, transparent, and clear rating system. We will revise expectations to be in line with the new standards and descriptions of performance behaviors.
- We are also assessing the need for additional guidance to assist staff in setting and communicating expectations during each stage of the performance cycle. Ann will continue to cover this topic as part of the monthly leadership brown bags.
- We will re-emphasize the importance of input and feedback to second-level supervisors when positive or negative information regarding a staff member is observed or received.
- We will work to ensure the existing policy on promotions is consistently applied.
- HRDC will improve entry-level audit, new agent, and new em-

(Continued on page 3)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 9/19	TUESDAY 9/20	WEDNESDAY 9/21	THURSDAY 9/22	FRIDAY 9/23
SES Leadership Training (12:30 p.m.)	BRIAN—CIGIE Meeting (9:30 a.m.)			

NOTEWORTHY

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 6

THE HONORABLE DAVID M. WALKER, FORMER U.S. COMPTROLLER GENERAL, WILL SPEAK ON BUDGET AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES



PHOTO: JOE PUGLIESE

Please join Cal on October 6 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the DOT Media Center, to welcome the Honorable David M. Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General and CEO, Comeback America Initiative. Mr. Walker will speak on the state of the current budget environment and the impact of current proposals, including his thoughts on those that would transform America's transportation and infrastructure systems. Mr. Walker will also discuss the role of key players, including the accountability community, in addressing our Nation's challenges. Prior to this October 6 event, you may want to read the report, *Road to Recovery: Transforming America's Transportation*, which Mr. Walker wrote along with former Senator Bill Bradley and Former Pennsylvania Governor and DHS Secretary Tom Ridge. Click [here](#) for this report and related documents.

REMINDER: ANN HOLDING LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG

Ann's next Leadership Brown Bag for GS-14/15s, "Communicating and Reaching Out To Staff," will be held on September 28 from noon to 1:30 p.m. EDT in the IG Conference Room. Field staff will be connected via videoconference and teleconference.

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

ployee orientation training by including a performance management module.

While we agreed with the spirit of two recommendations—to document discussions at all phases of the performance cycle and delegate final rating authority to 14s and 15s—we do not plan to implement them per se. However, we encourage managers to document all significant discussions and continue to hold the chain of command accountable to ensure that meaningful performance discussions occur. We also will continue to hold SES accountable for reviewing final assessments and asking process questions to ensure consistency in rating determinations.

The teams made three HR-related recommendations that we decided against implementing due to certain limitations. Specifically, we decided that scoring and providing feedback on every performance sub-element would complicate the process. We also decided that expanding 360 reviews to all staff is not feasible due to budgetary constraints. However, we will continue to emphasize to supervisors the staff's right and

responsibility to seek feedback on an ongoing basis. We also determined that adding a module in ALERTS to allow real-time performance feedback is untenable due to potential legal concerns with ongoing investigations.

Finally, the team asked senior management—where practicable—to be more cognizant of the importance of consulting managers and supervisors before making major decisions that impact the workforce. Senior leaders agreed.

While the majority of our time was spent on the performance management challenge, we also discussed other challenges identified in the SUP II classes: creating a higher performing JM, attracting and retaining staff, maximizing staff involvement and development, encouraging a greater sense of commitment and loyalty to OIG, and communicating effectively to staff. We have also started to make progress in some of these areas:

- JM's strategic plan provides an operational framework for our budget, administration and procurement, and IT offices. In these tight budget times, JM will need continued support from all staff.

- JI has created developmental assignments for investigators, and JA is rolling out a pilot staff rotation program for auditors.
- JA and JI continue to enhance inter-team collaboration and matrixing through additional dialogue and joint projects.
- We are exploring opportunities to incentivize and motivate staff, especially since we face salary freezes and bonus and award limits.
- We have identified new and creative ways to communicate our successes with staff, such as using SharePoint's many capabilities to publicize policies and guidance.

We also participated in a leadership training session, "Influencing and Exceeding with Others," which focused on identifying and understanding communication styles and their impact on others. We will learn how our behaviors boost or weaken performance and will be given individualized strategies to create more productive interaction—or as the instructor stated, "make smart people people-smart."

I wrapped up the day by identifying our priorities going forward. The pilot mentoring program re-

(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 3)

mains a priority, and we look forward to examining what worked well and what can be improved for calendar year 2012. Similarly, I am pleased with the new OIG Honor Awards process and will look for ways to improve it for next year based on feedback we receive. I also recognize that in these tight budget times, we need to find ways other than monetary to motivate and reward staff, so we will further review flexible schedules and telecommuting. Stay tuned.

We will continue to provide all OIG staff the necessary tools, training, and time needed to perform at the highest levels. We are in the process of revising the performance appraisal process and have come a long way with many of our new courses aimed at improving communication across OIG. I've asked Ann to ensure OIG has a robust training curriculum. Finally, the senior leaders showed their dedication to human capital core values by signing *Our Commitment to Human Capital Values in the Office*

of Inspector General, displayed in common areas throughout OIG.

All in all, it was a productive day and we appreciated the good suggestions we received on how to make OIG the best place to work. We'll always have bumps along the way, but to improve, we need to learn from our mistakes and use that hard-earned experience to set new goals. Employee input is key to achieving these goals and at the core of "Mission First, People Always."

— Cal

MITCH BEHM TESTIFIES ON FRA'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mitch Behm, AIG JA50, testified on September 14 in the small but elegant hearing room at the Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security's session, "Moving Intercity Passenger Rail into the Future." At the table with Mitch were Joe Szabo, FRA Administrator; Joe Boardman, Amtrak President and CEO; and Ted Alves, Amtrak IG. Mitch testified on FRA's progress in implementation its responsibilities under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act. Mitch emphasized that while FRA appears to be taking its responsibilities head on, it cannot assess the net benefits of high-speed rail investments until it promulgates effective grant-related rules and finalizes a viable National Rail plan.



A paucity of Subcommittee members were in attendance (only three), but during Q and A, it became obvious that the members present were staunch supporters of high-speed rail development in the United States. Boardman and Chairman Frank Lautenberg entertained the audience with friendly, humorous repartee. By the way, Mitch rocked.

—Susan E. Neill, Writer, JA-20/JA-50

NOTEWORTHY

BOARDWALK EMPIRE WELCOMES JA-10 AT NEXTGEN CONFERENCE

(b)(6)

The "Boardwalk Empire" of Atlantic City welcomed Kevin Dorsey of JA-10 this past week during the inaugural "Avionics for NextGen" Conference sponsored by *Avionics Magazine*. Kevin was invited to kick off a panel discussion regarding the challenges FAA faces in implementing FAA's System Wide Information Management (SWIM) program, a key NextGen integrated technology system. The panel also featured Patricia Craighill, Assistant Director of the Joint Planning and Development Office (J PDO), and other heavyweights from Boeing, MITRE, and Accenture.

SWIM was recently reviewed by Kevin and his team of JA-10 acquisition auditors, Arnett Sanders, Sean Woods, Constance Hardy, Katrina Knight, Keisha Henson, and Art Shantz. The audit report—"FAA's Approach to SWIM Has Led to Cost and Schedule Uncertainty and No Clear Path for Achieving NextGen Goals" (<http://www.oig.dot.gov/library-item/5580>), issued on June 15, 2011—has garnered a lot of attention from industry, Congress, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Jeff Guzzetti, AIG JA-10, attended the conference and noted that

"It's not easy make sense out of a complex subject like SWIM, but Kevin made it look easy. His overview of the audit findings and recommendations were clear and concise, and he enhanced the reputation of OIG."

Kevin explained that FAA plans to spend about \$284 million through 2015 to implement the first of three stages of SWIM. As envisioned, SWIM will form the basis for a secure network that manages and shares information more efficiently among all air traffic systems that will comprise NextGen. Key expected benefits are streamlined data communications and real-time information that will improve air traffic management, enhance airspace capacity, reduce flight delays, and decrease costs for FAA and aviation users.

Our audit found that although FAA is still in the early stages of developing SWIM, the costs for the first segment has increased more than \$100 million and delayed its completion by two years. A lack of clear lines of accountability for overseeing and managing the program make it likely that there will be further cost increases and delays.

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY

JA-60'S FAA ACQUISITION WORKFORCE REPORT— ONE OF GOVEXEC'S MOST READ ARTICLES

GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE.com

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- FISCAL 2010 BUDGET

FAA falls down on workforce planning
By Emily Long | elong@govexec.com | September 2, 2011

5 1

The [Federal Aviation Administration](#) does not have sufficient plans to hire, train and certify acquisition staff, according to agency auditors. A Transportation Department inspector general [report](#) published last week found FAA's acquisition workforce does not have the skills or expertise to manage the agency's multibillion-dollar contracting budget. FAA's workforce plan does not address gaps in hiring and developing staff, nor does the agency follow established targets for balancing acquisition employees across programs, according to the audit.

Click [here](#) to read the article. The report can be found on [OIG's website](#).

Boardwalk Empire

(Continued from page 5)

The audience consisted of well over a hundred high-powered professionals, representing avionics manufacturers, major airlines, aviation trade associations, the military, and large consulting firms.

Atlantic City is also the home of the FAA Technical Center, which is where NextGen programs are being developed and tested by FAA engineers and program managers. Kevin took advantage of

his time there and met up with his staff after the conference, who were visiting the Technical Center for OIG's ongoing audit of FAA's Air Traffic Terminal Modernization.

"We really appreciated Kevin's participation in helping to make our first conference a success" stated Emily Feliz, Editor-in-Chief of *Avionics Magazine*. "I look forward to reading more OIG audit reports on NextGen programs."

OIG IN THE NEWS

OIG HANDS FMCSA "HEFTY -TO-DO-LIST" ON CROSS-BOARDER TRUCKING PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

([Land Line.com](#) on JA-40 work)

The **Office of Inspector General for the Department of Transportation** released its most recent audit of the cross-border program earlier this week. In it are critical areas where the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has fallen short on complying with legal requirements.

"The most recent **Inspector General** audit clearly shows that FMCSA has a pretty hefty-to-do list before opening the boarder to long-haul from Mexico," said OOIDA Executive Vice President Todd Spencer.

The agency is required to conduct 50 percent of the pre-authority safety audits, or PASAs, and compliance reviews on-site with the motor carriers in Mexico.

"FMCSA has not finalized its plans for nor identified the specific process it will use to comply with five requirements to conduct 50 percent of PASAs and compliance reviews in Mexico, and its policy on conducting PASAs for the new pilot program does not address where the reviews will be conducted", the **OIG's** audit states.

The audit reports that up until June of this year, the FMCSA did not plan to conduct reviews in Mexico "due to safety concerns." However, in June agency officials informed the **Inspector General's Office** that they "intend to comply with the law" requiring the on-site compliance and safety reviews.

NOTEWORTHY

DAN BURD SWEATS IT OUT AT FLETC'S FRAUD INVESTIGATION TRAINING

I recently spent 2 weeks in Brunswick, Georgia, at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's (FLETC) procurement fraud investigation course. It was my first time at FLETC, and my colleagues in JI offered me many nuggets of wisdom before I left, most of all that I could expect it to be very hot. That, indeed, was the case—it was 100 degrees when I arrived.



Despite the heat, I learned a lot about how to conduct a procurement fraud investigation—knowledge that I'm sure to put to good use soon. The training discussed the Government procurement process, when alleged violations occur, and what schemes are used; the various investigative techniques for obtaining documentation to support allegations; steps in the investigative process to successfully document violations; the investigative team members and their duties and responsibilities; how to present investigations to prosecutors and administrative officials; and the tools for organizing and presenting investigative findings.

(b)(6)

— Dan Burd, JI-3

DAVE MCBRIDE CAPTURES IMAGES OF IRENE DAMAGE IN VERMONT



I saw first-hand the destruction wrought by Irene in Vermont along State Route 100. I stumbled into the area riding on an unpaved road (that seemed more like a trail), and I didn't know where I had come out. I decided to get out when, stopping to take more pictures, I realized that I had ridden over some downed power lines.

— Dave McBride, Lead Analyst, JA-40, Cambridge

NOTEWORTHY

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

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by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

EARTHQUAKE AT OIG!

Where were you when the big one hit?

(b)(6)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 9/5	TUESDAY 9/6	WEDNESDAY 9/7	THURSDAY 9/8	FRIDAY 9/9
	CAL — EMT (9:00 a.m.)		OIG Honor Awards nominations due	LAST DAY: The Reasons Why Diversity Matters training

← CONGRESS—IN RECESS →

NOTEWORTHY

REMINDER: THE REASONS WHY DIVERSITY MATTERS TRAINING

Consistent with our direction over the past 2 years to train all staff on equal employment opportunity (EEO) matters, this year we are offering an on-line course, *The Reasons Why Diversity Matters*. I have taken this course and I expect that you, too, will take the time to learn more about leveraging the differences in people and putting those differences to work in the best possible way.

For those of you who have already taken the course, thank you; for those of you who still need to complete the course, please do so by September 9. The course is in TMS and in your Learning Plan. It is important to the health of our organization and to me that we have 100-percent participation!

Best regards, Cal



REMINDER: OIG HONOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 8

We all have a voice—let YOUR voice be heard! Submit a nomination for the 2011 OIG Honor Awards by September 8. Please refer to my August 31, 2011 email for more information on how to submit nominations.

— April Lane, Deputy Director, JM-20

Lorena Simpson (Support Services Specialist, JM-10) won last year's Marguerite Christensen Award

NOTEWORTHY

Where were you when the big one hit?

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NOTEWORTHY

Where were you when the big one hit?

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NOTEWORTHY

Where were you when the big one hit?

(b)(6)

OIG TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ATTEND THE FEDERAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (FDR) CONFERENCE

In this time of limited resources, we are expected to become even more efficient while still maintaining accountability in carrying out OIG's mission.

To help ensure the success of the OIG mission and provide the tools necessary to keep our workforce prepared, OIG sent a team of professionals to the FDR Conference on August 8, 2011. The team included Madeline

Chulumovich, April Lane, Francine Benko, Nardia Bennett, Amy Berks, and Nicole Angarella.

For more than a quarter century, the FDR Conference has earned a reputation for providing a solid professional development experience for Federal civil service professionals. Attendees took advantage of the training offered in six tracks: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Legal Developments, EEO, HR, Management, and Quality

and Efficiency in Government. The sessions provided practical guidance for handling telework, reasonable accommodation, discipline and more. The team unanimously agree that participation and attendance at the conference provided real life benefits to bring back and put into immediate practical use in today's ever-changing OIG workplace.

—April Lane, Deputy Director,
JM-20

NOTEWORTHY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

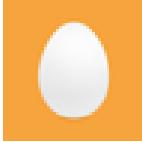
The Federal student loan repayment program permits agencies to repay Federally insured student loans as a recruitment or retention incentive to attract or retain highly qualified employees. Our 2011 Open Season closed on July 31 with 18 applicants from 10 offices across OIG. Seven applicants came from the field with the remaining 12 from offices at Headquarters in grades from GS-7 to GS-15. Nine employees were rated Outstanding and each will receive \$10,000, and nine were rated Highly Successful and each will receive \$5,000. Since 2009, we have awarded over \$337,160 to our employees and remain committed to using this tool to retain the best qualified employees here at OIG. Congratulations again to all of our employees—it is well deserved.



— Connie Harshaw, Acting Director, JM-20

OIG IN THE TWITTERVERSE...

Did you know you can search “oig.dot.gov” on Twitter to catch up on what everyone is tweeting about our work? See examples below. Thanks to Nathan Richmond for the heads up!

	(b)(6)	DOT FRAUD Aleter oig.dot.gov/library-item/3... via @AddThis
	30 Aug (b)(6)	#NC Civil Engineer Sentenced for Fraud Involving Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Pro... #ConsNC
	29 Aug (b)(6)	Nice to see the culprit in the Platinum Jet scandal sentenced, but where is pilot-responsibility in this discussion? bit.ly/nM9wlh
	29 Aug (b)(6)	Former Tennessee Department of Transportation Employee Sentenced for Soliciting and Accepting Bribes from a Sub-... bit.ly/oTnGNn

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ACTING TOP DOG DETTELBACH SHAKES THINGS UP AT HQ

Tuesday's 5.8 magnitude earthquake may have lasted less than 30 seconds, but it was long enough to put OIG's emergency evacuation procedures into effect.

While mild by West Coast standards, a 5.8 tremor creates more

A 5.8 quake releases as much energy as almost 8 kilotons of TNT—about half the power of the atomic bomb.

wide-spread damage on the East Coast because the seismic activity occurs much closer to the surface. The quake was felt as far north as Canada, south as Ala-

bama, and west as Indiana.

And then there's the "shock" factor. It's just not something we expect. Or do we?

Brian Dettelbach (J-3), who's in charge while the IG and DIG are on leave, emailed Cal and Ann the evening before, "I wish I had something exciting to report but, alas, it was quiet here today." And less than 3 hours before the quake hit, Pat Conley (JA-40, Ft Worth) who was in town for training, noted that "the weather is sunny and mid-70s—like California without the earthquakes."



As Brian pointed out in his email Tuesday evening, OIG's wardens performed admirably to ensure the expeditious, orderly evacuation of all OIG HQ staff. For more information on earthquake procedures, go to http://www.fema.gov/hazard/earthquake/eq_during.shtml.

So where were you when the big one hit? *The Inspector* wants to know.

In 25 words or less, let us know your first thoughts or what you were doing when the earthquake rocked the East Coast. Email newsletter@oig.dot.gov, and we'll publish your responses next week.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 8/29	TUESDAY 8/30	WEDNESDAY 8/31	THURSDAY 9/1	FRIDAY 9/2
	BRIAN— EMT (9:00 a.m.)		REPORTING SEMINAR	

← → CONGRESS—IN RECESS ← →

← → CAL, ANN—OUT OF OFFICE ← →

(b)(6)

JI KICKS OFF "OPERATION BOXED UP"

OIG and FMCSA staff assembled on Tuesday, August 17, to launch JI's "Operation Boxed Up" during the Household Goods Fraud-National Project Kick-Off Training. The purpose of JI's national project is to crack down on moving companies that commit household goods fraud by taking charge of a customer's belongings and subsequently demanding a price higher than the original estimate for their safe delivery—essentially holding the

goods hostage.

FMCSA is responsible for the civil regulation of moving companies, but it is up to OIG to bring criminal prosecutions against companies and company owners or employees who have broken the law. *Operation Boxed Up* matches FMCSA's familiarity of household goods fraud with OIG's law enforcement capabilities.

Our Inspector General, FMCSA's

Deputy Administrator Bill Bronrott, and Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Bob Westbrooks opened the training by speaking about the initiative as an important area of OIG-FMSCA cooperation as well as the economic and emotional benefits of targeting those who prey on the trust of unsuspecting consumers. (b)(6)

(b)(6) spoke in detail about how a moving company typically perpetrates household goods fraud and about the information available to OIG through FMCSA's databases. (b)(6)

[REDACTED], gave a presentation about [REDACTED] recent successful investigation of a fraudulent mover. [REDACTED] (b)(6)

spoke about previous prosecutions of moving companies and offered legal avenues for agents who collect enough evidence to

(Continued on page 3)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 2)

bring charges against fraudulent movers.

The training was peppered with lively discussions about various moving fraud schemes FMCSA and OIG staff have encountered,

and the moving companies' methods of both perpetrating fraud and evading regulation. Both agencies' staff learned a lot from one another about their specific capabilities and expertise relating to household goods fraud.

Everyone left the meeting confident that fraudulent movers should be concerned about this new initiative.

—Dan Burd, Investigative Analyst, JI-3

DEPUTY IG IS CHARMED IN THE "CHARMED CITY"

(b)(6)



Start of JA-20 meeting with Ann

Baltimore is known as the "Charmed City" mainly because of its remarkable history; diverse group of neighborhoods, the Inner Harbor; the #1 ranked John Hopkins Hospital; and for all the talented writers, actors, and musicians that call Baltimore home. Ann found out how charming Baltimore is during her outreach visit on August 17. She also learned what the folks here in JA-20 have always known: Baltimore is also called the Charmed

City because of the extraordinarily talented and delightful auditors and analysts of JA-20's Office of Financial and Information Technology Audits.

Ann's day began with the slow commute to Baltimore due to the usual traffic jams, but when she finally arrived, she was welcomed and ready to get to know all of us. Ann started the meeting by recapping her experiences traveling to the different field offices

over the last few months. She also spoke about the budget crunch; training; and OIG initiatives to streamline the audit process, standardize policies and procedures, and increase collaboration between JI and JA.

Some of the most important dialogue focused on staff. She asked if we felt valued as employees, what could we do to motivate one another, and what could she improve or change to make sure

(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY

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that we have all the tools to be successful.

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After lunch, Ann conducted breakout sessions by grade level and finally with Earl Hedges, Program Director. An added bonus to the day was that Louis King, AIG JA-20, joined us. So, we got to dialogue with both our DAIG and AIG all day, which all of us appreciated.

At the end of the day, I interviewed Ann about her outreach tour, including lessons learned,

how she enjoyed her visit in the Charmed City, and most importantly what did she think of the Baltimore office? Ann stated that she has enjoyed her outreach tour, especially connecting with the regional employees that might not necessarily get the full benefit or access to upper management. She has met hard-working, talented, dedicated people who feel good about the organization and appreciates the great effort and focus on people always. She is grateful for the experiences because she has learned so much and even though she feels that she is accomplishing her initial objective, she knows that there is still a lot of work to be done and opportunities for improvement exist. If she keeps her focus on the people and makes changes accordingly, she is certain that we as an organization can reach our goals.



Ann and Earl Hedges (Program Director, JA-20)

Ann also stated that she had a great visit in the Charmed City. She felt that staff were open and engaging. She also commented on how well we work together and that our differences really complement one another in our prospective roles within the organization.

Everyone looks forward to her next visit.

—Cordelia Bostic, Auditor, JA-20,
Baltimore



Baltimore, the Charmed City

NOTEWORTHY

JA-20 STAFF GO ON A BORING EXPEDITION—TUNNEL BORING, THAT IS

(b)(6)

On a hot June day, four auditors from JA-20 Baltimore and HQ set out on an adventure to tour the Pittsburgh North Shore Connector (NSC) light rail project. The project, sponsored by the Port Authority of Allegheny County, extends the existing light rail system and includes two tunnels that pass under the Allegheny River and an aerial portion. The 1.2-mile extension also includes three stations—the Gateway Station was demolished and rebuilt, while the North Side

and Allegheny Stations are new to the light rail system. Project costs total \$500 million, \$60 million of which was funded through ARRA.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) gave us the tour in conjunction with our audit of improper payment oversight in FTA's ARRA programs. The day began as any other with our business attire, laptops, and stacks of documentation. By afternoon we transformed into construction

queens with hard hats, gum boots, safety vests, and goggles.

The beginning of our 2-mile trek started at the aerial portion of the project, which runs alongside Heinz Field, the Pittsburgh Steelers Stadium. (As a diehard Baltimore Ravens fan, this was the most excruciating part of the tour.) Before long, and to my relief, we descended into the left tunnel which ran 25 feet under the Allegheny River. The two tunnels which are 23 feet in diame-

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY



The aerial portion of the Pittsburgh NSC light rail project, which runs alongside the Pittsburgh Steelers Stadium, Heinz Field



The tunnel boring machine makes the final breakthrough of the Allegheny River tunnel

(Continued from page 5)

ter each were built below a bridge. The contractors were able to displace the weight of the bridge so that none of the weight rested on the tunnel. Through the construction process, they placed monitors on the bridge 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure the bridge had not shifted.

A diamond-bitted, German-built tunnel boring machine (TBM)—a new technology—dug the tunnels. At 30 to 40 feet of boring each day, the tunnels took 4 to 6 months to complete.

One of TBM's multiple functions was placing concrete rings like a jigsaw puzzle to form the tunnel

walls. The TBM was also capable of simultaneously mining out the tunnel, pumping in slurry (a clay and water mixture), and pumping out the mined materials.

TBM weighs 485 tons, is 27 feet long, and takes five to eight people to operate.

Underground, we walked narrow passages, hopped over tracks, climbed ladders, and dodged construction material—a virtual obstacle course. Fortunately for us, there was a light at the end of the tunnel as we emerged from the Gateway Station. As we stood in a nearby lobby, hoping Mark

would return to free us from our safety-laden adornments, we had a new appreciation for the numbers we audit and the invoices we review.

The light rail extension is expected to open in March 2012.

—Ingrid Harris, Project Manager, and Allison Sturges, Analyst, JA-20, Baltimore

NOTEWORTHY

2011 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND TRAINING COORDINATORS CONFERENCE

Last week, administrative staff and training coordinators from across OIG gathered in Washington, DC, at the Human Resources Development Center (HRDC) for the 2011 Administrative Staff and Training Coordinators Conference. The conference began with an address from Cal, extolling the importance of support staff to the accomplishment of OIG's mission. Afterwards, Cal fielded questions concerning the fiscal year 2012 and 2013 budgets and their effects on staffing.

During the first half of the week-long conference, presenters from across the organization briefed administrative staff on current and future OIG policies and procedures. Topics included Connie Harshaw's position description standardization project, CASTLE, records management, GovTrip, purchase cards, the SF-182, the SF-1164, and travel for training. Deb Alexander wrapped up the first half of the conference with a discussion about partnership and collaboration, highlighting their importance with a short exercise in medieval construction.

The second half of the conference focused on the Training Management System (TMS), our newest tool for advertising, recording, and tracking training. To cover the breadth of material, HRDC staff used a tag team approach to cover the administrator duties of the Training Coordinators. As expected with TMS, even the training was exciting as the training client went down for one afternoon, followed by the Federal Personnel Payroll System that night.

Ann wrapped up the conference and emphasized her priorities of improving OIG's performance management process and Policies and Procedures Manual chapters.

Many thanks to Angie Thorpe and the staff over at HRDC for hosting the conference!

—Morgan Howard, Staff Assistant, JA-10, Seattle

OIG IN THE NEWS

Airlines Can't Hire Ex-FAA Inspectors for Two Years

AUGUST 19, 2011

([The Sacramento Bee](#) on JA-10 work)

Federal Aviation Administration safety inspectors will be barred for two years after leaving the agency from going to work for an airline they oversaw under a rule issued Friday that's intended to prevent ethics abuses.

The rule responds to concerns raised in 2008 by Congress and the **Transportation Department's inspector general** that managers in the safety office that oversees the Dallas-based Southwest Airlines Co. allowed planes to make nearly 60,000 flights without required safety inspections for possible cracks in fuselages, the FAA said in a statement.

Owner Admits Defrauding Drivers

AUGUST 18, 2011

([J.J. Keller](#) on a JRI-5, Chicago office, investigation)

In federal court, the operator of two South St. Paul trucking companies plead guilty to defrauding contracted truck drivers out of money. The defendant, of Inver Grove Heights, specifically plead guilty to one count of wire fraud in connection to the crime. In entering his plea, the operator admitted misleading the truck drivers into returning to him settlement funds they received pursuant to an agreement between him and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

NOTEWORTHY

ROAD TRIP! AUDITING REPAIR STATIONS IN PERU AND BRAZIL



A view of the Pacific from Larcomar



Aaahh, winter time in Rio!

Three members of the JA-10, Atlanta, repair station audit team recently returned from a whirlwind audit tour of aircraft repair stations in South America. Kevin George, Project Manager; Tariesha Snell, Senior Analyst; and Nate Caldwell, Auditor, began their intercontinental odyssey in Lima, Peru, where the team visited SEMAN-Peru—an aircraft repair station, located on a Peruvian Air Force base, that performs heavy airframe repairs for U.S. cargo airlines. Major General Jorge' Chavez, a two-star general, and his staff welcomed us with unfettered access (and photo ops) to the workings of the repair station.

While there, we saw two DC-8 cargo aircraft undergoing repairs

in the hangar while workers were also restoring Russian military fighter aircraft. We even watched as a MIG-25 taxied out to the runway and departed for points unknown.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

But enough of Peru...time to leave the Pacific and head to the Atlantic side of South America.

We arrived in Rio at the crack of dawn after an overnight flight on TACA Airlines across the Andes Mountains and the Brazilian jungle. We three weary travelers marveled at the ability of the

(Continued on page 9)

(b)(6)

(Continued from page 8)

cabbie to stuff our steamer trunk-sized luggage and several smaller bags—as well as the three of us—into a small Chevy taxi cab and whisk us off to the hotel to get some needed shut-eye.

After some much needed rest, we spent the next 2 days at two more aircraft repair stations—one a heavy airframe repair facility and the other an engine repair shop. Both repair stations welcomed back OIG as they fondly remembered our colleagues when they were here in 2003 and 2008.

(b)(6)

Our final stop of the OIG-South American tour took us from the tranquil coastal beach town of Rio de Ja-

neiro to the uber-bustling city of Sao Paulo. A 1-hour flight on GOL Airlines (Brazil's version of Southwest Airlines) brought us to the heavily populated urban center of Sao Paulo.

Our Rolls Royce repair station contact likened the traffic and population density of Sao Paulo (nearly 20 million) to driving on the LA freeways on a very bad day. And yet again, we were met at the airport by a cabbie that picked us up in his little Fiat taxi cab. The elderly gentleman, who



Cityscape of Sao Paulo, Brazil

(Continued on page 10)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 9)

spoke only Portuguese, just scratched his head in disbelief as he pondered how to pack the car. No worries...Kevin is not only a skilled project manager, but he is a well-seasoned "packer of the car." After carefully sizing up the trunk, he fit each piece of luggage into that tiny Fiat like a Tetris master. The old cabbie just

grinned and gave him a thumbs up.

The team headed back to America after a 9-day, fast-paced trip to four aircraft repair stations in South America. We were grateful for the opportunity to travel abroad and show the OIG flag, but now it's time to sit down and document our travels and audit

findings.

Stay tuned to *The Inspector* to read additional exploits as we finish up our verification phase with travel to more foreign repair stations. Bon voyage!

—Kevin George, Program Manager, JA-10 Atlanta

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Lou discussed key issues facing JA



Ann answers audit managers' questions



JA managers ask questions on The Connie Harshaw Show

JA MANAGERS CONFAB IN DC

Last week, OIG managers met at the Holiday Inn at L'Enfant Plaza to discuss key audit issues.

Ann opened the conference by reflecting on where we've been, where we are today, and where we want to be going forward. Ann focused on timeliness, relevance, and impact, and clarified expectations for the 10-month

audit timeframe—a goal consistent with the rest of the IG community's and with the Hill's scorecard for timeliness.

She emphasized, however, that the 10-month goal is a benchmark, and one size would not fit all—3-month jobs shouldn't be stretched out, and 15-month jobs shouldn't be truncated. "To do so

risks missing larger issues and diminishing job integrity."

To right-size audits, Ann noted that managers need to conduct up front project and analysis plans, scope jobs appropriately, and commit to working smarter.

Lou focused on the tools we have to help us overcome challenges

(Continued on page 2)



Brian Dettelbach (AIG, J-3), Omer Poirier (Chief Counsel, J-3), Dave Wonnenberg (Congressional and Public Affairs Officer, J-3), Bob Westbrooks (Deputy AIG, JI-2), Len Meade (Director, Quality Assurance Reviews and Internal Affairs, J-2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 8/22	TUESDAY 8/23	WEDNESDAY 8/24	THURSDAY 8/25	FRIDAY 8/26
	(b)(6) EMT (9:00 a.m.)			

← CAL, ANN—OUT OF OFFICE →

NOTEWORTHY



Karen Sloan (Communications Officer, J-2), Tom Denomme (Project Consultant, JA-1), and Petra Swartzlander (Statistician, JA-2) present on their roles in the audit process

(Continued from page 1)

and uncertainties, such as our 24-month plan, effective training, cross-cutting coordination, talented writers, and a good foundation for continued excellence. Over the past year, JA has produced 33 audit reports, 116 single audit reports, and 5 testimonies, with over 470 recommendations—including \$1.7 billion in financial recommendations.

The rest of the day focused on our product flow process and the extended audit team. Brian Detelbach and Omer Poirier provided tips on working with Legal, while Dave Wonnenberg spoke

on Congressional Affairs' role in our audits. Bob Westbrooks gave an entertaining talk on audit-investigations collaboration. Len Meade wrapped up the first panel by reminding us of our quality assurance process and upcoming peer review.

For the second panel, Karen Sloan, Tom Denomme, and Petra Swartzlander discussed (respectively) the roles of the writer, project consultant, and statistician in OIG audits.

The highlight of the day was a "mock" panel led by Scott Macey, who showed us how simple the audit process is—that is, without

the overlay of paperwork, reviews, collateral duties, professional development, technical snafus, et cetera, et cetera. The panel—which also included Mitch Behm, Brendan Culley, Wendy Harris, Barry DeWeese, and Tom Yatsco—then provided the top 10 signs that things aren't going well for various phases in the process. "You know your audit isn't going well when you are asked to attend another JA's Message Meeting because their work can support your findings," Tom quipped.

Dan Raville and Michelle Hill wrapped up the day by highlighting a few recent changes in the audit process and fielding questions to the day's panelists.

After a second day welcome and kick off by Cal, Susan Dailey and her team provided detailed information on a variety of operations initiatives. Jason Carroll shared plans to update computers to Windows 7 before the end of the

(Continued on page 3)

NOTEWORTHY



"Mock" panelists Scott Macey (Program Director, JA-10, San Francisco), Mitch Behm (AIG, JA-50), Brendan Culley (Project Manager, JA-50), Wendy Harris (Program Director, JA-40), Barry DeWeese (Program Director, JA-10, San Francisco), and Tom Yatsco (Deputy AIG, JA-50) provide a little levity

(Continued from page 2)

fiscal year, and upgrades coming to the videoconferencing equipment. (IT project plans are updated on SharePoint.) Sharon Oby discussed the status of records management improvements and updates to the Baltimore and New York office spaces.

Chuck Hiep reviewed the budget, and detailed how the end of the ARRA money affects FTEs. Angie Thorpe highlighted OIG's training budget and the status of TMS.

Connie Harshaw, Acting Director of Human Resources, discussed the new awards program, recruitment and initiatives, and the im-

portance of employee relations Employee Relations. She held an Oprah-style question and answer session on staff performance and conduct issues, and encouraged managers to come early and come often to Human Resources about employee issues.

Mary Kay Langan-Feirson moderated a matrixing panel with Chris Frank, Terry Letko, Betty Krier, and Rod Perez. Terry focused on overcoming challenges such as communication and role confusion, and Betty shared the work of her economics group, including the regression work that many audits find useful. Rod focused on the help that an engineer can provide, and discussed

the assistance agreement the agency has with the Army Corp of Engineering. They all agreed that checking in on a regular basis with matrixing partners can prevent complications.

The final session of the day focused on the Process Standardization Work Group. Marshall Jackson and Akilah Boston presented an update on current projects and accomplishments by the group such as the new Yellow Grid Templates.

JA managers wrapped up the conference Thursday morning with training on Difficult Conversations and JA breakout sessions. For links to slides and other conference materials, click [here](#).



Matrixing panel: Mary Kay Langan-Feirson, Chris Frank, Terry Letko, Betty Krier, Rod Perez

NOTEWORTHY

ANN SPEAKS AT JA-20 ALL-HANDS MEETING

The Office of Financial and Information Technology Audits (JA-20) was privileged to have Ann speak during a recent all-day staff meeting. To begin, Ann talked about the many accomplishments JA-20's audit work produced, highlighting the tremendous impact made in the areas of ARRA and IT Security. Ann stressed the importance of investing in people and continuing to improve communication. She also spoke about some recent special projects, including the mentoring program and revamping of the awards ceremony. Ann was able to answer many of the questions the team had related to training and matrixing.

At the conclusion of the meeting (which ran over due to the great discussions), Ann reminded everyone that her door was always open, should anyone wish to meet individually. Having Ann close out our all-hands meeting was a great way to wrap up a successful event.

—Jenelle Morris, Information Technology Specialist, JA-20

CALL FOR 2011 OIG HONOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The official call for nominations for the 2011 OIG Honor Awards was announced August 16. This year's nomination process has changed to include the acceptance of nominations from *all* OIG employees. In addition our prior year awards, three new awards* are being presented this year:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Meritorious Achievement Award
- Leadership Award*
- New Employee of the Year Award
- Marguerite Christensen Mission Support Award
- Human Capital Spirit Award*
- Paul W. Kimbrough, Sr., Community Service Award
- Team Award
- People's Choice Award*

Award criteria and the nomination process for this year's Honor Awards are outlined in my August 16 email. All nominations must be received by the Office of Human Resources via the electronic nomination form no later than September 8, 2011.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions and or concerns.

—April Lane, Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources

NOTEWORTHY

FEDS FEED FAMILIES BREAKFAST BAKE SALE: A DELICIOUS SUCCESS

(b)(6)

Efforts to boost OIG's position in DOT's FEDS FEED FAMILIES FOOD DRIVE exceeded all expectations. When the first results were in and OIG was in next-to-last place in pounds of food items donated for the drive,

(b)(6) (JI-2) and Robin Redd-Miller (JI-3) went to work with an idea to make it easy for OIG Headquarters staff to contribute: Donate money and (b)(6) and Robin would buy the food items.

The idea paid off. Headquarters staff contributed \$335. The shoppers went over budget a little,

spending \$405.56. Taking an auditor along on a run to Costco to buy food items from contributions and staying within budget—priceless.

At the second weigh-in, on July 29, OIG shot up to 4th place! We went from 9 pounds to 1,176 pounds!

But we weren't done yet. What if we held a bake sale? Once the word got out, generous donations of baked goods started showing up, and by the end of the day we were sitting on \$573. Everyone was extremely gener-

ous, both the volunteers who brought in baked goods and those who came to the bake sale to donate. We're really looking forward to our last and final run to Costco and yes, we're taking someone along from JA.

The level of contributions could only come from people who care and want to help others. To *oneOIG*: Thanks again to everyone who has donated to FEDS FEED FAMILIES FOOD DRIVE.

(b)(6)
(b)(6) JI-2 and Robin
Redd-Miller, Investigator, JI-3

NOTEWORTHY



This Kia RIO is one of the vehicles that meet the necessary criteria for crash testing of roadside hardware; these cars can be purchased used up to 6 years old



The circles with X's are actual points on the vehicle where a specific high-speed camera is focused

After a short trip from HQ, we arrived at the research center which neighbors the Central Intelligence Agency's Langley campus, and waited at FOIL for the test to begin. After a slight rain delay—conditions must be perfect in order to capture data needed for the study—we watched the crash test from a hilltop with about 50 other observers.

During the crash test, a small Kia sedan, weighing 2,500 pounds and traveling at 30 mph, hit a rigid pole. The test was conducted to evaluate the crush characteristics of the vehicle which is important for both computer simulation purposes as well

(Continued on page 7)



The rigid pole has equipment inside that can record the force of the vehicle during impact

NOTEWORTHY



A high speed camera looks down from the crane for a top view of the crash

(Continued from page 6)

as future testing. By having the crush characteristics, a crushable

nose that represents this particular vehicle can be developed, allowing for future tests to be run with the use of a bogie (a reusable generic vehicle structure) or pendulum at a much lower cost.

FOIL scientists adjusted a variety of sensors and instruments loaded in the car's trunk prior to the impact test. High speed cameras, accelerometers, and speed measuring devices were also used to capture the data during

the crash event. The data will be used for further analyses of the vehicle accelerations, forces, and trajectory.

The test was over quickly—less than 30 seconds—but we learned a great deal about what FHWA does to improve highway safety.

—Meredith Howell, Analyst, JA-60 and Emily Norton, Analyst, JA-40, with technical assistance from [REDACTED] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CAL VISITS ATLANTA FOR SUP II KICK OFF AND STAFF OUTREACH

Last week, the Sup II course hit the road once again—this time with Cal present to kick off the training and get a dose of "southern hospitality" from Atlanta staff. To start the training, Cal obtained feedback from managers on what they learned during the Sup I course along with how it applied to their job. In addition, Cal asked managers what they hoped to accomplish during Sup II.

While Cal's main mission was to kick off the Sup II course (which

he did with great success), he also took time to meet with the entire Atlanta Office as a group and with individual members of the audit staff. During the group meeting, Cal expounded on information he presented during his All-Hands meeting a couple weeks ago. This meeting really helped to allay fears regarding our upcoming budget crunch.

Once Cal's mission was complete, the Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Programs, Jeff Guzzetti, joined the

class as the SES sponsor for the Action Learning Project on "Improving Communication in OIG." While in Atlanta, he engaged in one-on-one sessions with the staff.

Not only did the Atlanta staff and class participants from other offices gain valuable supervisory and team-building skills, but the separate "outreach" was key to increasing communication within OIG. We really enjoyed Cal and Jeff's visit which provided great opportunities to interact with top OIG management officials.

To show our appreciation, we hosted a catered lasagna lunch from nearby "Rosa's" restaurant, a local favorite.

—Tina Nysted and Robin Koch,
Directors, JA-10, Atlanta



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 8/8	TUESDAY 8/9	WEDNESDAY 8/10	THURSDAY 8/11	FRIDAY 8/12
	CAL / ANN — Audit Managers' Meeting (8:30 a.m.) BRIAN —CIGIE Leg Committee (9:30 a.m.)	Audit Managers' Meeting	Feds Feed Families Breakfast Bake Sale (8:00 a.m.) CAL —DOCR Scorecard Meeting (3:00 p.m.)	

NOTEWORTHY

NEW YELLOW GRIDS

con·cur verb \kən-kr, kän-\, intransitive verb

1: to act together to a common end or single effect; 2a : approve <*concur* in a statement>; b : to express agreement <*concur* with an opinion>.

Example: "Please **concur** with the attached final report by initialing in the appropriate box on the right margin of the page."

If you've ever completed a document for publishing or distribution outside of OIG, then you've probably encountered the Yellow Grid (also known as "that dubious yellow paper near your local copier").

Depending on the type of document, different members of your team and other members of OIG need to review and concur with the contents of the document in question.

The Process Standardization Work Group (PSWG) has drafted three new templates for use with [Announcement Letters](#), [General Correspondence](#), and [Draft and Final Reports](#). Complete with instructions and best practices, these new guides should help those new to the Yellow Grid process or those who haven't issued a report recently breeze through the steps with ease. Please visit the *SharePoint* site for the new templates. Write, Report, Concur!

— Meredith Howell, Analyst, JA-60

CONCURRENCES
PREPARER
RTG. SYMBOL
DATE
PRGM. DIR.
RTG. SYMBOL
DATE
I-REF
RTG. SYMBOL
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WRITER
RTG. SYMBOL
DATE
SR. STATS.
RTG. SYMBOL

NOTEWORTHY

SUP II HEADS TO "THE ATL"



Last week, Ben and Deb Alexander brought the Supervision II training course to "the ATL." The husband and wife duo brought high energy and poignant insight to the class of participants from both JA and JI. The group received valuable training that stressed the importance of "Managing Work Groups and Teams." Specific topics included understanding group dynamics and conflict resolution, delving into Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) theory and work style preferences, and providing tools for planning successful meetings.

To provide experiential training, each SUP II class is presented with an "Action Learning Project" from OIG SES. Through this project, the class addresses a real OIG management challenge while applying the skills learned during the training.

The Atlanta SUP II sponsor was Jeff Guzzetti; Jeff's challenge to both teams was "How can OIG, as an agency (and its individual managers), improve communications at all levels and in all directions?" The class attendees were split into two teams to analyze the problem, develop recommendations, and then brief out their solutions.

The first team tackled the problem from a case study perspective: How can OIG ensure consistent and timely feedback at all levels of the organization during the looming budget crisis? The second team took a more holistic view and provided recommendations on overall communications leveraging the OIG SharePoint portal. Jeff will share the teams' recommendations with OIG leadership in an upcoming SES offsite meeting and we hope that

our work will inspire change within the organization.

Thursday afternoon marked the end of the SUP II course but learning continued Friday, when the entire JA -10 Atlanta audit staff engaged in a daylong session on Myers-Briggs personality assessments. Deb Alexander led several interactive exercises to provide insights on working with different personality types.

Jeff Guzzetti also attended and revealed some candid details about his personal and professional likes and dislikes. If you're wondering, Jeff is a borderline INTJ—which essentially means he's a nerdy engineer who makes decisions based more on results and less on human feelings, and he has to exert a lot of energy to communicate with people (his words... not ours).

It was a fun and informative session, and we were able to get to know Jeff a little better and he was able to get to know Atlanta staff a little better as well. All in all, it was a very insightful and educational week in the ATL!

—Tina Nysted, Director, and William Leary ,Project Manager, JA-10, Atlanta



NOTEWORTHY

ANN ATTENDS JA-60 ALL-HANDS MEETING AS PART OF HQ OUTREACH EFFORTS

Ann spent over an hour chatting with OIG's Office of Acquisition and Procurement audits last week when she attended JA-60's monthly all-hands meetings, as part of her efforts to "do outreach in our own backyard." She emphasized that the Hill is particularly interested in JA-60's work and is looking closely at the way DOT spends its contract dollars, especially as related to contract management and grants. JA-60 employees enjoyed the chance to speak with Ann and appreciated her thoughtful answers to their concerns about everything from the budget to message meeting deadlines. Ann closed the meeting by welcoming JA-60 employees to schedule one-on-one meetings with her in the coming weeks.

—Christina Lee, Writer-Editor, JA-60

DIG HOLDS LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG ON MATRIXING AND MAXIMIZING RESOURCES

On July 27 Ann continued her monthly Leadership Brownbag discussions on the timely topic of matrixing and maximizing resources. Ann opened the discussion by reminding attendees—SES, GS-14, and GS-15 staff from across the organization—of the importance of working efficiently given the governmentwide reality of limited resources and constrained budgets. Ann noted that in this environment effective matrixing and maximizing resources are critical to ensure that OIG's work is timely and relevant.

Topics Ann presented and which she challenged attendees to focus on doing differently or better included:

- **Understanding, using, and maximizing our own and our staffs' capabilities.** This involves having frank discussions with staff to help identify the strengths they bring to the job and how they can be most effectively used.
- **Cataloging, knowing, applying, and building on completed and ongoing audit and investigative work.** This covers activities such as leveraging prior audit and investigative results for future products such as OIG testimonies and our annual Top Management Challenges Report. Ann cited OIG's recent Statement for the Record on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrations' Motor Carrier Safety Oversight as a good example of integrating work from Investigations.
- **Identifying in-house and external resources, technical expertise, knowledge, and databases we have available to us.** This involves developing an inventory of government databases as well as the expertise of our most important resource—our staff. The recently created [JA-JI Coordination Toolkit](#) on OIG's SharePoint portal, which lists subject matter experts

(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY

across the organization, serves as an example that may be expanded or replicated.

- **Partnering with internal and external stakeholders to ensure and enhance quality and manage risk.** This may be achieved by having subject matter experts from across OIG participate in key audit milestone meetings and investigative efforts to share their expertise.
- **Initiating or encouraging more collaborative efforts within OIG.** This can involve identifying staff or other resources that could be shared with other units. For example, staff from one JA may assist another JA to conduct fieldwork while their draft report is out for agency comment.

Following Ann's comments, an interesting discussion ensued on the challenges and opportunities that matrixing offers OIG. Participants generally recognized that matrixing is beneficial and can benefit OIG-wide mission needs but cited several strategic and administrative considerations that should be worked out to maximize a matrixing arrangement. For example, on a big picture level, matrixing needs to be a win-win for both parties, based on open and honest communication on their roles, responsibilities, and intended outcomes. Matrixing is not sustainable if one party is viewed as a "staffing service" and does not have the ability to shape the audit to which it contributes. One suggestion made to accomplish productive relationship-building is to have leaders from JA, and JI where appropriate, meet at the outset of an audit to map out their specific teams' roles, ownership of audit objectives, and writing responsibilities.

Administrative and technical issues also need to be thought through when teams matrix. For example, how will teams claim credit for accomplishments resulting from their audit, be they financial savings or process improvements? On a working level, teams also need to plan and manage their joint audit travel, travel budgets, and use of TeamMate to document evidentiary workpapers.

Look out for more OIG discussions on this topic as several attendees suggested that there be a follow-up brownbag on matrixing and that they would welcome full SES participation in these events.

—Tony Wysocki, Program Director, JA-60

Participants generally recognized that matrixing is beneficial and can benefit OIG-wide mission needs but cited several strategic and administrative considerations that should be worked out to maximize a matrixing arrangement.

NOTEWORTHY

FEDS FEED FAMILIES BREAKFAST BAKE SALE ON AUGUST 11 AT HQ

Over the last 2 weeks, OIG has stepped up to the plate and delivered more than 1,100 pounds in food for the Feds Feed Families good drive. But we're not done yet. Get ready for a breakfast bake sale that will be held at **8:00 AM, Thursday, August 11, in the JI corner (W73)**—just another way to raise funds. The Feds Feeds Families food drive ends **August 26**, so let's make one last push to see just how much OIG can deliver.

All baked items will be provided by OIG volunteers and all proceeds will go towards this important event. After having learned our lesson with that first run to Costco, we will be seeking a JA volunteer to go along with us to Costco to make sure we stay within budget.

No bake sale is successful without baked goods, so we're soliciting volunteers to bring in bake-goods or breakfast items. **If you would like to participate and help raise funds by bringing in baked goods or breakfast items, please get in touch with (b)(6) or Robin, all located in the JI area (W73).**

Remember, every penny counts. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please visit Ricky or Robin in JI or give them a call; they'd be happy to come pick up your donation. All proceeds will be used to purchase food items.

If you prefer, you can also bring your own food items, such as canned goods. You can place your donations in the **OIG box** located in the JA area near conference room W76-102.

We're hoping for one more successful contribution to the food drive but we can't do it without you.

*This is a BYOCoffee bake sale

(b)(6)

Charmaine Newman, JI-1, W73-481, 6-7100

Robin Redd-Miller, JI-3, W73-486, 6-1821



Special thanks to JA-60's **Angela Hailes** and **Jerri Bailey** for collecting food and cash donations from the 3rd Street office.
Thanks for being awesome!

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA Looks to Rein in Controller Costs

July 27, 2011

[Ainonline.com](#) on a JA-10 Audit

A report by the Transportation Department's inspector general determined that the three-year 2009 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (Natca) will cost the FAA \$669 million more than it would have cost to extend an earlier agreement that was signed in 2006. The **Office of the Inspector General (OIG)** found that while the FAA's approach to developing the estimate appears to be reasonable, it includes several provisions that could escalate costs beyond the already high cost projection.

New Federal Spending Oversight Board Kicks Off

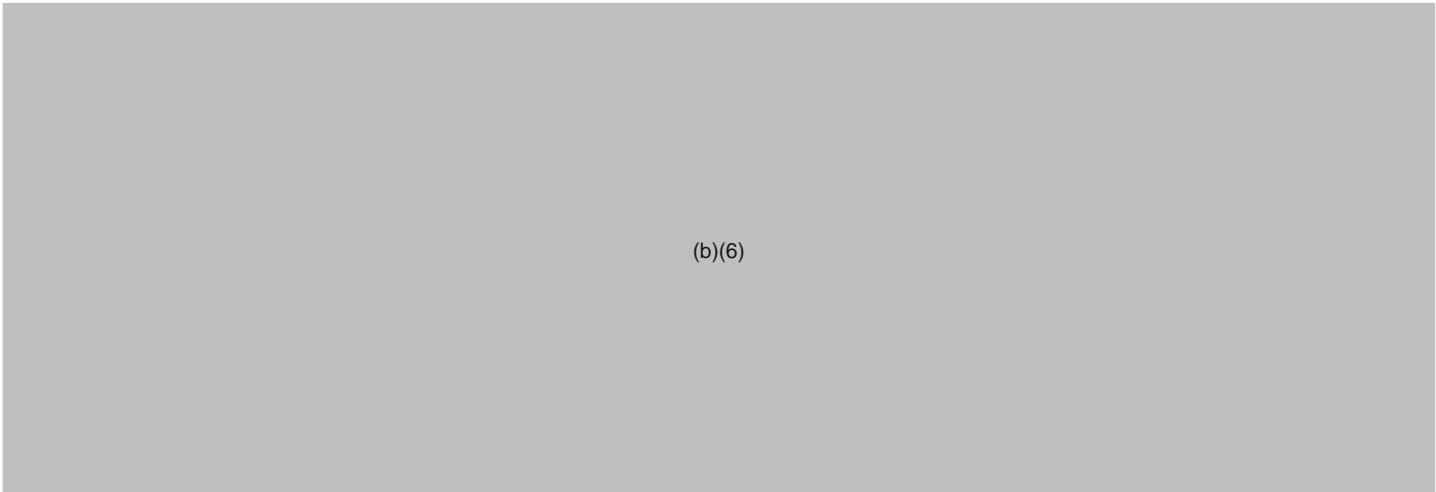
July 28, 2011

[Federaltimes.com](#)

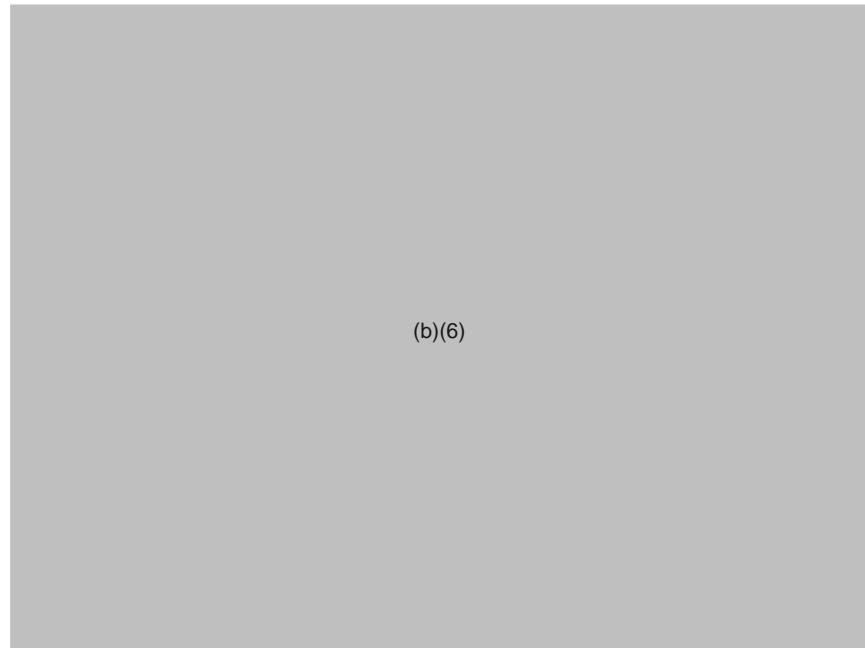
Created last month by President Obama, the panel is charged with combating wasteful and fraudulent government spending, along with making it easier to see where their money goes.

Members of the 11-member board include: Danny Werfel, Controller at the Office of Management and Budget; Ashton Carter, Undersecretary of Defense for acquisition, technology and logistics; Scott Gould, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin; and Ellen Murray, Chief Financial Officer at the Health and Human Services Department. Rounding out the panel are Inspectors General at five agencies: Allison Lerner of the National Science Foundation; Daniel Levinson of HHS; **Calvin Scovel III of the Transportation Department**; Kathleen Tinghe of the Education Department; and David Williams of the U.S. Postal Service.

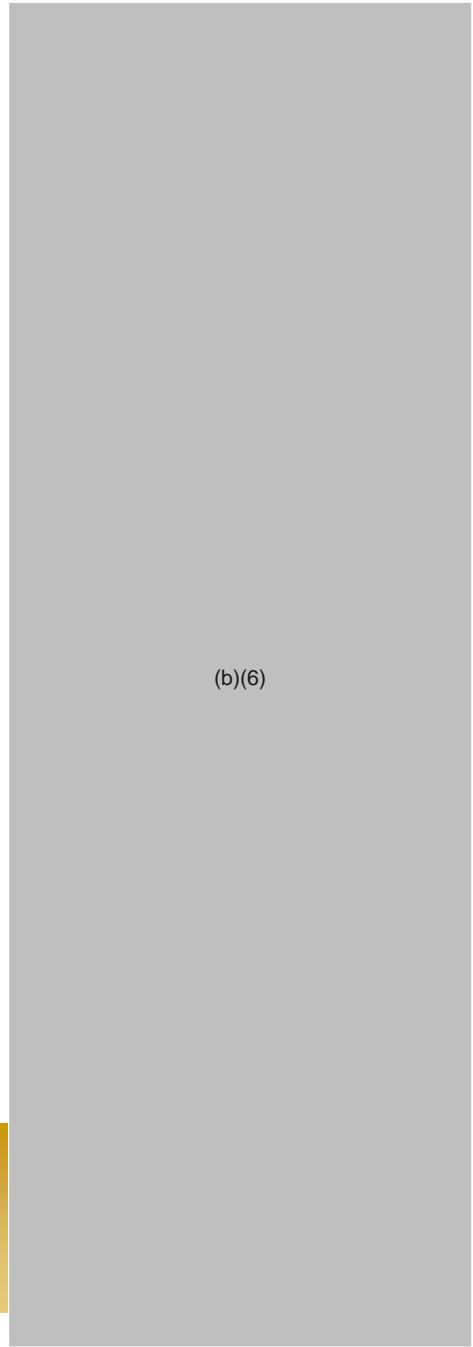
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END SHOT

, (b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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sense of the cohesiveness and frank communication among the JRI-5 team.

In the afternoon, Ann met with significant stakeholders in the Midwest, Illinois Department of Transportation, Office of Quality Compliance and Review Director Daniel Kennelly and (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6). They discussed the great working relationship and mutual respect between the two offices.

Additionally, Ann received briefings on the Special Agent Training Program administered by (b)(6)

(b)(6) and an investigation briefing on a complex pipeline investigation being conducted by (b)(6) - (b)(6)

(Continued on page 2)

(b)(6)

ANN VISITS JRI-5 IN THE WINDY CITY

Despite being known as the Windy City, Chicago's heat—high of 105—and not the wind greeted the Deputy Inspector General on her outreach visit to Chicago the week of July 18.

Ann's visit began with a staff meeting to hear agents and investigators discuss their significant cases. During the staff meeting, Ann participated in an after-action review—"hot wash" in Cal's terms—of the recent Ohio search warrant execution. (b)(6)

(b)(6) provided Chicago-style pizza to everyone as a thank you, especially since the warrant went until 6:00 a.m. the next day. Ann gained a good

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 8/1	TUESDAY 8/2	WEDNESDAY 8/3	THURSDAY 8/4	FRIDAY 8/5
	<p>CAL— EMT S2 Updates (9:00a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN—Annual Leave</p> <p>TIM—Harvard Kennedy School Training</p>			

(Continued from page 1)

On Tuesday, to familiarize herself with JRI-5 training techniques,

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agents. After going through the training, Ann gained a greater appreciation for the threats

(b)(6)

agents can encounter during JI's investigative work of white collar crimes. Ann modestly declined the U.S. Marshal's offer to go through arrest techniques in the mat room.

On Wednesday, Ann conducted one-on-one meetings with the JRI-5 staff. The staff was impressed with Ann's sincere and honest

approachability (no surprise though). Everyone appreciated Ann's down-to-earth style and her desire to connect with individual employees. Ann provided a Headquarters perspective on issues and illustrated how field employees can contribute to OIG's national impact.

— (b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

REGION 2 RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SEVERAL FAA EASTERN REGION EMPLOYEES ON OIG CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

On July 18, the Office of Investigations Region 2 New York Office presented awards to several New York and New Jersey FAA Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASI) for their significant roles in the successful investigation and prosecution of aviation safety related crimes in the New York area. The ASIs assisted OIG special agents by helping to identify relevant evidence during the execution of search warrants, providing technical expertise during the course of the investigation, and acting as expert witnesses at criminal trials.

The ASIs were recognized for the vital roles they played in the investigation of the 2005 Platinum Jet crash at Teterboro Airport; two bogus aviation parts cases where more than 4,000 substandard aviation parts were identified and removed from commerce while the parties were prosecuted; and a case involving an individual who was arrested and prosecuted for fraudulently repairing helicopters.

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The following individuals received awards:

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(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

FEDS FEED FAMILIES FUNDRAISING SUCCESSFULLY WEIGHS IN

When (b)(6) saw that OIG was in second-to-last place among DOT modes for the Feds Feed Families food drive, he emailed JI HQ staff pledging to bring one can per day for the 2 weeks before the food collection, and challenging the rest of us to do the same. Robin Redd-Miller took it a step further by soliciting

monetary donations from all OIG HQ staff and volunteering to purchase food with the collected money.

Robin, along with (b)(6) Joe Garcia, and Emily Norton ventured out in the searing heat to Costco last Thursday and purchased \$335 worth of non-perishable

food. Their hard work in securing donations and purchasing and transporting the food items will certainly make a significant impact on local families.

OIG weighed in at 1,240 lbs on July 22, with 1,167 lbs from HQ and 64 lbs from the Seattle office.

—Dan Burd, Analyst, JI-3

(b)(6)



Somewhat everything fit!



OIG contributions

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

OIG IN THE NEWS

OIG Report Indicates FAA Has No Clear Path for Achieving NextGen Goals

June 19, 2011

[Avstop.com](#) on a JA-10 Audit

The DOT's Office of Inspector General (OIG) has issued a report on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) development and implementation of the System Wide Information Management (SWIM) program.

SWIM is a key program in the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) that, as envisioned, will streamline data communications among all NextGen air traffic systems.

OIG found that although FAA is still in the early stages of developing SWIM, the Agency has already increased the costs for the program's first of three segments by more than \$100 million and delayed its completion by two years. Further cost increases and delays remain likely because of a lack of clear lines of accountability for overseeing and managing the program.

The FAA concurred with all six of **OIG's** recommendations for improving the management of SWIM and reducing risks. The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) successful transition to its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) depends on developing and implementing the SWIM program.

OIG initiated this audit because FAA identified SWIM as a key transformational program.

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SECOND ALL HANDS OF 2011 FOCUSED ON OUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS...AND OUR BUDGET

On July 14, Cal held his second All Hands of the year to a standing room only crowd in the Media Center. Cal started the meeting by introducing the graduates of the Audit Entrant Program (formerly, the Career Intern Program) and graduates of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Cal noted that we are on track to meet or exceed our impressive 2010 returns with JI convictions and indictments resulting in \$109 million in fines and recoveries since January and JA's audit work identifying \$47 million in questioned costs. Cal cited the major initiatives completed and under way to improve our work proc-



Cal addresses packed Media Center at last week's All Hands.

esses, such as a JA-60 and JA-10 collaborating with JI to develop acquisition-focused fraud indicator training. He highlighted JI's first issue of *Impact Magazine* and provided copies at Tuesday's Executive Management team including a copy to the Secretary. We have had a productive 6 months conducting outreach—over 60 briefings on the Hill with Ann and several JA and JI staff representing us at conferences and meetings ranging from broad organizational issues to specific job-related topics.

On the Human Capital front, Cal

commended our pilot mentoring program and thanked senior leaders, managers and supervisors for supporting this high-priority project now and in the future. He also mentioned expanding our 360 feedback program to cover all GS-14s, as well as SES and GS-15s who have at least 6 months in our office—more than 100 managers are participating this go-around. Cal also cited additional training and learning opportunities, including the course, *So You Want To Be A Supervisor*, writing training, and our Communities of Practice sessions. Cal referred to his recent



Cal hands certificates to graduates of the Audit Entrant Program.

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 7/25	TUESDAY 7/26	WEDNESDAY 7/27	THURSDAY 7/28	FRIDAY 7/29
		Leadership Brown Bag Matrixing and Maximizing Resources (12:00 p.m.)	Executive Committee (9:00a.m.)	

← TIM—Training Harvard Kennedy School →

NOTEWORTHY

email on the new awards process and recognized the Awards Team for their efforts in developing a comprehensive OIG awards program and process. Last, Cal dis-

cussed our budget—we are working diligently to stretch dollars for what we anticipate will be some lean years ahead.

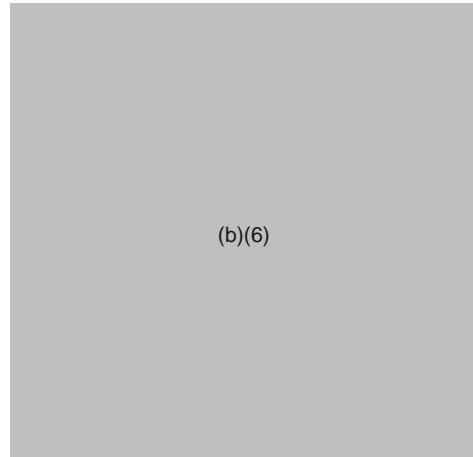
To view a video of the All Hands, visit the [OIG Sharepoint Site](#) and click on video.

—Madeline Chulumovich,
Chief of Staff

CAL ADDRESSES OIG SUMMER LAW CLERKS AT KICK OFF EVENT

On June 8, Cal presented the keynote address at the Council of Counsels to the Inspector General's (CCIG) kick off for the OIG Summer Law Clerk Program, held at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, DC. OIG interns from throughout the Federal Government came to this event to learn more about the OIG community and working in the public sector.

I introduced Cal to the group, who opened the presentation by thanking the law interns for answering the call for public service. Cal jokingly offered a few reasons why some may have chosen an internship other than wanting a public service job, such as fewer private sector jobs or



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having no job at all. Whatever their reason, Cal thanked them for choosing Government service.

Cal talked fondly about his Chapel Hill days, where he started his Marine training as a reservist in college. He noted the differences between his military and non-military civil careers. Typically, Inspectors General as-

sume their positions by moving up the ranks within a particular agency from investigator or counsel positions. In contrast, Cal became Inspector General directly after completing his military career, which he felt prepared him extremely well for his current position.

During his presentation, Cal explained OIG roles and responsibilities with respect to the legislative and executive branches, and how attorney, audit, and investigations groups relate to one another. Closing out, Cal reiterated the importance of civil service and challenged the interns to consider public service as a career choice.

—Barbara A. Hines,
Associate Counsel, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

THE SILENT WITNESS

Time always seems to moves more quickly when we're preparing testimony. Instead of working steadily for 10 months on an audit report, the whole process—from invitation to issuance—is usually 10 days. It's an opportunity to distill years of audit and investigative work on major topics into fact-based statements that members of Congress find useful for informing their work.

In March, OIG was asked to testify at a bus safety hearing. We geared up for testimony preparation and subject area experts arrived from our regional offices in Fort Worth and New York. Then, unexpectedly, the hearing was cancelled. In just a couple of days, the team had already established most of the major groundwork. The team generated binders of Q & As and backgrounders for Cal and drafts of the statement, but all of this was quietly put away with the expectation that bus safety would come to the forefront again.

Sure enough, OIG was asked to testify at the July 21 motor carrier safety reauthorization hearing covering similar topics.

So we dusted off the statement, binders, and prep questions assembled by the team for the March hearing and started moving full speed ahead. However, then came the news that the Committee wanted to streamline the Hearing. So the Committee asked if we could provide a statement for the record that allowed us to highlight our important work on implementing CDL regulations and countering fraud, following up on NTSB recommendations pertaining to bus safety and reincarnated carriers, investigating household goods fraud, reviewing the cross-border trucking pilot program, and evaluating acquisition and contract management weaknesses at FMCSA.

Despite the initial stops and starts, the statement turned into a truly multidisciplinary story drawing upon long-standing work from both the investigative and audit sides of OIG, including JI-2, JA-20, JA-40, and JA-60.

While you didn't see any familiar faces at the witness table on July 21 at 2:30 pm in front of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, we're confident that our statement for the record was sitting in front of many of the Senators and their staff.

—Regan Maund, Senior Analyst;
Wendy Harris, Program Director,
JA-40

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Red pencils anyone? We went old school on the cross-indexing and independent referencing.

ANN VISITS JRI IN SUNRISE, FLORIDA

Ann recently met with JRI-4 staff in Sunrise, Florida, as part of her outreach tour of OIG offices around the country. When Ann arrived at the office, she was greeted by staff and offered some delicious breakfast treats, such as tropical fruits, bagels, and of course, a taste of South Florida's Latin flavor—pastries consisting of guava and cream cheese, coconut, and meat.

Ann's meeting with the group began with HQ news and OIG topics, including the Department's mission, budget, and staffing and congressional testimonies and outreach. Ann discussed the region's investigative priority areas, which focus on ARRA, aviation and motor carrier safety, contract and grant fraud, and hazmat. Ann highlighted one case of each special agent and

they in turn, shared some programmatic observations and insights regarding FAA repair stations and possible regulatory flaws in FTA's grant management process. We also discussed successful JA and JI collaboration. JRI-4 continues to share investigative findings, expertise, and skills with JA.

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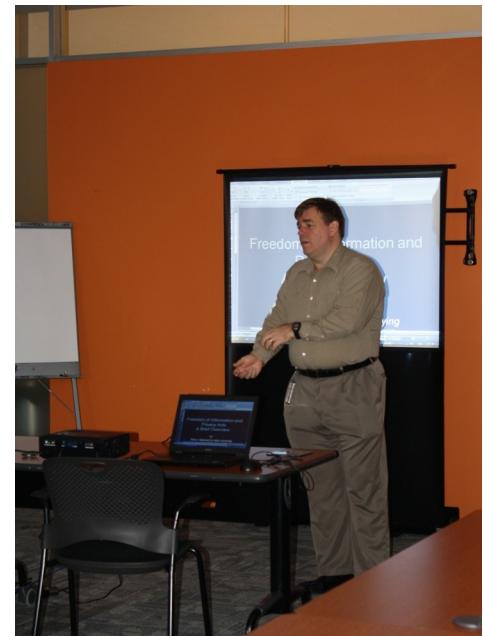
Ann also met individually with JRI-4 staff to discuss any topic of interest to them. All special agents expressed their appreciation for her time and were impressed by her leadership and high level of commitment to OIG.

(b)(6)

—Marlies Gonzalez, SAC,
Sunrise, FL

NOTEWORTHY

OIG HOSTS CCIG FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OVERVIEW BROWN BAG LUNCH



On June 22, OIG hosted a brown bag lunch on FOIA for law interns from the Council of Counselors to the Inspector General. Assistant IG for Legal, Legislative and External Affairs, Brian Dettelbach welcomed the group and introduced Chief Counsel Omer Poirier, who opened the event by speaking about importance of FOIA.

The presenter at this event was Kenneth D. Chason, Counsel to the Inspector General, National Science Foundation. He provided an excellent overview of FOIA and discussed the new developments in FOIA.

Approximately 25 people attended the brown bag, including J-3 and DOT OIG Summer Law Interns, Natasha Lewis and Tom Keane, Summer Intern Sarah Eckler, and Office Assistant Plutarco Cedeno. It was my pleasure to organize and host this event for the CCIG Legal Intern Planning Committee.

—Barbara A. Hines, Associate Counsel, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

GPO STYLE MANUAL AVAILABLE ON SHAREPOINT

As part of the Executive Branch, OIG is required to comply with GPO style. Since 1894, the manual has dictated style for numbers, capitalization, footnotes, punctuation, and so much more!

OIG's writer-editors are responsible for ensuring that all OIG reports, testimonies, and other written documents comply with the *Style Manual*. However, auditors frequently like to know what the style rules are.

The 30th edition of the *Style Manual*, revised in 2008, is over 400 pages, so don't print it out. Instead, access the searchable manual from GPO's web site:

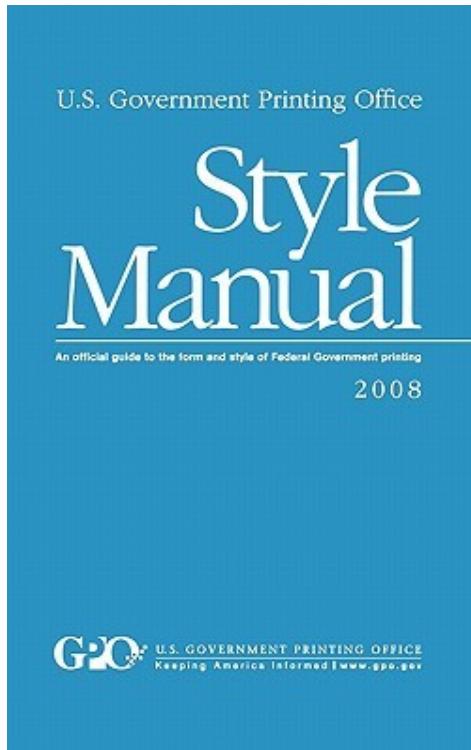
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/stylemanual/index.html>

You can also access searchable chapters of the manual through SharePoint in the Report Writing section of the Audit Process page:

<http://portal.oig.dot.gov/Employee%20Resources/Audit%20Process%20-%20Report%20Writing.aspx>

If you have questions, please contact your writer-editor who is also listed on the SharePoint page.

—Karen Sloan, Communications Officer



OIG IN THE NEWS

Iowa Ready-Mix Concrete Firm Guilty of Price Fixing Conspiracy

July 15, 2011

[Aggregateresearch.com](#) on a JRI 5 Investigation

The U.S. Department of Justice announced ready-mix concrete firm VS Holding Co. pleaded guilty to participating in a price-fixing conspiracy in Iowa.

The charge under the Sherman Act, filed in the U.S. District Court in Sioux City, Iowa, resulted from a multi-agency investigation into the ready-mix concrete industry in Iowa and surrounding states. The investigation, which involves the DoJ Antitrust Division's Chicago field office, is still ongoing. The Sherman Act is a U.S. federal statute that outlaws various types of anticompetitive behaviour.

A May, 2010 press release from the **Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation**, which is involved in the ongoing investigations, identified Stewart as president of Great Lakes Concrete Inc.

The guilty plea from VS Holdings came three weeks after Tri-State Ready Mix Inc. of Rock Valley, Iowa pleaded guilty to charges it participated in a conspiracy with GCC Alliance Concrete Inc. to fix prices for ready-mix concrete.

The investigation also involves the FBI Resident Agency in Sioux City and the U.S. Attorney's office in Sioux City.

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ANN AND JEFF PRESENT AT GOVEXEC'S EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

On Monday, July 11, Deputy Inspector General, Ann Calvaresi-Barr, and Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Programs, Jeff Guzzetti, participated as panelists in separate forums at the *Excellence in Government Conference* produced by the Government Executive Media Group.

Ann kicked the morning off at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC, with a [radio interview](#) on Federal News Radio's "Federal Drive" with host Tom Temin. Under the headline (and office credo), "DOT IG: 'Mission First, People Always,'" the interview topics ranged from creating a performance culture (the topic of Ann's panel later in the day) to specifics about OIG's ongoing efforts to improve its organi-

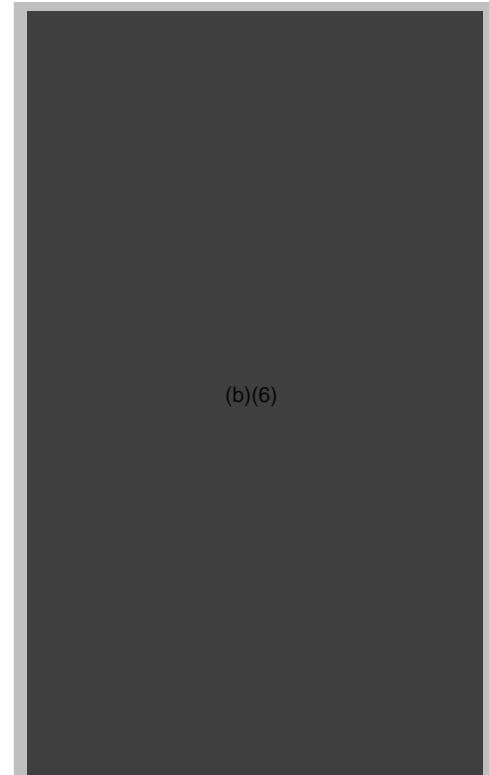
When asked about what makes a highly effective agency—one where employees want to stay—Ann responded that developing and maintaining a successful organization begins with strong leaders laying out a clear path. She also noted that while effective leadership is where it starts, those leaders must provide their employees with the challenges and necessary resources—like tools, training and time—to ensure continuous, high-quality products and an engaged work force.

Following her interview, Ann participated on the "Creating a Performance Culture" panel. Over 200 people were in attendance. Other panelists were (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6); Anthony

Miller, the Department of Education's Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer; and Dan Tangherlini, the Department of Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Management, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Performance Officer. The session was moderated by Dr. Shelley Metzenbaum, the Office of Management and Budget's Associate Director for Performance and Personnel



(b)(6)

Ann interviewed with Federal News Radio

Management (as well as the daughter of former U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum).

Each panelist described various elements used by their organization to elevate agency performance, and how they measure the success of those elements. Ann walked the audience through the many efforts OIG has in place, including the agency viewpoint survey, our 360 review

Developing and maintaining a successful organization begins with strong leaders laying out a clear path.

zation. Originally slated to be a 5-minute interview, Ann proved such an effective and engaging interviewee that Temin kept her on for over 11 minutes.

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 7/18	TUESDAY 7/19	WEDNESDAY 7/20	THURSDAY 7/21	FRIDAY 7/22
	CAL — EMT S2 Updates (9:00a.m.) BRIAN - CIGIE Meeting (9:30a.m.)	TIM — AIGI Meeting (9:00a.m.)	Executive Committee (9:00a.m.)	

← →

ANN – TDY Chicago

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

process, the mentoring program, JI's "Impact" magazine, as well as the demands for high quality work products and an evolving effort to streamline and make better our internal processes.

Jeff participated the "Risk: Rewards and Lessons" seminar along with Vice Admiral Bill Burke, a former nuclear submarine commander who now wears three stars and currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations. The premise of the seminar, which was moderated by GAO Managing Director Chris Mihm, was that "taking risks can be game-changing and achieve results, but the government is notoriously risk-averse."

Jeff and Admiral Burke spent a few minutes answering two standing questions: How do leaders create a climate where people feel free to take reasonable risks in pursuit of innovation and improved performance? And how do agencies create systems for learning from mistakes

Jeff highlighted recent OIG efforts to capture lessons learned, such as mentoring programs, return on investment meetings, and 360-degree reviews.

in an unthreatening environment? Both panelists talked about the importance of good communication up and down the ranks, the need for leaders to be open to criticism, and the criticality of assessing risk carefully. The audience of about 60 people then began to pepper Jeff and Admiral Burke with questions regarding specific challenges related to taking risks in the Federal government.

As examples, Jeff discussed NTSB accident investigation findings of risks that were not properly mitigated; he also discussed FAA efforts to improve its climate and systems to better manage risky ventures, such as NextGen, based on our audit findings and recommendations. In addition to describing his own lead-

ership style, he highlighted OIG's recent efforts to capture lessons learned, such as mentoring programs, return on investment meetings, and 360-degree reviews.

Jeff and Admiral Burke seemed to connect with the crowd and provided several concrete takeaways regarding how to encourage people to take risks while minimizing the possibility of failure. even after the 75-minute session was scheduled to be completed, the questions kept coming from the audience.

Many positive comments were received about both panels and panelists throughout the rest of the nearly 100 degree Washington, D.C. day.

— Jeff Guzzetti, AIG, JA-10; and Dave Wonnenberg, Congressional and Public Affairs Officer, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

PROCESS STANDARDIZATION WORK GROUP MOVES OUT ON SENIOR AUDITOR/ANALYST DUTIES

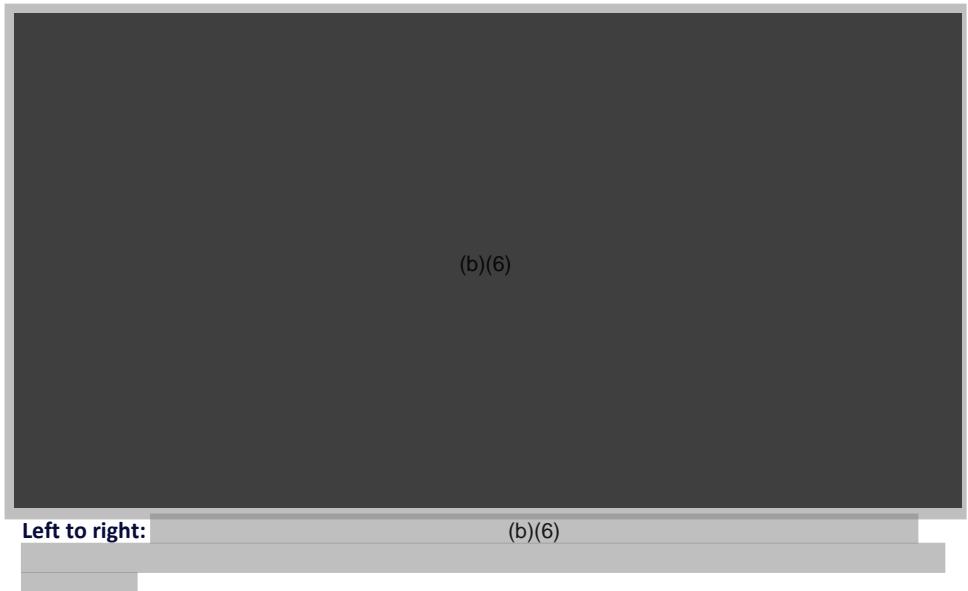
PSWG is developing a number of initiatives aimed at standardizing JA processes and procedures. The first task of the "Management Responsibility and Duties" subgroup—made up of Anne Longtin, Regan Mound, Deanne Titus, and Marshall Jackson—is an in-depth review of the role of Senior Auditors and Analysts (GS-13s) across JA.

Working directly with PAIGAE, Lou Dixon, the subgroup has developed a survey for all GS-13 Auditors and Analysts and another survey for Project Managers and Program Directors. The goal of the surveys is to collect data on the day-to-day work activities of our GS-13s in order to gain a better understanding of differences in duties and responsibilities of these staff members across all JA organizations. Once all the data are compiled and analyzed, the subgroup will present the results to senior management for use in evaluating JA work processes and employee roles and responsibilities. Watch for an email from Lou very soon with more details and a link to the surveys.

JRI-2'S (b)(6) RECEIVES LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE AWARD

On May 6, 2011, (b)(6) received the Law Enforcement Investigative Service Award from the New York Federal Executive Board for his work in investigating crimes affecting the aviation industry.

- Ned Schwartz, SAC, JRI-2



NOTEWORTHY

A BRAVE NEW OIG — JASON CARROLL PRESENTS COP ON "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN OIG: 2011 AND BEYOND"



(b)(6)

On June 30, Chief Information Officer Jason Carroll discussed current and future IT projects at OIG. The new IT strategic plan and pilot program was broken down into four strategic areas: (1) Customer service, (2) Application Improvement, (3) Infrastructure, and (4) Information security. Overall, the IT office plans to improve service and standardization throughout OIG.

To better respond to problems and improve customer service at HQ and in the field, IT plans to

have a live blog, a new ticket process, and a rearranged help desk interface. The entire Polycom VTC infrastructure at HQ and field offices is being upgraded to support HD video teleconferencing. Once the upgrade is completed, the conference room reservation process will be seamlessly integrated with our Microsoft Outlook email. There is also a plan to enable Microsoft OCS instant messaging to facilitate communication and collaboration between HQ and the field.

In addition to Microsoft updates, IT

will be actively moving to Windows 7, and should be completed by the time Windows 8 debuts. Jason plans to have 95 percent of the office virtualized by the end of the calendar year. This means that we're moving to "the cloud," which will greatly increase the size of our servers and the speed of office Internet connections. Field offices are currently hindered by their T1 connections, which are "300 times slower" than the Internet connections at HQ. IT hopes that some of these hardware improvements will mitigate or even eliminate some of the current net-

(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 4)
work problems that are particularly endemic to the field offices.

There are many things on the to-do-list for information security, but the most notable was the plan to have

PIV card enablement for all OIG computers by October 1. Also on the IT horizon is a pilot program to help integrate iPads into the OIG network and eventually include the new technology as another tool to be

utilized in the audit and investigative process—analogous to how we use our BlackBerry phones today.

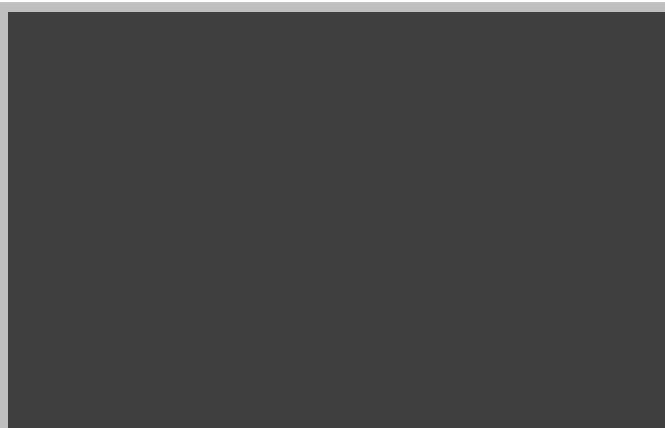
To view Jason's presentation, go to the link on SharePoint under COP.

— Peter Barber, Analyst, JA-40

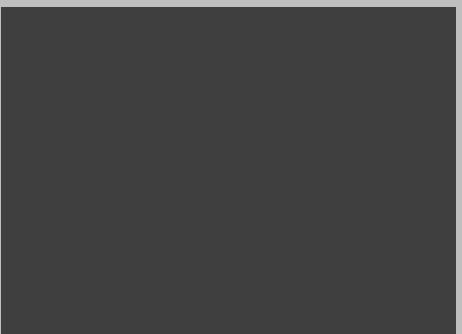
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NOTEWORTHY

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NOTEWORTHY

OIG IN THE NEWS

INTRODUCING OIG'S NEW MOBILE WEB SITE

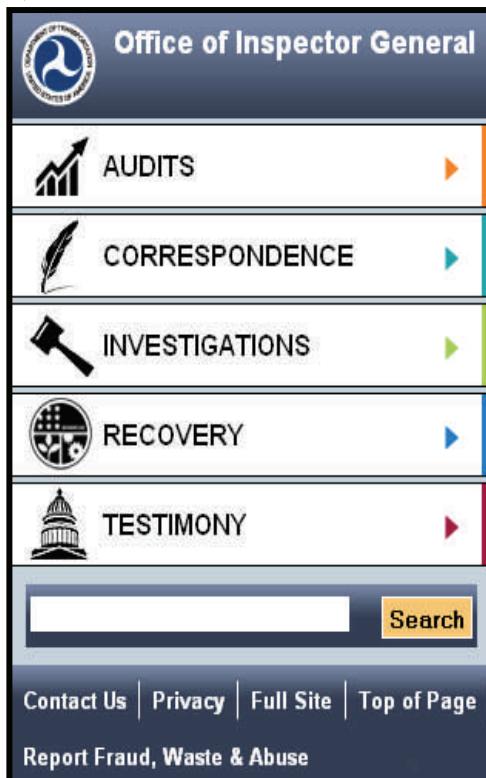
You may have noticed the **quick response (QR) code** in last week's edition of *The Inspector*. Some of you may have been puzzled by what it was, but for those who satisfied their curiosity and used their smart phone to read the code, you were introduced to **OIG's new mobile web site**.

For the uninitiated, QR codes are matrix bar codes readable by smart phones and other mobile devices equipped with cameras and code reader apps. In this case, the QR code contains a [hyperlinc to OIG's public web site](#), which we've redesigned and optimized for mobile platforms.

With more and more searches and Internet traffic in general originating from mobile devices, OIG's new mobile web site is just one more way to keep our information accessible and our office up to speed with current trends and the capabilities and demands of modern technology.

As always, we welcome any ideas, comments and suggestions as we strive to expand and improve communication of OIG's message to key stakeholders and a broad public audience.

—Nathan Richmond, Director and Counsel for Congressional and External Affairs, J-3



OIG Report Indicates FAA Has No Clear Path for Achieving NextGen Goals

June 19, 2011

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OIG initiated this audit because FAA identified SWIM as a key transformational program.



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DC'S "TRUCKEROO 2" ARRIVING JULY 15!

On July 15, head out to Half and M Street SE (across from the Navy Yard Metro Station), and choose from among 20 to 25 tempting food trucks—from TaKorean to Dangerously Delicious Pies. Admission is free and so is the live music. For more information, check out the Truckeroo website: <http://www.truckeroodc.com/www/>.

COMINGS & GOINGS

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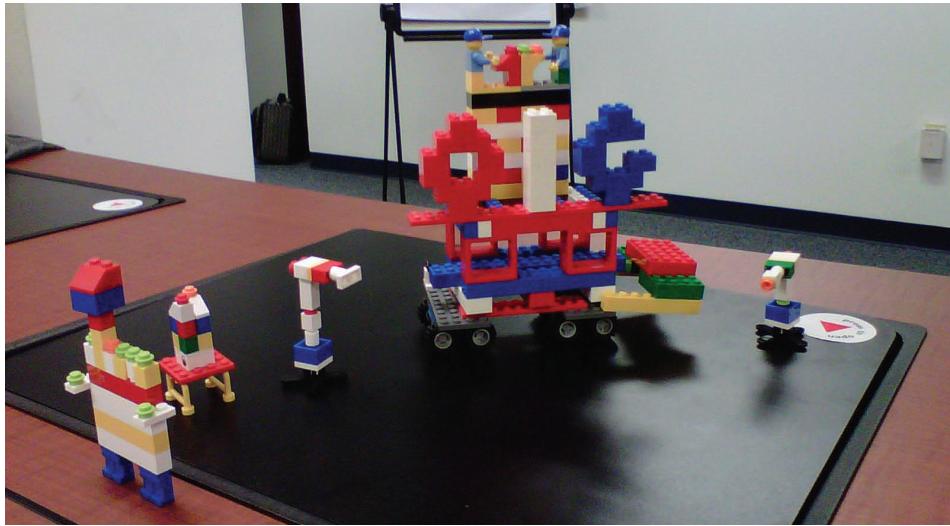
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by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SO YOU WANT TO BE A SUPERVISOR?



Only successful supervisors can create Lego masterpieces like this one

I have to say, I think it takes a bit of chutzpa to sign up for a training session entitled "So You Want to Be a Supervisor?" What was this course about, really? A gathering of supervisees itching to take over their supervisors' jobs? In reality, the 2-day course, ably led by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, provided invaluable insight into supervisor responsibilities, which empowered us as employees and increased our empathy and respect for OIG supervisors.

OIG supervisors are defined as GS-14 staff who supervise three or more employees. We learned

that Federal supervisors are governed by a multitude of less than intuitive guidelines and best practices. I for one was prepared to hear mostly about reviewing time cards and conducting performance reviews. However, the heart of the lesson was that supervisors must ensure that all employees are treated equally, policies are applied uniformly, and those employees who do not perform up to par must be given the opportunity to improve with training and feedback. Our instructors warned that as a supervisor, "you must always adhere to your supervisor code of conduct."

Aside from learning about a supervisor's responsibilities, we reviewed competencies that successful supervisors master:

- Accountability
- Treat People Fairly
- Authentic
- Develop People
- Admit Mistakes
- Have a Vision
- Excellent Communications
- Build Community
- Integrity

Through a series of exercises, we tested whether or not we had the qualities necessary to be a successful supervisor. One exercise asked teams to use Legos to build (1) a vehicle with a cargo space and wheels and (2) an OIG display area that was visually appealing and could be easily taken apart and transported. The teams were given 50 minutes and asked to use as many Legos as possible. Each team had one supervisor, one observer, and four employees. Even though we had 50 min-

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 7/4	TUESDAY 7/5	WEDNESDAY 7/6	THURSDAY 7/7	FRIDAY 7/8
INDEPENDENCE DAY! 	Senior Leaders Meeting (11:00a.m.)		BRIAN - EMT Congressional Pre-Meet (10:30a.m.)	CAL—S2 Updates (3:00p.m.)

← Ann – Out of Office →

ATTENTION: ALL-HANDS MEETING ON JULY 14th

Cal's semiannual All-Hands meeting will be held Thursday, July 14, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. EDT in the Media Center. Please email questions that you would like addressed at the All Hands to Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, at madeline.chulumovich@oig.dot.gov by close of business, Friday, July 8th.

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

utes, it felt like 10. It was a pressure cooker! In the end, the winning team (not my team, unfortunately), created impressive Lego masterpieces (pictured).

The course also included a panel discussion with recently-promoted supervisors who fielded questions from the class and shared their truthful perspectives on the day-to-day experiences of a DOT OIG supervisor. For example, one supervisor said that in all likelihood, as a supervisor you will have to manage staff that are more experienced than you and may even be paid more than you; you need to have confidence. Another supervisor remarked that there is a delicate balance when it comes to providing feedback where you want your employee to improve and

yet you don't want them to feel attacked or demoralized.

In the end, some of us may no longer be interested in pursuing a supervisor position...not a signal of defeat or incompetence, but rather an elevated level of self-awareness.

The 2-day training session concluded with Cal graciously fielding questions where he shared his perspective on what makes a successful OIG supervisor and what OIG has done, and continues to do, to address supervisors that, for one reason or another, are not a good fit for a management position within OIG.

After taking this course, it's clear

that individuals may be promoted who have spectacular technical skills, but in the end do not have the soft skills necessary to be a Federal supervisor. Cal stated that GS-15s and GS-14s have stepped down to non-managerial positions, and I applaud them. In the end, it takes true bravery to admit that management is not a good fit and that the organization is better served with a transition back to a technical expert position.

In the end, a survey of the class showed that some of us may no longer be interested in pursuing a supervisor position. This is not a signal of defeat or incompetence, but rather an elevated level of self-awareness.

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NOTEWORTHY

MATT HAMPTON SPEAKS ON RTCA SYMPOSIUM PANEL

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JA-10's Deputy AIG Matt Hampton spoke at this year's RTCA Symposium in Washington, D.C.

On June 16, JA-10's Deputy Assistant Inspector General Matt Hampton spoke at RTCA's 2011 Symposium in Washington, D.C. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. This year's topic was "Accelerating NextGen through Public-Private Partnership." Matt gave a presentation and participated in a panel discussion entitled "It's the Applications...Isn't It? Delivering the Benefits of NextGen." Fellow panelists included representatives from FAA and the industry.

Matt began his remarks by commenting, "Given the current budget environment, there is a sense of urgency for FAA to

clearly articulate what NextGen will cost, when it will be implemented, and what benefits new systems will deliver." He then discussed our current work, highlighting our audits of ERAM, terminal modernization, NextGen transformational programs, and RTCA Task Force 5 recommendations.

Matt pointed out key areas for moving forward with NextGen. First, FAA must break down its infamous "titanium silos" by working across agency lines. Second, it is vital that automation programs, primarily ERAM, stay on track as they will be the platforms for all other technologies.

Third, FAA will have to ensure air traffic controllers are well trained on new procedures and technologies, particularly those working the most complicated airspace, such as New York. Finally, FAA will have to seek ways to streamline the often onerous environmental review process.

While the corporate sponsored food was delicious, RTCA swag abundant, networking opportunities diverse, and use of technology impressive (we were all given small remotes that allowed us to respond to multiple choice questions presented on large screens and we could text in questions), the highlight of the symposium was getting to hear Matt and the other knowledgeable speakers.

The entire RTCA Task Force 5 audit team—Robin Koch, Coletta Treakle, Ray Denmark, Claudia Estrada, and I—was there to support Matt. It was a great event and another venue to share the important work we do every day here at the OIG.

— James Ovelmen, Analyst, JA-10

NOTEWORTHY

ANN CALVARESI-BARR AND JEFF GUZZETTI TO SPEAK AT EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

With tightening budgets across the Government, agency leaders are having to strategically adapt. On July 11, Ann and Jeff will be sharing their ideas on how to do this at the Excellence in Government's conference entitled, "Managing in a Cutback Climate." Ann will be speaking on a panel on Creating a Performance Culture, and Jeff will be on a panel discussing Risk Rewards and Lessons.



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NOT YOUR TYPICAL TRAINING COURSE: JA-10 AUDIT TEAM LEARNS AIRPORT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

We announced our audit on FAA's Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Program on March 15, 2011. Although the issue of wildlife at airports is not new, it has been in the limelight since the Miracle on the Hudson, U.S. Airways Flight 1549 accident in January 2009. In 2010, the National Wildlife Strike Database contained over 9,000 strikes.

On June 12, we attended a 3-day training course on "Airport Wildlife Management Techniques," hosted by the American Association of Airport Executives, at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, to understand how airports manage wildlife hazards. We learned how to identify different species of wildlife; report wildlife strikes; evaluate the effectiveness of the program; and apply different mitigation techniques, such as pyrotechnics and trapping, to wildlife around the airport.

This was *not* your typical training course. About half the day was spent in the classroom, and the other half was spent in the field applying what we learned in class. In a mock wildlife strike exercise, we were responsible for identifying the potential damage, filling out required forms, and collecting wildlife remains on the aircraft. We also learned about the different types of traps, such as the Swedish goshawk trap.

In an unexpected turn of events, we witnessed the live capture of a red-tail hawk by the Swedish goshawk trap (pictured). The red-tail hawk was later transported 60 miles away and released back into the wild.

Although this was an unusual training course, it was a great opportunity to learn about the wildlife problems that airports face and the tools available to manage them. Stay tuned for our report in the near future.

— Joyce Koivunen, Auditor, and Amitra Mamdouhi, Analyst,
JA-10, San Francisco, CA



Swedish goshawk trap

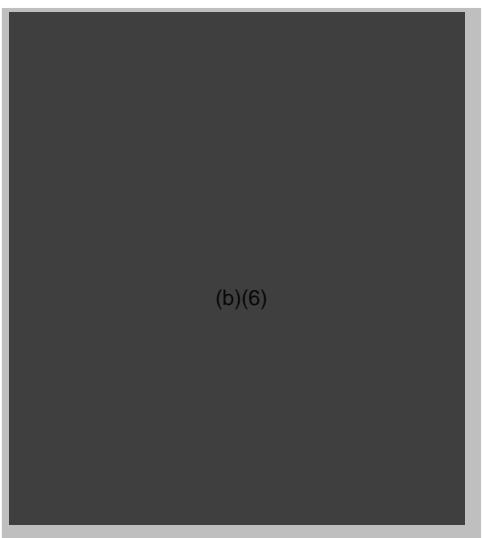
Source: Google images



Red tail hawk captured in the
Swedish goshawk trap



Live pigeon (there is a screen so the hawk does
not get to eat the pigeon)



Inspector General Will Audit MWAA

June 21, 2011

Loudountimes.com on a JA-60 audit

U.S. Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation Calvin L. Scovel III announced June 21 that his office would audit the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The audit, according to a letter to MWAA from Scovel, will determine if the authority's policies and procedures comply with the law and whether its board of directors has been transparent and accountable with its decisions related to the now controversial Dulles Rail Project.

Family Trucking Business Sentenced for Hauling Hazmat without Authority

June 16, 2011

Landlinemag.com on a JRI-4 Investigation

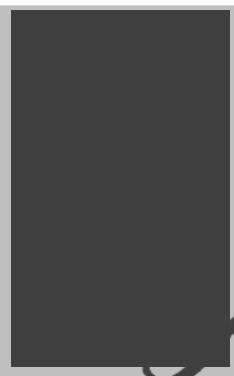
A husband and wife trucking business was busted not long ago hauling hazmat loads after being issued an out-of-service order in 2008 by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The couple were recently sentenced.

The couple admitted that between January and July 2009, they used TomCat to transport at least 19 shipments of Telone II, a pesticide, and ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer, in direct violation of federal law, according to a U.S. Attorney's Office press release. **The Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General** noted that the fertilizer was both flammable and toxic.

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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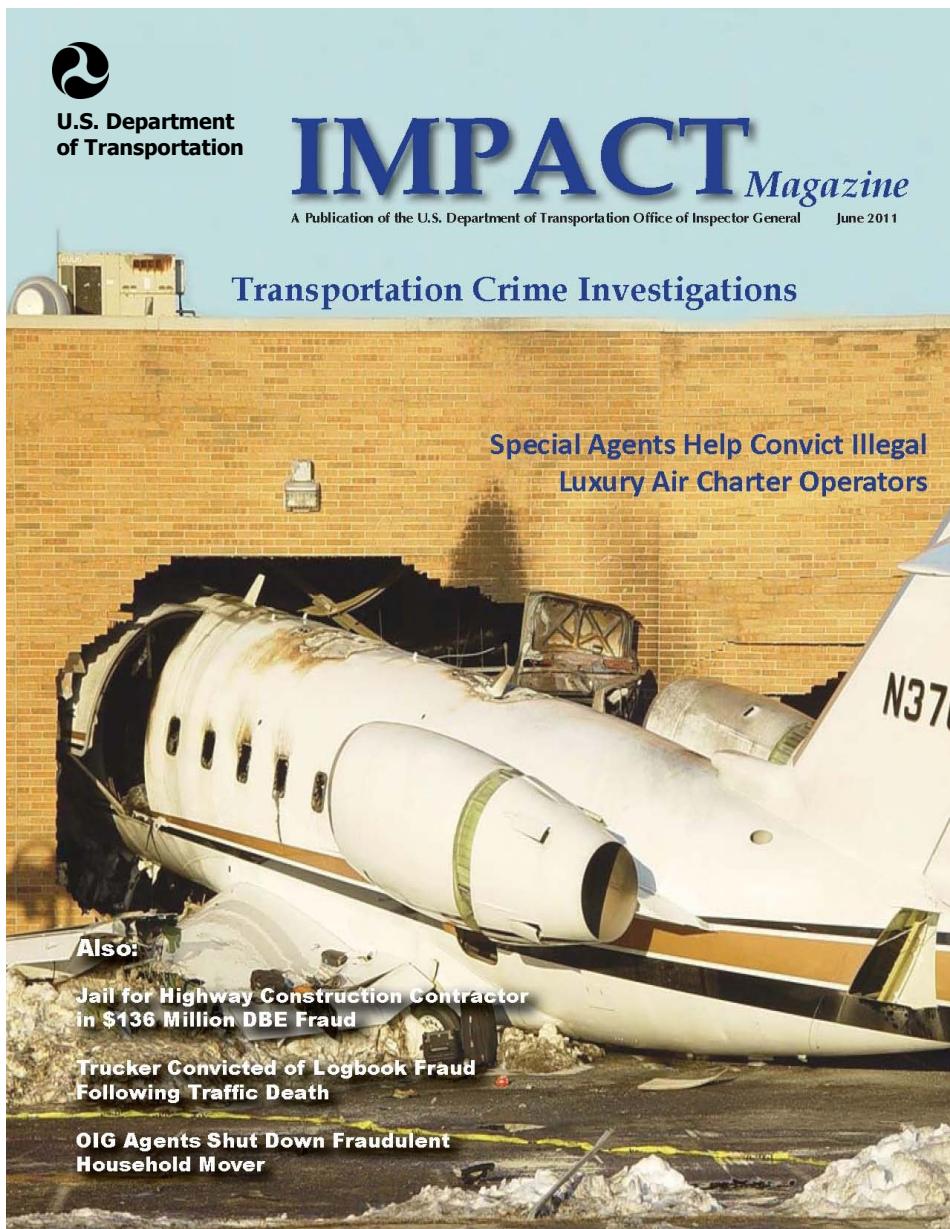
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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

JI LAUNCHES *IMPACT MAGAZINE*



This month, JI will launch *Impact Magazine*, a new publication showcasing a selection of our top investigations for the past year and highlighting the significant role our OIG special agents and investigators play in the oversight of various transportation programs.

You may be surprised to read how many of OIG's investigations read like episodes from a TV drama. Search warrants, forgeries, embezzlements, arrests, and even fatal accidents are all elements of OIG criminal investigations.

Impact Magazine will be used by OIG leadership and staff to share the successes of OIG investigations with our stakeholders, including members of Congress, Operating Administration officials, and Federal prosecutors. A copy will be sent to each employee shortly.

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 6/20	TUESDAY 6/21	WEDNESDAY 6/22	THURSDAY 6/23	FRIDAY 6/24
	<p>BRIAN– CIGIE Mtg. (9:30 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL– EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>Course on So You Want To Be a Supervisor</p>	<p>← ANN– Outreach to Florida Office →</p> <p>← CAL– Out of Of- →</p>	

NOTEWORTHY

JA-60 AUDIT TEAM DONNED HARD HATS AND SHOWED UP AT DOT CONSTRUCTION SITES UNANNOUNCED

Last week the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise audit team did a site visit to DDOT. While there, I went unannounced to some construction sites with a few of the staff from the Office of Civil Rights. While on site, OCR staff talked with the prime contractors and DBE to make sure they were in compliance with regulations.

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It was great to be in the field seeing the DBE Program at work. But it wasn't all work. I took some time in the hot weather to pose for this picture on one of the construction sites. Enjoying your job should be as important as your morning coffee.

—Patti Lehman, Auditor, JA-60

NOTEWORTHY**DIG HOLDS BROWN BAG ON ENGAGING AND MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES**

On Wednesday, Ann led a well-attended, 90-minute brown bag on the important role managers' play in engaging and motivating employees. Ann started by challenging the audience to think deeply: "What motivates your staff?" This thought-provoking question led to a wide range of responses. Ann then introduced a list of topics developed by researchers aimed at those who lead, manage, motivate, and develop staff. The topics included determining what motivates you and your staff; walking the job to demonstrate your interest in your staff; identifying and remedying staff de-motivators; supporting staff; managing change;

identifying incentives for motivation; understanding staff learning preferences and personality types; and most important, providing honest, open, and ongoing balanced feedback.

Ann also asked the managers "What motivates you?" Responses sounded strangely familiar to the earlier question "What motivates your staff?" This included receiving timely and regular performance feedback; knowing the work is significant and impacts someone else's life; feeling comfortable and confident that you are in the right line of work; performing interesting work and developing your skills;

having proper tools to perform your work; being part of a highly motivated team; and knowing that you are valued and an asset to the organization. Ann noted that these were all long-term motivators. She added that some motivators are basic, such as having adequate space and a clean work environment. Others are more complex, such as being trusted, having more authority, or having scheduling flexibility. Ann pointed out that one motivator—cash—has been shown to be only a short-term motivator. She said de-motivators can be physical, such as bad working conditions, or perceptual, such as boredom due to a lack of challenges and resentment due to perceived unfairness or unequal treatment among peers.

Ann then spoke on the importance of discussions with staff in managing change. She emphasized the benefits of the consultative approach to gaining staff support and consensus over the telling (monologue) or telling and selling (persuasive) approaches. She noted that managers need to be sensitive to individuals' differing learning preferences and personality types. What motivates

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NOTEWORTHY

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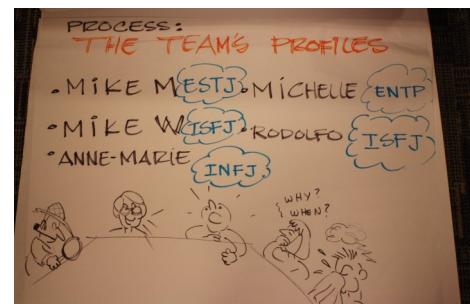
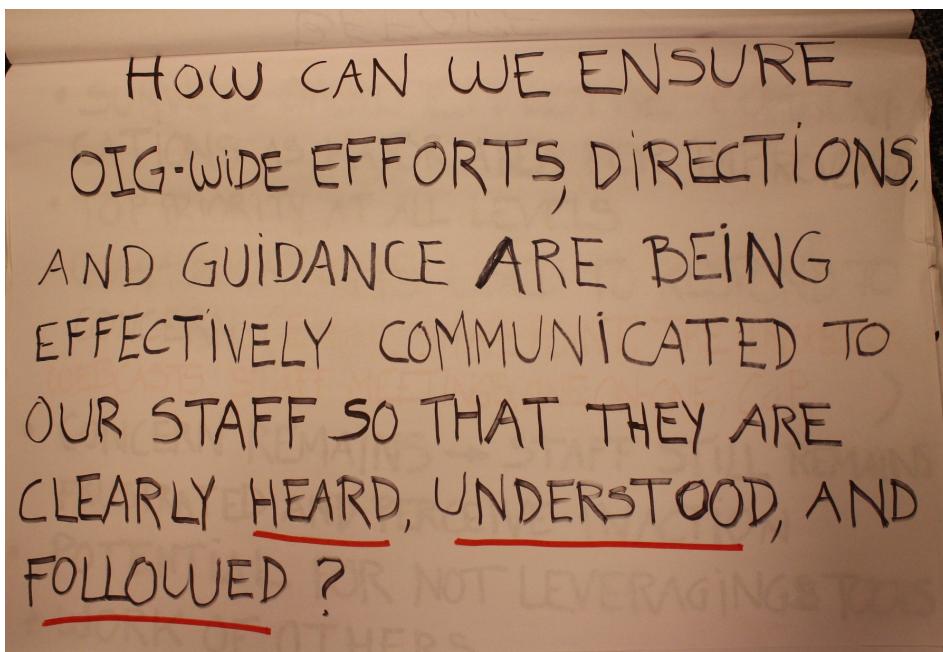
people who are by nature activists, and just get things done, differs from that which motivates those who are reflective and want to think things through, and pragmatists who must first test things out.

Ann stressed that it is important for managers to know how to get a better understanding from staff. How do you do this? "Don't be afraid to ask questions, but be sure you take the time to listen to the answers. Approach feedback as an opportunity and de-

velop it over time." Telling staff "I have 10 minutes, give me some feedback," isn't going to get what you need. Instead, solicit open feedback through balanced and regular communication.

—Jay Swartzbaugh,
Project Manager, JA-40

IN PICTURES: ROD PEREZ REVEALS HIDDEN ARTISTIC TALENTS AT SUP 2 COURSE



NOTEWORTHY

OIG IN THE NEWS

Audit May Review Port Project

June 16, 2011

[Guampdn.com](#) on a JA-50 and JA-60 audit

The federal office in charge of port expansion on Guam has had trouble doing similar work in Alaska, and the U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced it is conducting an audit.

The Department of Transportation is taking a closer look at how its Maritime Administration oversees port infrastructure projects, including the awarding and administering of contracts.

As part of that audit, the **Transportation Department's office of Inspector General** may review MARAD-run port improvement projects in Guam and Hawaii, according to a May 9 memo from **Assistant Inspector General Mitchell Behm**.

The audit comes in the wake of a troubled port improvement project in Anchorage, Ala., which has been controlled by the Maritime Administration since 2003.

The Maritime Administration since 2008 has been the lead agent for the Guam port's \$195 million modernization and expansion, but the federal office has had little experience administering port construction projects.

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

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THEINSPECTOR

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JI PRESENTS A \$9.8 MILLION SETTLEMENT CHECK TO OST AND FTA

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On June 1, 2011, [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED], presented Deputy Secretary John Porcari and Federal Transit Administration Administrator Peter Rogoff with a \$9.8 million check from Skanska USA Civil Northeast, Inc., as part of a non-prosecution agreement entered into with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan, New York. Skanska, an international project development and construction company, misused another company's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise status on DOT-funded, MTA-New York City Transit Authority projects.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 6/13	TUESDAY 6/14	WEDNESDAY 6/15	THURSDAY 6/16	FRIDAY 6/17
CAL—SUP II Kickoff (9:00 a.m., 3rd Street)	CAL—EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	ANN—Leadership Brown-bag “Motivating and Engaging your staff” (12:00—1:30 p.m.)	CAL— S2 Updates (3:30 p.m.)	

← ━━━━ TIM— on travel ━━━━ →

NOTEWORTHY

JI-2 AND JI-3 TOUR LOCAL TRACON

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On May 26, 2011, several members of the Office of Investigations' Headquarters (JI-2) and Special Investigations Unit (JI-3)—accompanied by Judy Kaleta, and Debra Rosen from OST's Office of General Counsel—visited the Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) Facility in Warrenton, Virginia. The group was given an escorted tour of the TRACON facility, which included a briefing on the entire air traffic movement within the National Airspace, the training area for TRACON controllers, and the actual operations area [a.k.a. The Starship Enterprise Bridge].

NOTEWORTHY

ANN RETURNS TO THE MID-ATLANTIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM CONFERENCE

Back by popular demand of Forum attendees and the Executive Committee members, our Deputy Inspector General, Ann Calvaresi-Barr, was the keynote speaker at the Mid-Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forum Conference in Ocean City, Maryland last Thursday. This was the second year in a row in which Ann was the keynote speaker at the Forum.

Ann's 110 minute presentation "Audit and Investigative Processes, Successes, and Challenges: How to Streamline Operations and Have Greater Impact. Perspectives from the DOT/OIG" focused on getting more "bang for our buck" and demonstrated the positive effects of having a strong audit community.

After I had the pleasure of introducing Ann to the Forum, Ann opened the presentation by playing an entertaining YOUTUBE video that Scott Florcsik recommended, titled "[Life after Death by PowerPoint](#)". The video provided quite a few laughs and put future speakers "on notice" (so to speak).

Ann discussed our mission, core values, structure, budget and staffing, and our return on investment. She also talked briefly about the responsibility of each of our organizational units.

Ann then moved into our areas of oversight focusing primarily on safety, transportation infrastructure funding, strengthening DOT's information technology, and providing timely oversight of DOT's use of funds (including ARRA) to prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement of existing and new programs.

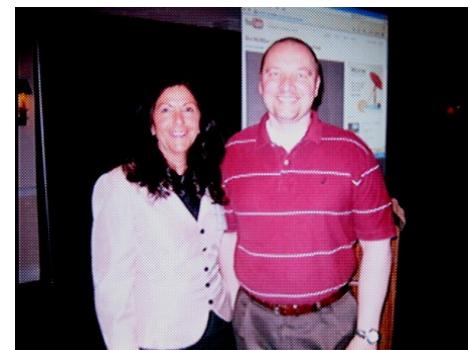
Ann talked about each of the DOT Operating Administrations and our work as it relates to their mission. Her discussion on FAA's NextGen Technologies generated quite a lively discussion among participants with numerous questions and lots of interest in the topic.

Participants were particularly interested when Ann informed them that we had a \$19 return on every dollar spent in 2010 and that for 2011, we are on pace for even better results.

As the presentation came to an end, Ann shifted her emphasis to "Maintaining a High Performing Organization" and how our leadership is accountable for maintaining our vision of "Mission First, People Always." Ann also discussed our policies, procedures, and practices and many of the successful initiatives we have developed over the past year including JA/JI coordination efforts, leadership brown bags, mentoring



Ann Calvaresi-Barr presented on "Audit and Investigative Processes, Successes, and Challenges: Perspectives from DOT/OIG."



Ann and John Sysek at the Mid-Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forum Conference.

programs, new hire orientation and "buddies," senior staff visits to field offices, communities of practice, and "The Inspector." She emphasized that an ongoing dialogue and knowledge sharing with staff at all levels is paramount to an organization's success.

(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY

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Before ending the presentation, Ann talked briefly about report writing and confirmed all of the fun associated with the process by playing [Karen Sloan's famous cat video](#). I think the cat video put Ann's presentation into the "one that everyone will remember" category.

After the presentation, many attendees talked with both Ann and I.

There were many favorable comments and everyone seemed to really have enjoyed the presentation. In addition, many of the Federal Executives in attendance expressed interest in implementing many of the initiatives Ann discussed.

As the Vice Chairman of the Forum, I truly appreciate all of the support that Ann has provided to

the group. The Forum provides a great way to promote our work products and our organizations, and I know that Ann is welcome back anytime to present at future meetings.

To view Ann's full PowerPoint presentation, click [here](#).

- John Sysak, Project Manager, JA-20,
Baltimore, MD

IG ANALYSTS AND AUDITORS ATTEND CIGIE TRAINING

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CIGIE Training attendees

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) recently completed its 2011 Introductory Auditor Training Course in Pentagon City, VA. Attendees consisted of 29 analysts and auditors from various agencies including DOE, SIGAR (Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction), DHS, and SBA. Three DOT OIG employees were in attendance: Aiesha Gillespie and Andrew Farnsworth of JA-10 Atlanta and Cordelia Bostic of JA-20 Baltimore.

The 2-week course consisted of sessions that gave an overview of federal government auditing including an Overview of GAO Government Auditing Standards, Evidence and Audit Documentation, Planning, Interviewing Techniques for Auditors, and Writing the Audit Report. Additionally, there were segments relevant to the entire IG community including Auditor Responsibilities for Detecting Fraud, Representing the Inspector General Community, Four Generations: One Workplace!, and Case Studies.

The sessions were led by various staff throughout the IG community, ranging from editors and audit directors to the USPS Deputy Assistant IG for Investigations. Ms. Phyllis K. Fong, CIGIE Chair and Inspector General for USDA, delivered the closing remarks.

In addition to classroom instruction, the class traveled to Capitol Hill where we toured the Capitol, and attended several hearings before the House and Senate. Many of us sat in the gallery of the joint meeting of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe where Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake testified.

While the instructional sessions were enriching, perhaps the most rewarding part of the training was the interaction with other members of the IG community. We shared experiences and examples from our agencies, and offered insight on how to handle different situations. Additionally, I found it beneficial that the instructors provided real-life scenarios and tips that could be helpful to us as we begin our IG careers.

-Aiesha Gillespie, Analyst,
JA-10, Atlanta

NOTEWORTHY

RIDE TO WORK WITH THE SECRETARY

Darren Buck, Marketing Specialist for FHWA, Office of Operations Headquarters, submitted an idea to the DOT IdeaHub suggesting that Secretary Ray LaHood join a group of bicycle commuters on a morning ride to work. So, on June 6, at 7:00 AM, several DOT commuter cyclists and [REDACTED] (b)(6), met Secretary LaHood at the George Washington Monument. The *ride to work with the Secretary* was a great opportunity to show the Secretary how his livability initiatives are appreciated by his own employees and to allow him to share in the experience of a bike commute trip to DOT HQ.

The ride began at the Washington Monument then proceeded down 15th Street to the Tidal Basin, down the SW Waterfront, around Ft. Myers, around the National's ballpark, and ending at USDOT headquarters main entrance. Public Affairs was on-hand to get a group photo, present Darren Buck with a token of appreciation for his suggestion to IdeaHub, and allow cyclists an opportunity to get their picture taken with the Secretary. Many of the cyclists shared their reasons for commuting to work on their bicycle; when asked, [REDACTED] (b)(6) said, "It's a lot more fun than sitting in traffic or riding the Metro."

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Former Truck-Safety Official Pleads Guilty to Bribe-Taking

June 3, 2011

[BuffaloNews.com](#) on a JRI-2 (New York) investigation

A former truck-safety supervisor for the U. S. Transportation Department pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court to bribe-taking.

Prosecutor Trini E. Ross worked on the case with agents from the Buffalo FBI office and the **Transportation Department's Office of Inspector General**.

EVA Airways Corp. Agrees to Plead Guilty and to Pay \$13.2 Million Fine for Price Fixing on Air Cargo Shipments

May 27, 2011

[US Dept. of Justice](#) on a JRI-3 (DC) investigation

According to a one-count felony charge filed today in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Taiwan-based EVA participated in a conspiracy to fix particular cargo base rates or fees charged to customers for certain international air shipments, including to and from the United States from at least as early as January 2003 until at least Feb. 14, 2006.

Today's charge is the result of a joint investigation into the air transportation industry being conducted by the Antitrust Division's National Criminal Enforcement Section, the FBI's Washington Field Office, the **Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General** and the U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General.

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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THE DEPUTY IG'S "LEFT COAST SWING" FOR STAFF OUTREACH, SUP II CLASS

*"The coldest winter I ever
spent was a summer in San
Francisco."*

Mark Twain's famous quip could easily have set the stage for the start of Ann's outreach visit to the Left (aka West) Coast. Ann's itinerary was fully packed—as were her bags—when she arrived in San Francisco on May 15 to begin her visit to the audit and investigations offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle. Showers and wind were forecast with a high of 54 and low of 49 (definitely not swimsuit weather). While it didn't rain, it was still windy and cool. Ann's first stop was the Cliff House for a relaxing Sunday afternoon before starting her busy week.

To help Ann jump start the week in San Francisco, we brought in some breakfast treats on Monday morning. Ann's week began with opening remarks for the Supervision II course (see page 5), followed by staffing meetings with the JRI-9 Investigations and JA-10 audit staff, and one-on-ones that continued the rest of

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 5/30	TUESDAY 5/31	WEDNESDAY 6/1	THURSDAY 6/2	FRIDAY 6/3
 <p>Memorial Day!</p>			CAL- S2 Updates (4:00 p.m.)	ANN- Mid-Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forum (8:00 a.m.)

Senate on Recess

NOTEWORTHY

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Following her visit to San Francisco, Ann continued on Thursday to our Los Angeles Regional Investigations Office in Cerritos, California. There, she met with Investigative staff before retiring to her hotel in Manhattan Beach for the weekend.

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Next stop: Seattle. On Monday, May 23, there was a quick meet

'n greet, followed by a staff (JA and JI) meeting, a budget meeting, and a meeting with managers. During the staff meeting, Ann laid out OIG's 2010 accomplishments, as well as plans for the future of the organization and its culture, which were well-received by staff.

The next day was filled with one-on-ones, as well as team briefings on the current jobs in the pipeline.

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NOTEWORTHY

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On Thursday, Ann conducted more one-on-ones with staff and enjoyed the lovely Seattle weather.

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— Barry DeWeese (Program Director, JA-10, San Francisco) and Henning Thiel (Analyst, JA-10, Seattle)

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

CAL'S ONE-TWO TESTIMONY PUNCH

Cal Testifies on Air Traffic Oversight

On Tuesday, May 24, Cal testified before the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. At the hearing, entitled, "Air Traffic Control Oversight," Cal—along with witnesses from FAA, the Sleep and Performance Center at Washington State University, and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association—discussed many of the issues highlighted by the recent reports of increased operational errors, as well as several controllers falling asleep while on duty. During his testimony and the question-and-answer period, Cal emphasized that no one has a clear understanding of the precise answer or answers as to why there has been an increase in the number of operational errors, but OIG is currently undertaking an audit to ascertain those answers. The full testimony statement is available on [OIG's website](#). You can view a webcast of the hearing [here](#).



Photo of Cal and Babbitt from an FAA budget testimony 2 weeks ago.

— Dave Wonnenberg, Congressional and Public Affairs Officer, J-3

Cal Testifies on Behalf of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board

Roughly 24 hours later, on Wednesday, May 25, Cal appeared as a witness—along with senior officials from OMB, DOD, SSA, and Treasury—at a Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security hearing titled, "Assessing Efforts to Eliminate Improper Payments." The hearing examined initiatives by the Administration to reduce the number of improper payments made by federal agencies, as well as the implementation of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010. The hearing also explored next steps for curbing improper payments. As Vice Chairman of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, Cal focused on the Board's successful efforts to combine law enforcement and technology to track the quick disbursement of billions in Recovery dollars and how these tools can be replicated and strengthened to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of non-Recovery dollars and programs. You can view a webcast of the hearing [here](#).



Webcast screenshot from Cal's testimony on Wednesday on "Assessing Efforts to Eliminate Improper Payments." Madeline Chulumovich can be seen sitting behind Cal to the right.

— Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, J-2

NOTEWORTHY

TRAINING HELPS TURN ORDINARY OIG MANAGERS INTO SUPER-VISORS



Deb of "Team Alexander" co-taught the SUP II class in San Francisco.

On Monday, May 16, Ann welcomed 15 OIG managers to San Francisco for the Supervisory II course. In a distinct departure from managerial training as we know it, Ann put out this challenge: *Develop action plans to move OIG toward a more*

SUP II aims to transform bureaucratic functionaries into crackerjack SUPER-visors — the kind of bosses that you dream about.

honest, open, and transparent performance-based culture. Ann provided the willing and eager (maybe a little panic-stricken)

participants with a deadline of Thursday, May 19, to present their completed plans to her.

Luckily for the class, the enthusiastic and talented consulting team of Ben and Deb Alexander was on hand to teach us all we needed to know to turn ourselves from a motley collection of plodding, bureaucratic managerial functionaries into 15 cracker-jack *SUPER*-visors—the kind of bosses that, until now, you could only dream about. As "Team Alexander" taught us, though, one doesn't become a *super*-visor just by practicing active listening skills and direct communication in a classroom setting. One also

needs to know oneself to put the "super" in supervisor.

To that end, we committed ourselves to studying effective supervisory techniques and management principles. For example, we learned how to apply Tuckman's group development model (forming, storming, norming, performing) to help us become better team leaders.

Then we endured self-assessment through the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), a model to identify preferences in four dichotomies—Introversion or Extroversion, Sensing or Intuition, Thinking or Feeling, and Perceiving or Judging—for 16 possible personality types.

ISTJ	ISFJ	INFJ	INTJ
ISTP	ISFP	INFP	INTP
ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP
ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ

Most of us agreed MBTI was scary in its accurate description of how we tend to behave, our strengths, and our weaknesses.

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 5)

For example, I discovered that I was the lone "ENFJ," otherwise known as a "smooth-talking persuader," in the class. In contrast, several participants were "ISTJs," otherwise known as "life's natural organizers," which is a classic investigative or auditing personality type.

By day 3, we were ready to take on the DIG's challenge. Divided into three teams, we set about to come up with polished action

plans that we could confidently present to Ann. To produce those plans, we practiced what we learned about team dynamics—we formed, stormed, normed, and ultimately, performed.

During the process, many found it eye-opening to examine how our behavior on our teams, and that of our colleagues, reflected the accuracy of our MBTI personality types. But proving we had made the leap from ordinary OIG

managers to crackerjack supervisors, everyone pulled together to get our action plans done for Ann and make our presentations in a timely manner.

— Chuck Ward, JA-10, Seattle

Author's Note: I smooth-talked my way into trouble from my post in JA-10 Seattle. I am presently working on an action plan for the DIG to stand up OIG's Alaska Sub (zero)-Office this coming winter for the Ice Road Trucking audit.

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NOTEWORTHY



OIG casual dress policies still apply on Jeans Wednesdays (besides the jeans rule, obviously). For more details, see PPM [Chapter 25](#).

MORALE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES JEANS WEDNESDAYS FOR THE SUMMER

The Morale Committee has been busy planning both the Summer Cookout and the Holiday party. We have learned that the price per person is going up so we are raising money to avoid raising the price. The Front Office agreed that we could offer the special summer edition of Jeans Wednesdays for this purpose.

Starting next Wednesday, June 1, through August 31, interested employees can wear jeans every Wednesday for a \$25 donation to the Morale committee. Alternatively, employees can purchase a single Jeans Wednesday for \$3.

Payments can be made to Fritz Swartzbaugh (W73-415), Jamila Mamadova (W76-436), Aisha Evans (3rd St.), and Amanda Barton (W73-436). They will distribute stickers for individual Wednesdays. Everyone who buys the whole summer will be on a list on the Morale Committee SharePoint site.

This event is subject to the usual rules about outside meetings.

— Omer Poirier, Chief Counsel, J-3

OIG IN THE NEWS

Moonlighting Blamed for Air Controller Fatigue

May 24, 2011

[Washington Post](#) on a JA-10 testimony

The subcommittee Tuesday sought explanations from Rinaldi, FAA administrator Randy Babbitt, **U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General Calvin L. Scovel III** and Greg Belenky, a sleep expert from Washington State University.

They got sharply different perspectives from Babbitt and **Scovel**, who has been asked by the committee to investigate problems in the air traffic control system.

DOT Inspector General Paints Troubling Picture of FAA and Air Traffic Controllers

May 24, 2011

[ABC News](#) on a JA-10 testimony

At a hearing on Capitol Hill Tuesday, the **Department of Transportation's Inspector General Calvin Scovel III** testified about recent problems with air traffic controllers -- everything from controllers falling asleep on the job to making operational errors that caused planes to fly too close to each other.

Scovel told the Senate subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety and Security that there are four areas that are particularly challenging for the FAA: identifying and addressing the cause of operational errors, mitigating fatigue, adequately staffing air traffic control facilities and training new controllers.

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ROBIN KOCH SPEAKS ON AVIATION WEEK PANEL



Robin Koch, (Director, JA-10, Atlanta) shared OIG's recommendations for FAA's Metroplex program at an *Aviation Week* panel last week.

On May 12, Robin Koch, JA-10 Program Director in Atlanta, participated in a panel discussion at the *Aviation Week* Air Transportation Modernization conference before representatives of FAA and the aviation industry.

The panel focused on FAA's initiative to integrate new instrument flight procedures with changes to airspace, called "Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex." Other panel mem-

bers were (b)(6)

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Members of the panel gave opening remarks on their views of the progress of Metroplex program implementation. Robin remarked that OIG thinks the Metroplex effort is an important stepping stone for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) and a way for FAA to build confidence with airspace users. However, she commented that "the current discussion about NextGen was taking place against a backdrop of increasingly tight budgets. This amplifies the need to clearly articulate the benefits of NextGen technologies with respect to enhancing operations, boosting capacity, and reducing operating costs."

Robin then went on to describe

the OIG's ongoing review of FAA's response to industry recommendations concerning NextGen implementation, with an emphasis on Metroplex efforts.

Following prepared remarks, the moderator posed a series of questions to the panelists. In response to a question about savings derived from Metroplex efforts, Robin stated that "FAA needed to make sure the savings were clearly defined and well-coordinated with key stakeholders." Feedback from the audience, following the panel session, was very positive.

Matt Hampton, JA-10 Deputy AIG, was originally scheduled to be on the panel but was called away to attend a congressional hearing held the same day. Robin was supported by her JA-10 staff in Washington, DC, consisting of Coletta Treakle (Project Manager), Ray Denmark, Claudia Estrada, Kevin Montgomery, and James Ovelmen.

- Ray Denmark,
Senior Analyst, JA-10

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 5/23	TUESDAY 5/24	WEDNESDAY 5/25	THURSDAY 5/26	FRIDAY 5/27
				Deadline to recertify for Transit Benefits Program

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majority relating to investigations. Some typical requestors include disgruntled employees, whistleblowers, people under investigation, the media, and Congress.

There are nine exemptions under FOIA, four of which most commonly apply to OIG. These include: proprietary information, agency privileges, privacy, and investigations. A federal employee's (other than law enforcement) expectation of privacy is limited. Information such as name, title, salary, duty location, and qualifications may all be released.

After a presidential memorandum in 2009, FOIA's emphasis is now on what can be released rather than what can be withheld, in the interest of promoting government transparency.

- Michelle Starkey (Auditor) and
Emily Norton (Analyst), JA-40

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: FOIA AND YOU

This afternoon, the FOIA team (Amy Berks, Angel Simmons and Barbara Hines) discussed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and how it affects OIG. Most people in OIG rarely interact with FOIA, so the presentation gave an overview of the most common aspects of FOIA and emphasized best practices.

FOIA requires government agencies to conduct reasonable searches for requested records. The agency has 20 days to respond. The requestor can appeal the response if they disagree, and they may also sue the agency in Federal court.

OIG generally receives 90 FOIA requests per year, with the vast

END SHOTS

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Cal and FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt greet each other before the hearing.



Top left: Cal answers questions posed by the Subcommittee. *Top right:* JA-10's Matt Hampton, Jeff Guzzetti, and Joe Hance seated behind Cal. *Bottom:* Larger view of hearing room in Dirksen Senate Building. The press was seated at the table to the right.

CAL AND FAA ADMINISTRATOR TESTIFY BEFORE THUD SUBCOMMITTEE

The IG and FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt testified yesterday on FAA's fiscal year 2012 budget at a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD).

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman of THUD, emphasized that FAA could not afford further

delays and mismanagement in this difficult budget environment, and asked FAA to prove that it could fulfill promises to achieve goals for its "laundry list" of programs.

Babbitt updated the Subcommittee on actions FAA has taken to address recent problems reported by the media, such as air traffic controller fatigue and un-

professionalism, and the increase in reported controller errors. Cal then delivered his statement on FAA's three major challenges: (1) addressing ongoing safety concerns, (2) managing NextGen advancement while controlling costs, and (3) maximizing airport infrastructure funding to accommodate aviation growth.

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 5/16	TUESDAY 5/17	WEDNESDAY 5/18	THURSDAY 5/19	FRIDAY 5/20
CAL– Updates with S2 (1:00 p.m.)	CAL– EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) BRIAN– CIGIE Mtg. (9:30 a.m.)		COP Presents “FOIA and You” (DOT Media Center, 2:00 p.m.)	
	ANN on travel to San Francisco, LA, Seattle			

ANN on travel to San Francisco, LA, Seattle	House on Recess
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(Continued from page 1)

Cal fielded a few questions on various FAA programs, air traffic controller placement, and controller errors. However, Subcommittee members directed the majority of questions to Babbitt. Throughout the questioning, Babbitt reiterated FAA's commitment to safety and contended that the Senate should reconsider any attempts to reduce FAA's budget. According to Babbitt, an inde-

pendent study found that NextGen could have an \$879 billion impact on the economy. "If you delay NextGen implementation by just 5 years," Babbitt said, "it reduces the benefits [of NextGen] by \$148 billion."

For more information on the hearing, see Cal's [full testimony](#) on OIG's website.

— Christina Lee, JA-60

“One day, we'll be charged to go to the lavatory. We won't pay to go in, but we'll have to pay to get out.”

—SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ) commenting on excessive airline fees during yesterday's FAA budget hearing.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OVER...

Cal's upcoming back-to-back hearing lineup:

May 24—on **FAA air traffic controller issues** before the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation.

May 25—on **curbing improper payments**, presented on behalf of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Security.

NOTEWORTHY

OIG'S NEW EXPERT WORKS WITH TEAMS TO HELP KEEP AUDITS ON TRACK

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OIG IN THE NEWS

Inspector general says air traffic controller errors up over 50 percent, reasons unclear

By Associated Press, Updated: Thursday, May 12, 1:13 PM

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Department's in-house watchdog said Thursday it isn't clear why air traffic controller errors soared by 53 percent last year, but inexperience could explain it in large part.

Inspector General Calvin Scovel told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee the Federal Aviation Administration has placed large numbers of inexperienced controllers at some of the nation's busiest and most complex air traffic facilities.

NOTEWORTHY

PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE HOSTS PANEL ON OIG, IRS, SEC SUCCESSES

On Wednesday, May 11, Ann participated in a panel session at the Partnership for Public Service's Event of Excellence before executives and emerging leaders from over 20 Federal agencies.

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The Partnership singled out OIG, IRS, and SEC as higher performing organizations. Results from OPM's 2010 Employee Viewpoint Survey as well as each agency's employee feedback survey showed marked improvements in five key areas for motivating and engaging employees:

- A positive work environment
- Recognition
- Development opportunities
- Meaningful work
- Effective leadership

Members on the panel—entitled, "When Money Doesn't Pay: Motivating Employees during Tight Times"—shared stories about specific actions their respective organizations have taken to motivate and retain employees. Panelists identified common themes of leadership, communication, and involving staff in the action planning process, which in turn provided good insight for facilitated table discussions and Q&A.



Ann said, "I was proud and delighted to showcase OIG operations and initiatives. OST officials at the conference said they are working closely with OIG to further the progress DOT has made under Secretary LaHood."

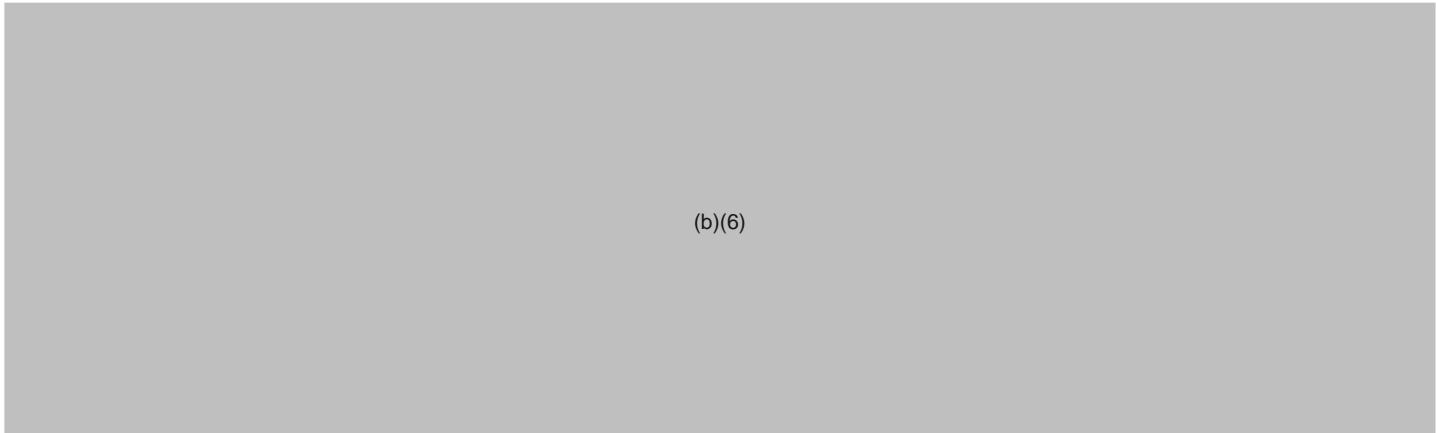
After the conference, Ann learned from organizers that feedback from attendees and Partnership staff were extremely positive. Way to go!

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EMPLOYEE PROFILE

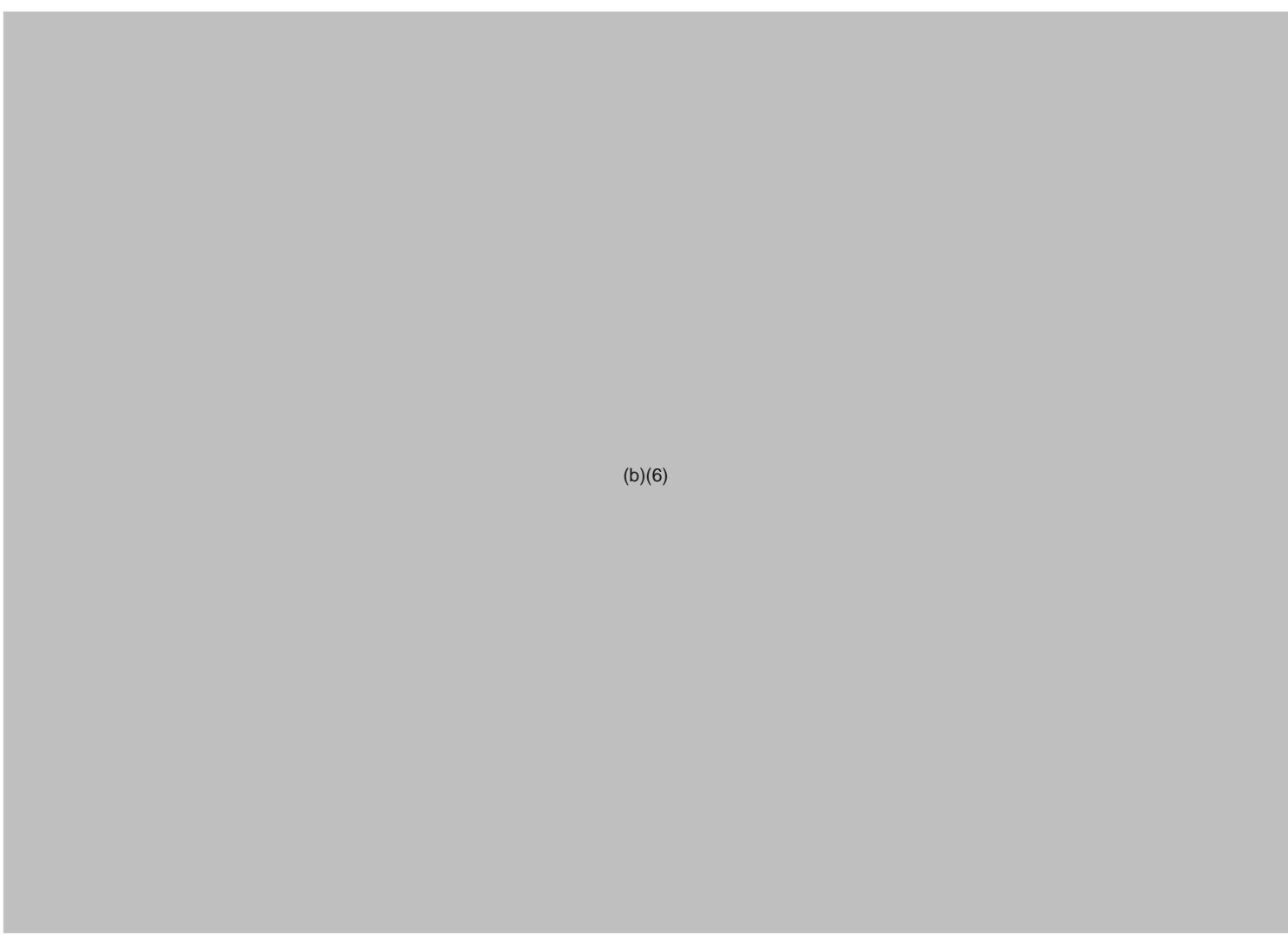
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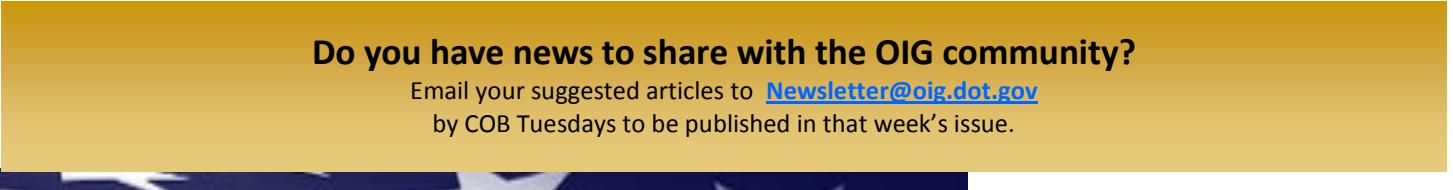


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COMINGS & GOINGS



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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Louis King—New AIG for JA-20



Tom Yatsco— New Deputy AIG for JA-40

THERE'S A NEW AIG AND A NEW DEPUTY IN TOWN

Cal recently announced Louis King as our new AIG for Financial and Information Technology Audits (JA-20), and Tom Yatsco as Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Highway and Transit Audits (JA-40).

Louis has been a Program Director with OIG for 3 years. He previously worked at Treasury's OIG and GAO on financial and IT audits. "Audits, audits, and more audits," Louis sighs. At Treasury, Louis lost count of the number of financial audits he directed, managed, or procured to ensure coverage of Treasury's \$10 trillion in assets and liabilities. He also

took over the IT audit directorship and started his information security career.

At GAO, Louis worked on a range of large to small financial audits. Auditing anywhere from \$100 billion in claims against defunct and failing savings and loan associations to small Capitol Hill entities, he nurtured his passion for preparing workpapers, attending meetings, and rewriting audit reports.

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(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 5/9	TUESDAY 5/10	WEDNESDAY 5/11	THURSDAY 5/12	FRIDAY 5/13
	ANN – Sup I Kickoff (8:30 a.m.) CAL – EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CAL – Updates with S2 (3:30 p.m.)			

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

Tom has been a Program Director at OIG for more than 5 years. Tom quips that for a period of time, his title should have been "Random Disaster Response Guy," as he worked on a seemingly never-ending series of audits concerning transportation catastrophes, including the Big Dig and the Minnesota bridge. Tom also led our Recovery Act phase 1 and phase 2 work.

Before OIG, Tom worked at GAO on military and veterans health care issues; the District of Columbia's fiscal position; intergovernmental relations; and key national indicators, which culminated in "a personal record 175-page report." According to Tom, "the dangerous, back-breaking work at GAO took me to hardship locations like Brussels, London, and Hawaii twice."

Tom also worked for a year the Department of Health and Hu-

man Services in the Secretary's Executive Secretariat. "My time at HHS was spent writing 1-page cover memos and inserting documents in colored folders. The most complicated part of my job was determining whether something was *really* important and needed to go in the red IMMEDIATE ATTENTION folder."

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Tom says he is looking forward to leveraging our recent process and writing improvements, and making OIG even better. "Stop by my new office anytime. The Bekins truck is supposed to show up soon, and I've already contracted an interior decorator."

Congrats to Louis and Tom!

NOTEWORTHY

One Down, One to Go



Cal testifying at a prior hearing

What is it about spring that makes Congress ask us for back-to-back testimonies on our work? This spring, the authorization and appropriations committees asked for sweeping statements on our completed and ongoing work on DOT's ARRA spending and FAA's budget. Pulling together the statements has involved staff from all the JAs, JI, J3, several regions, four writers, as well as the front office.

Chairman Mica set the tone for Wednesday's ARRA hearing emphasizing his frustration with the delays in getting dollars out for infrastructure. "This will go down in history as one of the greatest failures of a government program to stimulate the economy that mankind has ever created." Cal, the first witness, spoke on weaknesses we have identified in jobs data reporting and grantee project and financial management; the continued need to proactively combat fraud, waste, and abuse; and the challenges DOD faces in implementing HSIPR and TIGER.

Cal responded with hard-hitting and succinct answers to both the committee members' and the other witnesses' questions, including the DOT Undersecretary for Policy. On the subject of fraud, Cal noted that little fraud has been found, due to the Department's diligent fraud awareness and prevention efforts. Before closing, Cal was questioned about our suspension and debarment work. After reiterating our findings from January of last year, the DOT Undersecretary for Policy noted that this is an area that the Secretary is eager to resolve.

The following link takes you to the hearing (Cal's statement starts just past the 31-minute mark): <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=1250>

With one testimony behind him, Cal is turning his attention to his next testimony—on FAA's budget, scheduled for May 12.

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The next Community of Practice event will be on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 2 p.m. in the DOT Media Center.

Amy Berks and staff from J-3 will be discussing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Attendees will be given 1 CPE for attending, and will be able to register through TMS (stay tuned for details). We hope to see you there!

OIG IN THE NEWS

Cross-Border Trucking:

Why All the Fuss?

May 1, 2011

(*Commercial Carrier Journal* on a JA-40 audit)

<http://www.ccjdigital.com/jeff-crissey-13/>

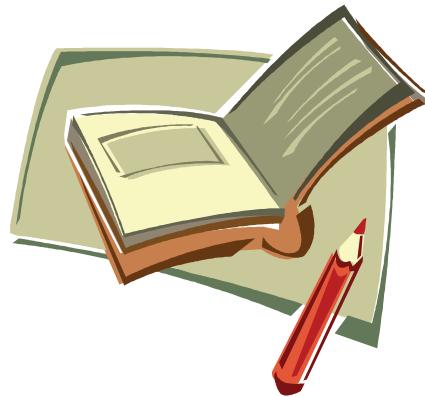
When the last cross-border trucking demonstration project between the United States and Mexico was announced in 2007, it was met with fierce opposition from some industry groups claiming thousands of U.S. driver jobs would be lost, the safety of the U.S. motoring public would be jeopardized and that Mexican carriers would haul domestic freight illegally. Despite the gripes, the program ran for more than one and a half years before federal funding was pulled and the pilot program came to a screeching halt in March 2009.

FMCSA's vetting process during the first pilot program eliminated all but the highest-performing Mexican carriers. While the sample size was small, the program didn't yield a single recordable accident. In the one-year period measured by **DOT's Office of Inspector General**, driver and vehicle out-of-service rates for Mexican carriers were much lower than U.S. carriers.

OIG BY THE NUMBERS

Since October 1, 2010

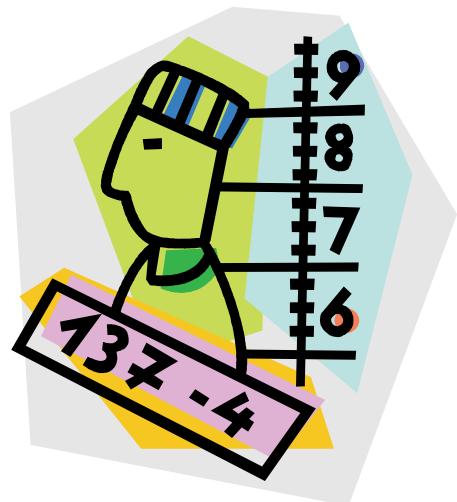
**72 reports with
a total of 221
recommendations**

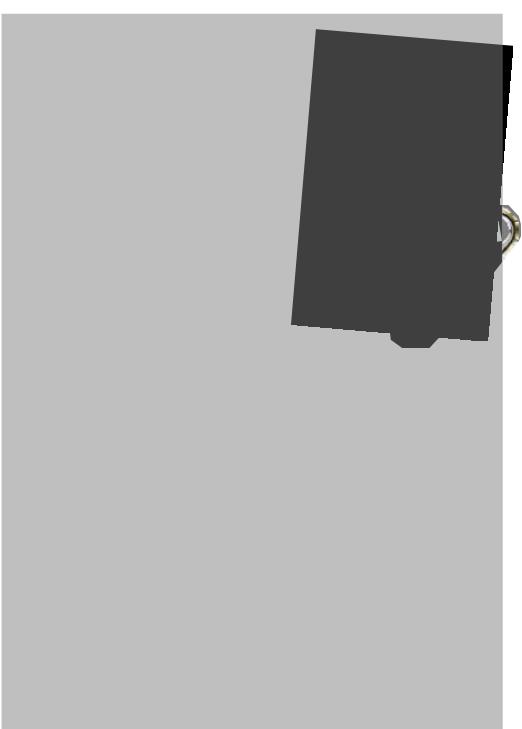


**Financial
Recommendations
totaling over
\$1.6 billion**

**35 indictments, 35
convictions**

**More than \$225
million in fines,
restitutions, and
recoveries**



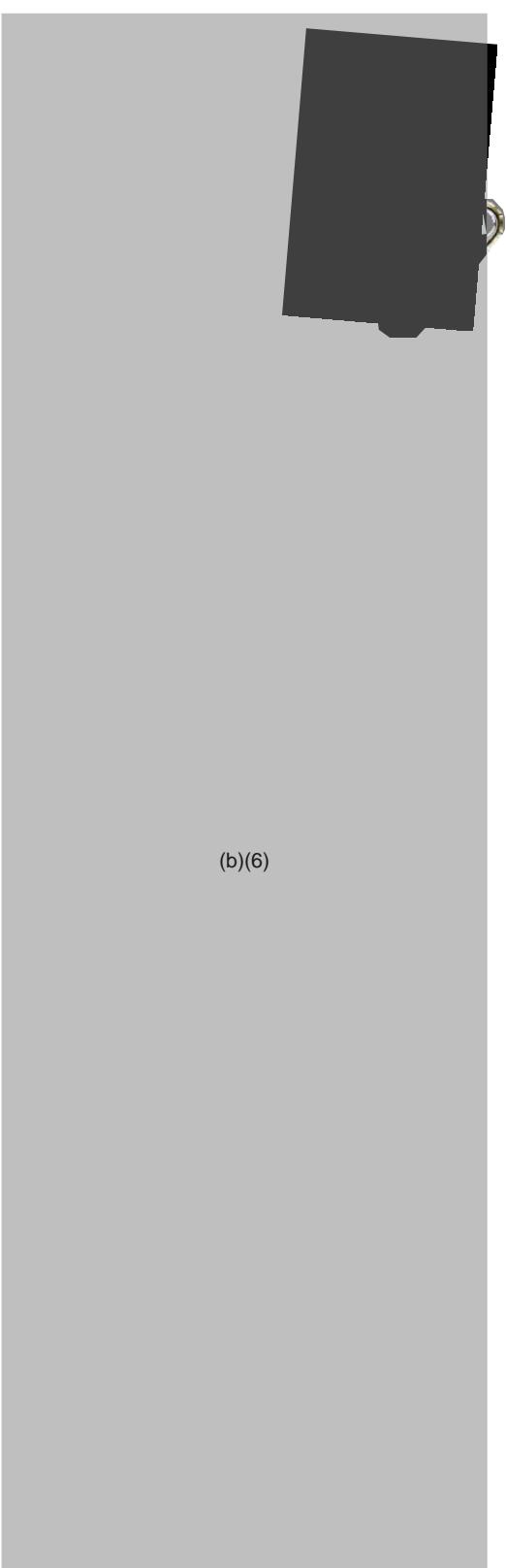


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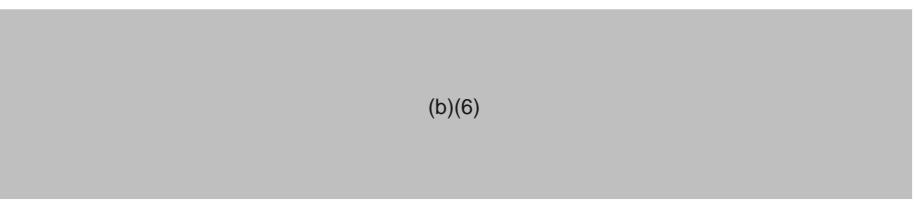


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COMINGS & GOINGS



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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Cal, Madeline Chulumovich, and Michelle McVicker at mentoring training.

MENTORING PROGRAM MAKES ITS MARK

There has been a lot of action going on behind the scenes before our OIG-wide mentoring program officially starts on May 2. Over 100 mentees and mentors attended training during the past 2 weeks to learn more about our 6-month pilot program, which includes one-to-one mentoring and group mentoring. "Being a Mentor at OIG," helped mentors learn skills for successful mentoring and become more comfortable answering questions or resolving problems that

may arise in a mentoring partnership. "How to Get the Most Out of Your OIG Mentoring Experience," helped mentees understand their and their mentor's roles and responsibilities and provided tips for getting as much as possible from their mentoring arrangements.

Cal or Ann kicked off each of the seven sessions, sharing the benefits of mentoring to OIG, such as retaining talent, offering current and future role models, and facilitating the sharing of organiza-

tional and job knowledge. Both emphasized that the mentor is not the mentee's advocate, as well as the importance of confidentiality. Cal and Ann thanked the mentees and mentors for supporting the mentoring program and emphasized that they, through the pilot program, are responsible for bringing life to this new program and sustaining it going forward.

Each mentee who requested one-to-one mentoring has been

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 4/18	TUESDAY 4/19	WEDNESDAY 4/20	THURSDAY 4/21	FRIDAY 4/22
	ANN – Sup I Kickoff (8:30 a.m.) CAL – EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CAL – Updates with S2 (3:30 p.m.)			

(Continued from page 1)

matched with a mentor. One criterion we used for matching was that a mentor could not be in the same office as the mentee—if the mentee was from JA-40 his/her mentor could not be from JA-40m regardless of location.

The names and profiles of two mentors were provided to each mentee based on the mentee's preferences, and the mentee selected one of the two. Many mentees have already met with their mentors and are well on their way to establishing a relationship.

In addition to offering one-to-one mentoring, we are offering all mentees group mentoring. In a mentoring group, one or two experienced mentors lead a group of mentees (up to 12 mentees) to help them ex-

plore specific development issues in an ongoing, interactive arrangement. Group mentoring is an opportunity to learn from one's peers. There are five mentoring groups and nine group leaders—two groups of GS 7/11s; two groups of GS 12/13s and one group of GS 14s. The leaders of these groups are shown below.

We plan to have the Group Mentoring session begin in May so be on the lookout for an e-mail notifying you of your group and the date of your first meeting. You can find additional information on OIG's Mentoring Program on the Mentoring SharePoint site <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/default.aspx>.

GS 7/11	Madeline Chulumovich and Andrea Kropf Barry DeWeese and (b)(6)
GS 12/13	Dan Raville and Max Smith Dan Raville and Bob Westbrooks
GS 14	Ann Calvaresi-Barr and (b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

OHR HOSTS IG HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICERS' ROUNDTABLE



(b)(6)

More than 20 Human Resource Directors from the IG Community met on Wednesday, April 20 in the DOT Conference Center. Connie Harshaw and the HR staff hosted the meeting. The IG opened the meeting and welcomed the directors. He spoke on the value of having the group meet quarterly to share ideas and concerns that are unique to the IG community.

Among the topics discussed by the directors were hiring reform, training and development of auditors and investigators, developing a shared website that would be hosted by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and the enhanced telework requirements.

Susan Dailey shared a message on how the directors could manage expectations from top management, and Omer Poirier presented information on how the IG Reform Act impacts HR operations.

NOTEWORTHY

LAUREN MALMON RECOGNIZED FOR MENTORING PROGRAM



Cal presented Lauren Malmon with a crystal plaque for developing a robust, customized, and sustainable mentoring program at the OIG. Picture with Cal and Lauren are Michelle McVicker, Ann, and Madeline.

DIG'S LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG ON MANAGING CHAOS AND CONFLICT

The April 26 Leadership Brown Bag was well-attended in person and by videoconference. The premise of the session was that chaos and conflict will occur in the workplace, but it is how organization leaders respond to and manage those situations that will determine how chaos or conflict affect the organization, its mission, and staff morale.

Much of the discussion centered on the concept of conflict management styles and the steps leaders can take to resolve conflict and lead teams successfully through chaos. OIG employees who have participated in the MBTI Team Building training may recognize these five typical conflict management styles.

Collaborating	Win-win
Compromising	Win some, lose some
Accommodating	I lose, you win
Competing	I win, you lose
Avoiding	No one wins, no one loses; you hope the issue just goes away



Ann asked each of us to reflect on which of these techniques we used most often and which techniques were best in what types of situations.

(Continued on page 5)

OIG IN THE NEWS

I took away three main points from the discussion:

1. Prepare for success, not chaos. A manager's goal should be to demonstrate by demeanor and words to coworkers and employees that chaos can be managed and that you will help them do so.
2. Make sure you understand the source of the conflict—whether work, people, or process—before attempting to resolve it. If you spend energy and time resolving the wrong issue, you will be frustrated at the end to learn the conflict still exists!
3. Find ways to manage your reactions to stress, conflict, and chaos and you will be a better leader when conflict and chaos emerge. For some participating in the discussion that meant finding time to work off stress at the gym; for others, it was a matter of mentally putting issues aside and seeing if they seemed less problematic the next day, and many used music, visualization techniques, or simply closing the door to clear their mind.

Finally, all employees can benefit from considering and utilizing the following Conflict Resolution Strategies that Ann provided in advance of the brown bag:

Learn how to be neutral, stay calm, quell the storm.

Try not to take things personally.

Let people know when and if they have disrespected you; do so in a helpful way.

Remember that hurt people often hurt people—be the example, don't become the example.

Ask for what you need.

Be part of the solution by offering suggestions—become a partner/owner of the situation.

Suspend judgment and be professionally honest.

Recognize that people are doing the best they can with what they know.

Attack the problem, not the person.

Simplicity is best—treat others as you want to be treated.

The next Leadership Brown Bag will be on "Motivating and Engaging Your Staff." Stayed tuned for the date and time.

—Amy Berks, J3

Aircraft Maintenance in America: Who is Fixing My Plane?

April 6, 2011

(Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO report mentions several JA-10 audits)

http://www.tdu.org/files/TWUAirMaint_Report.pdf

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT) has audited the FAA's capacity to oversee more than 1,000 licensed repair facilities around the world, and the results are disturbing. In the latest OIG report, out of eight major airline FAA inspection offices in the U.S., four accomplished less than 50% of their assigned inspection duties.

DOT OIG on Twitter

April 4, 2011

(Twitter.com on a JA-20 audit)

<http://twitter.com/DOTInspectorGen/status/54921176119644160>

Audit Initiated on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Purchase Card Program

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(b)(6)

COP PRESENTS “FIRST IN, LAST OUT: OIG’S COMPUTER CRIMES UNIT”

This month’s Community of Practice hosted the six-member OIG Computer Crimes Unit (CCU), which discussed its cutting edge work. CCU is led by [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)c [REDACTED], (b)(6), (b)(7)c and is comprised of [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)c

[REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)c

, (b)(6), (b)(7)c

CCU took shape 4 years ago, with most of the team stationed at our 3rd Street office. The team's core focuses are: **operational activity**, such as providing forensics support for JI cases and conducting investigations of cyber crimes and malware (malicious software); **liaison and coordination**

with the Department and the FBI; and **research and development** to keep current with technology—if criminals are using it, so must CCU!

CCU works with massive amounts of digital data, and its powerful servers can quickly process data. The team currently holds 34 terabytes on open cases. To put this in perspective, the Hubble space telescope has collected 10 terabytes of data over the past 10 years, and all the digital informa-

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 4/18	TUESDAY 4/19	WEDNESDAY 4/20	THURSDAY 4/21	FRIDAY 4/22
Mentor Training	CAL, BRIAN– CIGIE Mtg. (9:30 a.m.) Mentor training	CAL, ANN, TIM & LOU– Quarterly Mtg. with IG/ FAA (11:00 a.m.) Mentee Training		

CONGRESS– RECESS

(Continued from page 1)

tion in the Library of Congress can be contained in 10 terabytes.

CCU's work is crucial as "paper trails" have turned into "digital trails" and information is captured in e-mails, Blackberrys, and computers. As technology changes, CCU's methods must change and digital evidence must be able to stand in court.

Our CCU is at the forefront in the OIG community, especially with its use of forensic servers. Forensic servers create a safe and secure virtualized environment on a DOT OIG assigned computer and network where case agents can review their data. Previously, digital evidence was not fully exploited in cases, but now agents and investigators can take advantage of CCU's technology to identify potential digital evidence.



CCU's work in the cyber area demonstrates the effects of not complying with policies and regulations and examples from their work can be used to support audit findings. While much of CCU's work supports JI investigations, it also offers audit assistance. CCU and JA-20 are currently working together on cyber issues. CCU also assists JM-40 with incident response when OIG computers are suspected to be compromised.

When it comes to computer crimes, CCU is first in and last out. CCU team members are pre-

sent at the start of every search warrant, and first in the door to try to ensure no one deletes digital evidence. Team members are often last out the door after a search because the amount of digital evidence they have to forensically copy can take a long time.

CCU recently hosted a meeting with the CIGIE Computer Crimes community to share best practices and showcase its phenomenal work in the computer forensics arena (see article on page 4).

More details on the Computer Crimes Unit can be found on the [CCU Sharepoint page](#). A video of the COP event and presentation slides can be found on the [COP SharePoint page](#).

—Emily Norton, Analyst, JA-40

NOTEWORTHY



Council of the **INSPECTORS GENERAL** *on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY*

ONE BIG ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNITY

On April 11, 2011, Cal and I attended the annual CIGIE-GAO coordination meeting, hosted by GAO. The half-day meeting began with a welcome from the Comptroller General, Gene Dodaro, and the CIGIE Chair, Phyllis Fong, USDA Inspector General. The meeting's discussion panels covered the following topics:

GAO's *High Risk Report* and follow-up activities.

GAO's response to P.L. 111-139 on identifying and eliminating duplicative and wasteful spending.

The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board's Recovery Funds Working Group activities.

The heightened interest and requirements for identifying and controlling improper payments.

The Dodd-Frank bill that tasks GAO with conducting an assessment of the IGs' effectiveness.

GAO/CIGIE successes and opportunities for future collaboration.

Throughout the morning, we were able to offer insights on the many of the topics discussed—validating our strong belief that our work processes and products are cutting edge and position us as leaders in the IG community. For example, in response to questions about how to best identify high-risk areas or top management challenges, we discussed the criteria we developed 2 years ago to guide our selection, keep topics current, and inform others of our justification. We also noted that we make the criteria transparent by including them in the TMC foreword.

In response to comments about the increasing concern and White House interest in improper payments, Cal highlighted our June 2009 ARRA Advisory, in which we reported that DOT's fiscal year 2008 improper payment testing was not credible due to extremely small sample sizes and the lack of randomness in sample selection. The OIGs and GAO were keenly interested in our approach of assessing agencies' statistical sampling techniques and our efforts to identify oversight weaknesses that increase the risk

of improper payments.

We learned that in response to the Dodd-Frank bill, GAO plans to survey OIGs, asking for information over a 3-year period. We will be able to report on our combined JA/JI ROI, TMC and related work, staffing and resources, and use of tools from the 2008 Reform Act—much of which can be found in our SAR. Cal and I again believe we are well positioned to respond to the survey and will come out favorably. GAO said that it plans this to be an informational report and unless trends of concern arise, it does not plan to make recommendations. We will see!

Finally, during Cal's panel on the activities of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, Phyllis Fong congratulated Cal for being named Vice Chair of the board—a recent development that many of you may not be aware of. As Phyllis put it, there was no question that Cal would be on the top of the selectee list for this appointment. So join me in congratulating Cal on this designation.

—Ann Calvaresi-Barr, DIG

NOTEWORTHY

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COMPUTER CRIMES UNIT HOSTS CIGIE IT MEETING

It's been a busy week for OIG's Computer Crimes Unit (CCU). In addition to presenting at this month's COP, CCU hosted a CIGIE IT Investigations Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee is a multi-agency collaboration of computer forensic and cyber investigators who facilitate effective IT audits, evaluations, and investigations by IGs and provide a vehicle for the expression of the IG community's perspective on government-wide IT operations. At the CIGIE IT meeting, CCU demonstrated its network server environment that is used to support investigation reviews and forensic analyses of digital evidence. The DOT OIG CCU leads the community in this area, and other IGs are interested in developing this capability to support their investigations and audits.

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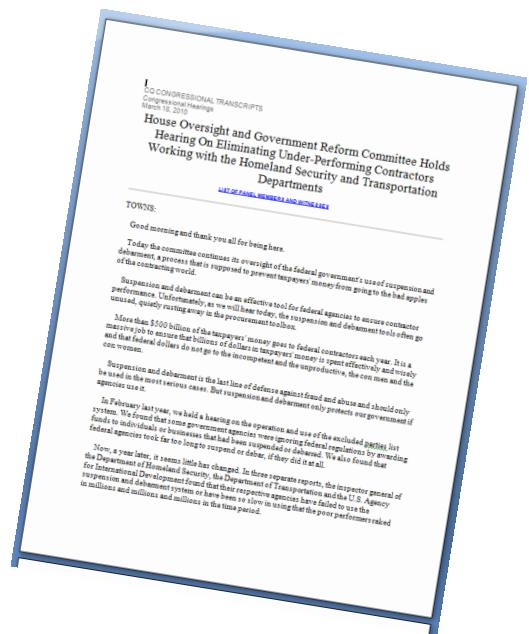
WHERE TO FIND CONGRESSIONAL HEARING TRANSCRIPTS

When an official from DOT testifies before Congress, many on the OIG team find it useful to know what was said in prepared remarks, and more critically, what answers the witnesses provided in response to committee member questions. Within a few days following such a hearing, we often are able to track down unofficial transcripts of those hearings. Your friendly neighborhood J3 team posts these transcripts [here on our Share Point page](#).

Please bookmark the page or add it to your favorites for a return visit. You can also be notified when items are added to a particular page or file by clicking on the "Actions" tab immediately above the documents and selecting "Alert Me."

Happy transcript reading!

—Dave Wonnenberg, Congressional and Public Affairs Office, J-3



NOTEWORTHY

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S RE-ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT PROMPTS NEW HATCH ACT GUIDANCE

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has published [new guidance](#) on displaying pictures of President Obama in the federal workplace now that he is an official candidate for reelection. Passed in 1939, the Hatch Act bars federal employees from supporting or opposing any political candidate, party, or group while on duty in government space and at other designated times and places. It also includes an absolute ban on partisan political fundraising.

Displaying images of political candidates may be considered partisan political activity. According to OSC, appropriate images of the President can be of two types: official photographs, and photographs in which you appear with the President. The official portrait of the President that is typically displayed in Federal buildings is permitted because it depicts the President in his role as the Head of State. However, images of the President displayed by individual Federal employees in the Federal workplace must meet **ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- The President must be conducting official business (i.e., meeting with heads of state, signing legislation).
- Displayed in a "traditional size and manner."
- Not altered in any way (e.g., the addition of halos or horns).
- Not distributed by the candidate's campaign or a partisan organization like the Democratic National Committee or Organizing for America, even if they depict the candidate performing an official act.
- Not downloaded from the Internet, clipped from printed sources, or from computer screen savers.

Pictures in which you appear with the candidate have different criteria; talk to Seth Kaufman or Fritz Swartzbaugh for clarification on these or any other matters related to ethics or the Hatch Act. You can also view additional [Hatch Act materials](#) on the Intranet if you have any general questions regarding its requirements.

—Erik Roy Kelly, Undergraduate Legal Intern, J-3

CFC KEY WORKERS RECOGNIZED BY SECRETARY

The CFC Committee was recognized recently for their efforts by Secretary LaHood. Cal handed out certificates of recognition to the team.

Congratulations, Key Workers!



Official photographs of Presidents are permitted.

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NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

OIG IN THE NEWS

DOT Audits Aviation and Special Programs

April 12, 2011

(*aviationtoday.com* on a JA-10 audit)
http://www.aviationtoday.com/asw/topstories/DOT-Audits-Aviation-and-Special-Programs_73018.html

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Inspector General began a review April 8 of FAA Aviation Safety Inspector (ASI) and Operations Research Analyst (ORA) staffing at Part 121 air carriers as directed by Congress in the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010, DOT announced April 7.

DOT's OIG To Audit The FAA's Contract Tower Program

April 11, 2011

(*avstop.com* on a JA-10 audit)
http://avstop.com/april_2011/dot_oig_to_audit_the_faa_s_contract_tower_program.htm

The **Office of Inspector General** plans to review the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Contract Tower Program. Beginning with a pilot program in 1982 that has since expanded, the FAA has been engaged in converting FAA-operated low-activity air traffic control towers to contract operations and instituting a cost-sharing program with local communities.

No evidence of automaker influence at federal safety agency, investigator says

April 8, 2011

(*washingtonpost.com* on a JA-10 letter)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/no-evidence-of-automaker-influence-at-federal-safety-agency-investigator-says/2011/04/08/AFa0hi3C_story.html

At least 38 employees of the U.S. agency responsible for auto safety have left to take jobs in the auto industry or vice versa over the past 11 years. But there is no evidence that this "revolving door" between government and the private sector enabled automakers to have improper influence at the agency, the **inspector general at the Department of Transportation** has determined.

The investigation was called after a federal review of "unintended acceleration" in Toyota vehicles revealed that [two former officials with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) had taken jobs with Toyota, where they sought to limit agency investigations.

...

In a report to the senators who had asked for the inquiry, Inspector General [Calvin L. Scovel III](#) wrote that he found "no evidence suggesting undue influence or pressure on NHTSA's employees conducting safety defect investigations."

Aircraft Maintenance in America: Who is Fixing My Plane?

April 6, 2011

(*Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO* report mentions several JA-10 audits)

http://www.tdu.org/files/TWUAirMaint_Report.pdf

The **Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT)** has audited the FAA's capacity to oversee more than 1,000 licensed repair facilities around the world, and the results are disturbing. In the latest OIG report, out of eight major airline FAA inspection offices in the U.S., four accomplished less than 50% of their assigned inspection duties.

DOT OIG on Twitter

April 4, 2011

(*Twitter.com* on a JA-20 audit)

<http://twitter.com/DOTInspectorGen/status/54921176119644160>

Audit Initiated on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Purchase Card Program

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

DO YOU KNOW?



Last week, TI staff were asked why DOT displays the POW flag. JA-50's Matt Williams (the only person who responded) e-mailed us his best guess:

"I got curious and looked it up in the CFR (Code of Federal Regulations). My best guess as to why the DOT flies the flag is that DOT is responsible for running the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. In wartime, the Merchant Marine serves as an auxiliary to the U.S. Navy."

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ONE LETTER, DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS...



Thanks to last week's April Fools issue of *The Inspector*, which marked the newsletter's 1-year anniversary, I've been hearing a lot of laughter around the office. *The Inspector* is back to business this week with a story on a letter that I sent to Congressmen Issa, Mica, and Grassley on our analysis of the facts surrounding the departure of Amtrak's former Inspector General. The letter isn't necessarily cover story material, but the media's perspective on the story shows that it was subject to several interpretations.

The three articles excerpted here underscore the importance of our comprehensive analytic and review processes. Despite their varying perspectives, we can be confident that our pitch-perfect letter will stand up to scrutiny—now and in the future. Special thanks to the team that put many hours into investigating and reporting on this sensitive matter: Nicole Angarella, Nick Coates, Ron Engler, Omer Poirier, Nathan Richmond, Karen Sloan, and Brian Uryga.

Cal

From *The Washington Times*:

REPORT FAULTS AMTRAK EXECS OVER INSPECTOR GENERAL'S FIRING

Top Amtrak officials failed to give "adequate consideration" to a federal mandate to inform Congress before they removed the rail service's long-time inspector general in 2009, according to a new independent review.

...

"Although the (Amtrak) board was aware of congressional interest and considered consulting Congress prior to its decision, it elected not to and treated the decision to replace its inspector general in the same manner as any other Amtrak senior executive," [Mr. Scovel] wrote.

From *CQ Today*:

AMTRAK SKIRTED CONGRESS IN DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL, REPORT SAYS

Amtrak may not have violated a law intended to give Congress a chance to review the removal of an inspector general, but it did not honor the spirit of that law either, the Transportation Department's inspector general said Thursday.

...

John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., suggested that Thursday's letter from the Transportation inspector general exonerates Amtrak Chairman Thomas Carper and General Counsel Eleanor Acheson. Grassley, Issa and Mica had suggested those officials should be fired for their role in the incident.

From *National Journal*:

AMTRAK INSPECTOR LOBBIED INAPPROPRIATELY, ROCKEFELLER SAYS

It's considered outside the bounds of an independent government inspector to lobby Congress on legislation, but Amtrak's former inspector general has been accused of that by the Transportation Department's inspector general and Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

...

A spokesman for Issa noted that the DOT IG's letter is clear on the point that Congress wasn't given appropriate notice about Weiderhold's removal. "What Sen. Rockefeller describes as 'necessary steps' to remove Mr. Weiderhold, the Department of Transportation IG described as a failure by Amtrak officials to properly consult with Congress that was contrary to the intentions of the Inspector General Act."

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 4/11	TUESDAY 4/12	WEDNESDAY 4/13	THURSDAY 4/14	FRIDAY 4/15
ANN– CIGIE-GAO Annual Coordination Meeting (8:30 a.m.)	CAL– SUP II Kickoff– Atlanta (9:00 a.m.) COP: “First In, Last Out: OIG’s Computer Crimes Unit” (2:00 p.m.)			

NOTEWORTHY

FAST APPROACHING MENTORING PROGRAM DATES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| By Friday, April 8 | Mentor Participation and Profile Templates Due |
| By Friday, April 8 | Mentee Forms Due |
| By Thursday, April 13 | Mentor-Mentee Matches Are Made and Mentees Are Notified |
| Monday, April 18 | Mentor Training at 3 rd Street |
| Tuesday, April 19 | Mentor and Group Mentoring Training at 3 rd Street |
| Wednesday, April 20 | Mentee Training at 3 rd Street |
| Monday, May 2 | Mentoring Begins!!!!!!!!!!!!!! |

For further information on how to participate in the mentoring program, please visit <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/mentoring/default.aspx>

OIG MENTORING PROGRAM CONSIDERED A "MODEL" FOR DOT

On Tuesday, Ann and Lauren Malmon along with six other DOT senior leaders, served on a mentoring panel for the 2011 DOT Professional Career Day. Ann and Lauren discussed the impetus behind and the elements of our mentoring program.

By the end of the session, our mentoring program, which officially begins the week of May 2, was being touted as the "model" for DOT.

NOTEWORTHY

COP PRESENTS “FIRST IN, LAST OUT: OIG’S COMPUTER CRIMES UNIT”

The next Community of Practice event will be "First In, Last Out: OIG's Computer Crimes Unit" on **Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at 2 p.m. in the DOT Media Center.**

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will discuss our Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) and how they can assist you. The event will include a Q&A session.

We anticipate offering 1 CPE for event attendance. This event will be available by webcast, but we encourage those in headquarters to join us in the DOT Media Center to provide our speakers with a strong audience. We hope to see you there!



PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

On March 23, 2011, I provided Fraud Awareness and Prevention Training to approximately 25 state and Federal pipeline safety inspectors at the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City. The 4-hour block of instruction was part of the Pipeline Safety Regulation Application and Compliance Course. I have been conducting this training for PHMSA for more than 10 years, mostly by default, since at the time I was one of the few within JI who actually worked a pipeline investigation.

The main objective of the course is to enable inspectors, who are our eyes and ears in the field, to identify fraud indicators and be better equipped to handle situations that involve fraudulent acts. The training includes highlighting applicable Federal criminal violations, including Title 49, USC 60123, which pertains to knowing and willful violations of the Pipeline Safety Act, along with other environmental and general criminal violations. I also taught a crash course on interviewing techniques, which included showing the inspectors how to evaluate deception by interpreting body language, eye contact, and other physical clues. The inspectors also learned the proper handling of evidence, along with evaluating fraud indicators.

During the presentation, I illustrated many of these investigative techniques by featuring successful criminal and civil investigations. The training included a feedback session to get a flavor of the inspector's typical inspection process. I then divided up the class into three groups to work on separate case scenarios, two pertained to gas distribution systems and the third highlighted a hazardous liquid pipeline system. These exercises helped facilitate information sharing among the participants. Overall, teaching the course has been a rewarding experience and further enhances OIG's great work relationship with PHMSA.

— Michelle McVicker, SAC,
JRI-5, Chicago

NOTEWORTHY



Secretary Ray LaHood
testifying (LIFE file photo)

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT: SECRETARY TESTIFIES ON DOT BUDGET

In a small packed room, with standing room only, DOT Secretary Ray LaHood testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development on DOT's budget.

In the first of several DOT hearings to come, congressional leaders gave opening statements with Representative John Olver (D-MA) stating the fiscal year 2012 budget request is "robust and committed to vision"—a compliment to Secretary LaHood. With \$129 billion slated for the DOT in President Obama's fiscal year 2012 budget, Secretary LaHood noted the proposed budget was at the lowest level of spending

since Eisenhower.

Regarding the 2011 budget, LaHood testified that the Secretary's office is working with the current Administration and is committed to working with Congress to reach an agreeable proposal.

The Secretary mentioned one of the more notable achievements in this request was how 50 programs were condensed into 5 in the current budget. The benefit of merging these programs will show how objectives can be completed within a 3- to 4-year time period instead of 10 to 12 years. When asked where the source of revenue for DOT's Highway Trust

Fund would come from, LaHood identified toll roads and public-private partnerships. LaHood committed to work with congressional members to identify other potential resources.

Although passionate exchanges were made throughout the hearing, when all was said and done, everyone agreed "safety is and always will be a first priority."

Keep an eye out for more testimony within the next 2 months as different Administrators from DOT testify before various congressional committees regarding the fiscal year 2012 budget.

—Patti Lehman, Auditor, JA-60

Contractor Agrees to Pay \$19.6 Million in Fraud Case

March 31, 2011

(*nytimes.com* on a JRI-2 investigation)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/01/nyregion/01fraud.html?r=1&partner=rss&emc=rss>

A subsidiary of one of the nation's largest construction companies will pay \$19.6 million to settle criminal allegations that it committed fraud against government programs on more than a decade's worth of public works projects...

The Skanska investigation was conducted by the inspectors general from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the **federal Transportation Department's Office of Inspector General** and the federal Labor Department's Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigation.

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Hole in Southwest Jet Attributed to Cracks

April 3, 2011

(*nytimes.com* on a JA-10 audit)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/04/business/04plane.html?adxnnl=1&src=busIn&adxnnlx=1301940131-kwhR4dn3GpP1GSUtErfkCw>

Southwest Airlines has a history of maintenance problems. In 2008, the FAA proposed a \$10.2 million penalty, later reduced to \$7.5 million, for Southwest's failure to do mandatory inspections for fuselage fatigue cracking on some of its Boeing 737s.

A report that year by the **inspector general of the Transportation Department** agreed with a whistleblower's complaint that an F.A.A. supervisor had been too cozy with Southwest. The report found "serious lapses in FAA's air carrier oversight."

NOTEWORTHY

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NOTEWORTHY

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END SHOT

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DO YOU KNOW?

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TI Staff were asked this week why DOT displays the POW flag. We would like to know! If you know the answer to this question, please email us at Newsletter@oig.dot.gov. Thanks!



COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

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by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ANN "DIGS" PHILLY AND THE BIG APPLE

Ann recently met with JRI-2 and JA-40 staff in Pennsylvania and New York as part of her ongoing outreach tour of OIG offices around the country.

On March 7, Ann spent the day in King of Prussia (KOP), PA, with JRI-2 staff. Ann discussed with the group HQ news and OIG topics, including budget and staffing, forging enhanced JI-JA work relationships, and plans for JI and JA leaders to engage in joint outreach with Congress and share the accomplishments of both shops.

The special agents briefed Ann on key KOP investigations in areas such as false claims and double-brokering, commercial driver's license and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise fraud schemes. Ann expressed appreciation for JI's fine work and pointed out the



additional value of communicating to the audit side of the house the "takeaways" learned during investigations. She de-

scribed how sharing investigative findings can greatly assist JA oversight of modes and programs, and shed light on program weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

Ann also met individually with JRI-2 staff to discuss any topic of

Ann described how the sharing of investigative findings can greatly assist in JA's oversight of modes and programs, and shed light on program weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

interest to them. All the special agents expressed their sincere appreciation for her time and efforts and frank, open discussions.

On March 14, Ann again travelled north, this time to New York City, accompanied by Tom Yatsco, Acting Deputy Assistant IG, JA-40. They stayed in the core of the Big Apple over the next 2 days, affording ample opportunity to meet with New York's JA-40 and

JRI-2 staff. Ann led group meetings with JA and JI staff, providing information and an open forum for questions on the latest OIG initiatives and happenings, including methods for enhancing investigations and audit coordination, and improving work processes.



During the JI group meeting, the suggestion was raised that grant agreements include a requirement that recipients report suspected fraud to DOT OIG. The concern was that absent an explicit requirement, fraud allegations might not always be reported, or first reported elsewhere and DOT OIG notified afterward, if at all.

Ann called a meeting of the two groups to discuss the issue. The issue was timely because JA-40 recently announced an audit of FTA's Oversight of Regional Transit Grants and is developing a proposed audit of FHWA's Stewardship Agreements. Also, JA50

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 3/28	TUESDAY 3/29	WEDNESDAY 3/30	THURSDAY 3/31	FRIDAY 4/1
MENTORING ALL HANDS WEBCAST (1:30-2:30 p.m.)	<p>CAL– EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– EMT Congressional Pre-meet (10:30 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN, Cal– Meet and Greet with Chairman Issa (2:00 p.m.)</p>			

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

recently announced an audit of FRA's progress in administering major grants. JA-40 discussed the general requirement in FTA's master agreement to report ARRA violations, which Ann indicated was not strong enough (and only applies to ARRA). It was agreed that JA would explore in their audits how the modes are addressing fraud reporting, and if weaknesses are disclosed, make suitable recommendations. JA-2 also provided a list of all the databases it can access.

There were also discussions of staffing and the developing budget situation. A number of staff also took Ann up on her offer to meet one-on-one.

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- Ned Schwartz, SAC,
JRI-2, NY Office

NOTEWORTHY

ALL HANDS WEBCAST ON MENTORING PROGRAM -- MARCH 28

I want to thank all employees who offered their insights during this past month's mentoring focus groups. Your participation in the early stages of this high priority initiative will help ensure the program's future success. I am excited to announce that, based on your feedback, we have created a robust mentoring program that offers flexibility to meet staff's unique needs OIG-wide.

As mentioned in last week's issue of *The Inspector*, Ann and I, along with the mentoring program staff, will hold an All Hands meeting via webcast on Monday, March 28, from 1:30 to 2:30 EDT to discuss our findings from the focus groups, explain the custom design that has been created to align with those findings, initiate the rollout of the mentoring pilot, and answer any questions.

With the infrastructure in place, the mentoring pilot will begin in early May. Prior to that time, there are action items for both mentor and mentee volunteers which will be discussed at the webcast and available for viewing afterwards. The webcast will be taped and posted on the Intranet, along with relevant documents, for those of you who are unable to watch it live.

We understand that we are moving quickly, and I want to thank you in advance for understanding and accepting that short turnaround times are necessary to stand up the mentoring program. If you haven't heard, Lauren Malmon has taken a permanent position as Director of Leadership and Career Development at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We want to capture the benefit of her expertise in building a sustainable mentoring program before she departs in late April. I thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

See you next Monday--

Cal

DEADLINE FOR PROSPECTIVE MENTORS EXTENDED TO TUESDAY

If you are interested in being a mentor, or think you *may* be interested, please complete the self assessment form that Ann emailed to you earlier this week and email it to mentoring@oig.dot.gov by **NOON on Tuesday, March 29th**. If you can't locate the form, you should email mentoring@oig.dot.gov, and one will be sent to you.

Remember, we are seeking interested mentors in GS levels 13 or higher with a minimum of 8 years of related experience (within or outside of DOT OIG) who have achieved at least fully successful performance. The self assessment should not take more than 10 minutes to complete, and is critical in order to continue the implementation of our new mentoring program. Thank you.

NOTEWORTHY



CHECK OUT OUR NEW IT HELP DESK!

The IT Help Desk has a new look. Before, there was little distinction between the help desk and other surrounding cubicles. Many times, customers would completely bypass the help desk, adding to their frustration in trying to get a resolution to their IT problem. By reorganizing the space, we are able to offer a distinct area for customers to come and have their IT services met. Now, customers are greeted by our qualified and diligent interns. Having problems with your monitor? No problem! Can't access Teammate? We can help you! While this is a small step in working toward improved

customer service, it is highly visible.

Our goal is to make the provided technology work as seamlessly as possible to support our mission. To achieve this goals, IT Customer Service is moving to a three-tier support model. Tier 1 support will provide two major services: initial contact with the customer and triage of incoming problems to determine priority. Other Tier 1 responsibilities include providing immediate assistance for easy-to-resolve issues, such as resetting passwords, setting up VPN for teleworking, and imaging laptops for users. When

a problem arises that would take our Tier 1 support too long to resolve, or requires more in-depth analysis, the problem is typically escalated to Tier 2. Tier 2 cases usually involve longer recovery times, or the need to



(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 4)

work with Tier 3—which is primarily responsible for maintaining the core infrastructure and services. They work on long-term projects, changes to the architecture, or deployment of new services.

This is just one of the many changes happening in JM-40 to

enhance IT services and support our mission within the OIG. We'll be keeping everyone informed as more changes are made. If you have suggestions for improvement, please don't hesitate to contact the Jason Carroll at 202-366-7060.

—Whitney Pointe, JM-40

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there are four ways for you to contact the helpdesk?

1. To access the helpdesk online, type "helpdesk" in the address bar
2. To speak with IT personnel by phone, dial 202.366.7999
3. Send an email to IT@oig.dot.gov
4. Stop by, and talk with us face to face about any IT issues, by visiting W71-201



OIG IN THE NEWS

Airline Co-Pilot Charged with Flying Drunk

March 18, 2011

([KGMI.com](http://kgmi.com/Airline-co-pilot-charged-with-flying-drunk/9428895) on a JRI-6 Colorado office investigation)

<http://kgmi.com/Airline-co-pilot-charged-with-flying-drunk/9428895>

A commercial airline pilot has been indicted on charges of flying drunk while serving as first officer in the cockpit of a United Express flight from Austin, Texas, to Denver in December of 2009.

The federal grand jury indictment, returned late on Wednesday, said co-pilot Aaron Jason Cope, 32, of Norfolk, Virginia, was second-in-command when he "unlawfully operated and directed the operation of a common carrier while under the influence of alcohol."

U.S. Attorney John Walsh said special agents of the **U.S. Transportation Department's Office of Inspector General**, who investigated the alleged crime, "are in the process of locating Cope."

Report Faults Amtrak Execs over Inspector General's Firing

March 23, 2011

([washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/mar/23/report-faults-amtrak-execs-over-inspector-generals/) on a J-3 letter)

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/mar/23/report-faults-amtrak-execs-over-inspector-generals/>

Top Amtrak officials failed to give "adequate consideration" to a federal mandate to inform Congress before they removed the rail service's longtime inspector general in 2009, according to a new independent review.

The findings by the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General were reported in a letter Wednesday to three top Republican lawmakers who requested an inquiry into the removal of Amtrak Inspector General Fred Weiderhold.

NOTEWORTHY

OIG PROMPTS NEW BRIDGE SAFETY OVERSIGHT INITIATIVE

For two decades, we have reported on the challenges FHWA has encountered in effectively overseeing its bridge safety programs. The 2007 collapse of the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minnesota reemphasized the importance of such programs and highlighted the need for more vigilant oversight. We have reported on fundamental weaknesses in FHWA's oversight of its bridge inspection program and the need for it to move toward a data-driven, risk-based approach. On March 21, 2011, [Secretary LaHood announced](#) a new initiative to [strengthen FHWA's oversight](#) of the program. It is encouraging to see our recent efforts, which in-

cluded three testimonies, three audit reports, and congressional correspondence, have a significant impact on the Department's top priority—safety.

FHWA helps ensure the safety of our Nation's bridges through Federal inspection regulations and the oversight of state programs. Previously, its oversight approach was not structured and only general guidance was offered with no standards for ensuring compliance with regulations. FHWA's new initiative is a complete overhaul of its oversight process and implements a data-driven, risk-based approach. FHWA's actions are in direct response to recommendations we made in [January 2009](#) and [January 2010](#) and most

recently reported on in [October 2010](#).

Our role in helping improve bridge oversight has been readily acknowledged by FHWA and was also recognized by the Department through a Secretarial award in 2009. This is as a great example of how we serve as a highly respected contributor to the Department's mission. Credit goes to the staff who worked on our many efforts: Tom Yatsco, Eric Mader, Mike Ralph, Christopher Brothers, Jeffrey Ong, Stephen Gruner, Kimberly Bolding, Michael Dzandza, Regan Maund, Jean Tanaka, Charles Wilson, Rodolfo Pérez, Aron Wedekind, Petra Swartzlander, and Harriet Lambert.

- Aron Wedekind, Engineer, JA-40



Up close: Texas DOT engineers show Tom, Eric, Jean and Aron (behind the camera) how they keep their bridges safe.

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

CODE SHARE TEAM VISITS INDIANAPOLIS AND HOUSTON

After the February 2009 fatal accident of Colgan Air Flight 3407 near Buffalo, New York, Congress requested an audit. Colgan Air was operating the flight for Continental Airlines using the brand name "Continental Connection" and following the crash, questions were raised about this practice of one airline operating for another—a practice known as airline "code sharing." Over the past few months, members of the Code Share team—Tina Nysted, William "B.J." Leary, Galen Steele, Jeannette McDonald, Sara Gragg, Ruth Foyere, Andrew Farnsworth—from JA-10 Atlanta visited Indianapolis, Indiana, and Houston, Texas.

In Indianapolis, Galen and Andrew spoke with [REDACTED] (b)(6) and FAA personnel to obtain information on the extent of safety information sharing between code share partners and to determine FAA's role in that regard. We were able to obtain some valuable examples and insights into how code share partners seek to attain "one level of safety." [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] ' numer-

(b)(6)

The already warm weather greeted Tina Nysted, B.J. Leary, and me as we arrived in Houston. We made follow-up visits to [REDACTED] (b)(6), and their respective FAA Certificate Management Offices. [REDACTED] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) During the visit, the team received insight into FAA's role in ensuring air carrier safety as it relates to airline code sharing as well as how the interviewed airlines worked to improve safety through information sharing. [REDACTED] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

As the verification phase of our audit nears conclusion, we hope to begin developing a comprehensive report that will provide Congress with a clear understanding of the current state of airline code sharing as it considers future aviation safety and consumer protections.

—Ruth Foyere, Analyst, and Andrew Farnsworth, Analyst; JA-10, Atlanta

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

JA: FOCUS ON TIMELINESS



Our latest OIG employee survey shows that we need to improve the timeliness of our products,

particularly in terms of our audit writing and reviewing processes. Last year, Ann established a 10-month lifecycle as a benchmark for most audits. I am 100 percent committed to making sure we achieve this, as are all the senior audit leaders. Since initiating our 10-month policy last April, we have started 32 audits—2 met the benchmark and 24 are on track to do so. Those numbers are encouraging, but clearly we have a lot of work ahead to make this happen on a consistent basis. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you all on several of our ongoing initiatives to address this issue.

First, we established a 5-business day requirement for reviewing discussion drafts, drafts, and final drafts. This requirement covers the Program Directors, AIGs, DAIGs, Dan, and myself. To make sure we meet this standard, I

challenged the senior audit leaders to develop an accountability tool. Jay Borwanker (JA-50) developed an excellent tool that we will use in all JA offices (including mine) to track where our products are in the review process and the length of review. (Jay

“Last year, Ann established a 10-month lifecycle as a benchmark for most audits. I am 100 percent committed to making sure we achieve this.”

explains the new tracking system in detail on page 3.) We plan to post the tool on SharePoint on March 21.

Second, Angie Thorpe and our excellent HRDC group have contracted for a pilot training program on Project Management that focuses on managing projects to meet deadlines in a real time environment. Our first two "guinea pigs" are the FISMA audit

from JA-20 and the Repair Stations audit from JA-10 Atlanta. We had our kickoff team training last week, which Kevin George describes in more detail on page 4. If this course proves successful, we'll plan to roll it out to more groups later this year. Thanks to JA-20 and JA-10 for their participation and support of this effort!

Third, we have developed a mandatory writing seminar for all audit Program Directors and Project Managers. The seminar focuses on message presentation; applying best practices for quick, thorough report reviews that add value; and addressing writing pitfalls we often see in our products. Overall, the seminar aims to provide consistency across all audit products. We're scheduled to hold the seminars the second week in April, and if all goes well, we will roll it out to all grade levels this summer.

Finally, I am happy to announce that Tom Denomme joined OIG on March 14. Tom will be reporting to me but available to all the JA of-

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 3/21	TUESDAY 3/22	WEDNESDAY 3/23	THURSDAY 3/24	FRIDAY 3/25
	<p>CAL– EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– EMT Congressional Pre-meet (10:30 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL– S2 Updates (3:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>ANN– Leadership Brown Bag (12:00 p.m.)</p>		

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

fices. He is not an editor, not so much a writer, either. His expertise is in message development. He rose through the ranks of GAO to the position equivalent to a DOT OIG Program Director in audit. We want to enlist Tom's help in working with teams as early as possible in the audit process to help keep them focused and working toward message. This will not replace or usurp

the authority or responsibility now held by our current writers. As we continue to emphasize the need to involve the writers earlier in the audit process, the demand for their services will only increase, and I expect Tom to help address the increased workload.

Let me close by reiterating that, as a group, the entire audit organization is committed to improving the time-

liness of our products. I will keep you updated on our progress through periodic TI articles and during All Hands meetings. In the meantime, I welcome any suggestions you may have that could help up improve this important area of our work.

- Lou

DON'T FORGET WEDNESDAY'S LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG

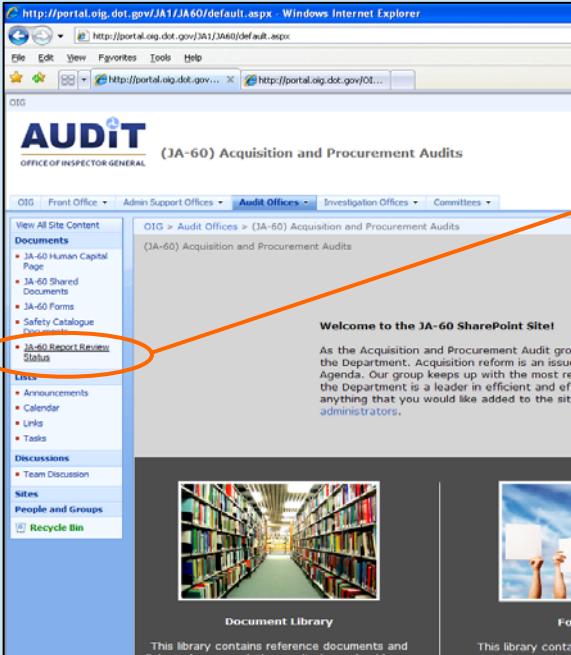
The next Leadership Brown Bag for GS-14s and above, "Organizing and Leading Effective Teams," will be held on Wednesday, March 23, from noon to 1:30 pm EDT in the OIG Conference Room. Please let Ellen (Ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov) know if you will be video-conferencing or teleconferencing. The teleconference number is **202-366-3920** and the passcode is: **9826**



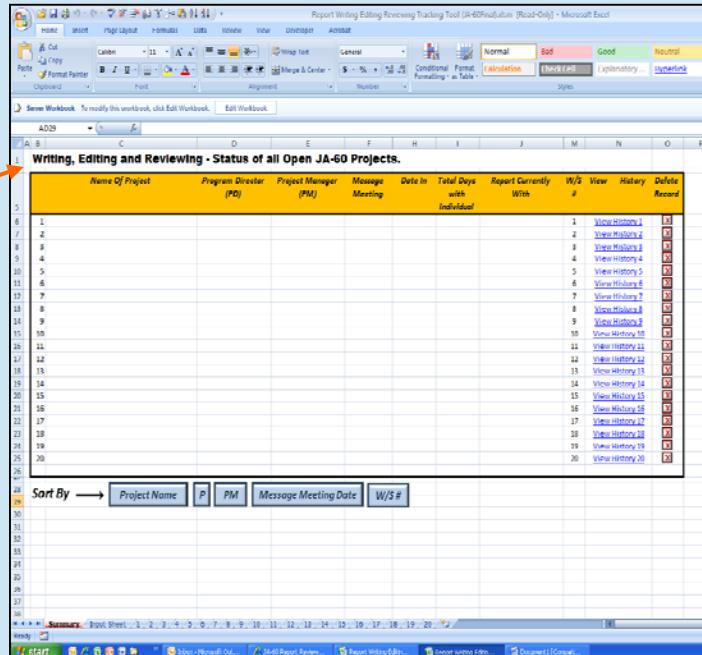
ALL HANDS WEBINAR TO INTRODUCE NEW MENTORING PROGRAM

On Monday, March 28, from 1:30-2:30 PM EDT, we will be holding an all hands webinar to discuss our new mentoring program. If you have a mentoring experience (as a mentee or mentor) that you would be willing to share, please contact Lauren Malmon at her lauren.malmon@oig.dot.gov or mentoring@oig.dot.gov. Much more to come next week!!

NOTEWORTHY



A screenshot of a SharePoint site for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The page title is "AUDIT (JA-60) Acquisition and Procurement Audits". The left navigation bar includes links for "View All Site Content", "Documents", "Links", "Discussions", "Sites", and "People and Groups". A red circle highlights the "JA-60 Report Review Status" link under the "Documents" section. The main content area displays a "Welcome to the JA-60 SharePoint Site!" message and two library thumbnails: "Document Library" and "FO".



A screenshot of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "Report Writing, Editing Reviewing Tracking Tool (JA-60) [KA2-Obj] - Microsoft Excel". The spreadsheet has two tabs: "Writing, Editing and Reviewing - Status of all Open JA-60 Projects." and "History Sheets". The first tab contains a table with columns: Name Of Project, Program Director (PD), Project Manager (PM), Message Meeting, Date In, Total Days with Individual, Report Currently With, W/S #, View History, and Delete Record. The second tab, "History Sheets", shows a summary of file activity across multiple rows.

OIG UNVEILS JA REPORT REVIEW TRACKING TOOL

By the end of this week, each JA is expected to post a Report Review and Tracking Tool (a.k.a. Tracking Tool) to the Documents Library section of their respective SharePoint sites. The Tracking Tool, which will be accessible by all audit staff, will track all audits that have conducted a message meeting and are either in the draft report or final report phases of the audit process. The tracking tool has two critical elements:

Summary Sheet, which provides a high-level summary of all audits in the draft and final report phases and identifies the individual who is currently in possession of the audit report and how long they have had possession of the document in question.

History Sheets (one for each project in the draft or final report phase), which provide a detailed summary of the progression of the draft or final report as it moves from individual to individual and from the project team to the Front Office to the Modal Administration prior to being issued.

The Tracking Tool is intended to keep all internal constituents and stakeholders apprised of the current status of all draft and final reports with the click of a mouse and should promote greater transparency regarding who has possession of a report at any given point in time and for how long. Another key benefit of the Tracking Tool is that the data collected on the History Sheets may provide critical information for discussion as a part of the Return on Investment meeting conducted at the culmination of each audit as well as a part of any process improvement initiative, as the OIG strives to continue to improve the quality and timeliness of its audit reports.

-Jay Borwankar (Project Manager, JA-50)

NOTEWORTHY



PHOTOS: AARON MALINOFF

HRDC'S NEW PROJECT MANAGEMENT PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

Last week, HRDC hosted the 3-day Project Management Pilot Training Program. This program was designed to assist audit teams in running audits more efficiently to meet OIG's 10-month completion goal. Two audit teams selected for this pilot project—JA10's Repair Station team and JA-20's FISMA team—were provided with tools and training in areas designed to increase team focus, improve time management skills, and assist in identifying key outcomes. The class lasted only 3 days, but the pilot program will continue for nearly a year. As the audit continues, we will document our progress—

and challenges—in meeting audit milestones by videotaping our team meetings for review and feedback by the program facilitators. These video snippets will eventually be included as real-world scenarios for use in developing the future project management training course for all audit teams.

Repair Station team members—Tina Nysted, Kevin George, Anne Longtin, Manny Ramos, Tanesha Snell, and Nate Caldwell (Atlanta)—found their time in this training program invaluable. "We identified potential challenges and solutions, such as determining ap-

propriate scope and methodology to our audit, which is essential to ensuring that we can meet the 10-month requirement. Also, just being able to communicate these challenges directly to our AIG, Jeff Guzzetti, was beneficial to both the team and him as we worked together to agree on the level of review required for our audit. We know our audit will be under the microscope over the next several months, but the Repair Station team is ready to accept the challenge!"

—Kevin George
Project Manager, JA-10, Atlanta



(b)(6)

for keeping us honest. He was there over the weekend working side-by-side with the team under tight time-frames to ensure we got it right.

Vicki Smith—on crutches, no less (now that's dedication) did the "heavy lifting" behind the scenes in timely completing numerous deliverables for Cal's "take-home" book and working directly with Matt to incorporate changes as needed. Vicki took the lead for drafting prep material for Cal on a range of complex issues and cross-indexed much of the written testimony, while also addressing the independent referencer's comments.

And where would we have been without **Won Kim** who, without hesitation, took the initiative to be the official "gatekeeper" of the take home books? Won's willingness to learn, and overall attention to detail, in ensuring all backgrounders and other prep material were compiled and organized in a logical fashion was exemplary for someone new to this critically important task. Won worked smartly with multiple staff who prepared various documents to include the most current information. It is perhaps equally important to recognize the resident "expert" for these books—**Claudia Estrada**. She gladly mentored Won in how to compile and organize the information, which set the standard for getting these books done right and with minimal supervision. They set the bar high and wanted the best prod-

(Continued on page 6)

NEXTGEN TEAM: A WELL-OILED MACHINE

On getting word that there would be a hearing on "**Actions Needed To Meet FAA's Long-Term Goals for NextGen**" the JA-10 testimony team spring into action. As a relatively new Program Director to JA-10, I am in awe of those who accept this challenge and make it seem effortless. I wanted to recognize a few folks in JA-10 who, in my view, were the stars behind the scenes when Chairman Palazzo called **lights... camera....action...** on February 16.

Of course there's **Matt Hampton**, who steers the ship, has the "intel" on what the Hill might want, and clearly sets the tone that we're in this together—sink or swim. But what would the team have done without the outstanding leadership and project management of **Joe Hance**? I suppose Joe's military background has once again paid off as he skillfully juggled multiple tasks with finalizing the testimony and ensuring Cal was thoroughly prepped on the status of a key modernization pro-

ject—the En Route Automation Modernization program—and FAA's efforts to coordinate and reach consensus with partner agencies on key research and development efforts.

Joe quickly assembled the testimony team, set milestones and expectations for tasks, communicated those to the team members, and supervised the timely preparation of numerous deliverables for Cal.

Ably assisting Joe was **Sean Woods**, who was responsible for developing collecting, and maintaining all back-up books that were used to reference the testimony, along with supervision of the team's referencing efforts. Joe and I looked to Sean as the "go to" person for ensuring that all the numerous deliverables for prep sessions with Cal and the final written statement were well supported, completed on time, and met standards. Sean was customer-focused and always maintained a positive attitude. And I cannot overstate the importance of our independent reference—**Craig Owens**—

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 5)

uct for Cal, who later commented on the excellent and impressive work that went into the project—a testament to their collaborative effort.

And then there was **James Ovelmen**—still new to the OIG—who was always willing to go the extra mile to provide Cal and the entire testimony team outstanding support. His initiative in assisting with the take-home books and his research and assembly of the Subcommittee Congressional biographies was particularly noteworthy. James worked closely with Won and with minimal guidance and supervision helped compile and assemble the background information. The significance of his efforts cannot be overstated given that this was his first experience with an effort of this complexity. Thanks to **Robin Koch and Coletta Treakle** for letting us steal him away from their on-going audit

work.

Then there's **Andrea Nossaman**, always the consummate team player in ensuring that all comments and revisions from multiple reviews were not only addressed promptly, but were responsive. She kept the team's message focused and her thorough reviews during fast-paced timeframes were a key enabler to us completing the testimony well within established timeframes.

In closing, let me simply say there were many others—and you know who you are—**Karen Sloan**, who quickly responded to requests for reviews, and **Kevin Dorsey** and his crew along with several others (including JA-60) who answered the call for Q&As or backgrounders, or for scheduling the prep sessions on all calendars—not a small feat. But let me finally salute **Cal, Ann, Lou, and Jeff** who had confidence in the JA-10 team and never once doubted that they could pull it off—though I

think the team may have had its-doubts along the way.

So, as I settled into my seat on that February day in the Hearing room behind Cal, I could hear my Mom saying “remember to sit up straight and don’t fidget or worse yet—yawn.” Naturally, however, I made sure my pants were zipped and I didn’t do anything too embarrassing in front of the camera while Cal expertly delivered his statement and skillfully responded to questions. But more importantly, I felt a sense of pride as I recalled the team who over the previous 2 weeks had worked tirelessly and without hesitation or thought of recognition to make this happen.

I'm sure we can always find ways to make our process better or smoother but in my mind on that February day--a well-oiled machine indeed!

—Barry DeWeese, JA-10 Program Director, San Francisco



NOTEWORTHY

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NOTEWORTHY

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OIG IN THE NEWS

Will Air Traffic Overhaul Make us Safer?

March 11, 2011

(CNN.com on a recent JA-10 testimony)

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/03/11/nextgen.safety/>

Top U.S. security authorities, Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, haven't yet agreed with the FAA on how to jointly monitor so-called "noncooperative" aircraft, in other words aircraft possibly piloted by terrorists that aren't transmitting flight information.

"Without closer coordination and agreement about surveillance requirements, there is potential for duplicative efforts and gaps in air-space coverage," **DOT Inspector General Calvin Scovel** told a House panel.

The situation is enough to prompt concern among members of the powerful Senate Commerce Science and Transportation Committee, which has a big say in NextGen funding.

Federal Watchdog to Review FAA Bird-Strike Measures

March 16, 2011

(USAToday.com on a JA-10 audit)

<http://travel.usatoday.com/flights/post/2011/03/aviation-bird-strike-risk/147945/1>

A federal watchdog group announced today that it plans to review the Federal Aviation Administration's program to reduce the threat to aviation from birds and other wildlife.

The **Transportation Department's Inspector General** says the issue is a "serious aviation safety issue," as evidenced by several recent severe collisions between airliners and birds.

NOTEWORTHY

HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR — MARCH 2011

Name of Course	Date	Time	Instructor
MBTI (JA-20 Baltimore)	March 21, 2011	9 am - 3:30 pm	Deb Alexander
Generational Differences	March 22, 2011	8:30 - 11:30 am 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Deb Alexander
Time for Safety Briefing (Headquarters, 7 th Floor)	March 23, 2011	9 am - 9:45 am	
Leadership Brown Bag - Organizing and Leading Effective Teams (in the IG Conference Room)	March 23, 2011	Noon - 1:30 pm	A. Calvaresi-Barr
MBTI (J-3)	March 24, 2011	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Deb Alexander
Computer Crime Presentation	March 29, 2011	8 am - noon	
TeamMate 301 (Headquarters, W71-101)	March 30, 2011	1 pm - 4 pm	Akilah Boston
Time for Safety Briefing	March 31, 2011	2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(b)(6)

NEW AGENTS GATHER AT HQ FOR SAFTP CONFERENCE

On February 23-24, attendees of the Special Agent Field Training Program (SAFTP) conference converged upon the front office in Headquarters. What is the SAFTP, you ask? It is a training program for all new agents to DOT-OIG that ensures

they have a solid knowledge base of agency policy and procedures, understanding of each Operating Administration's mission, and typical cases worked. Attendees included training officers and all new agents hired within the last year who have either gone

through, are undergoing, or will go through the SAFTP. The primary objectives of the conference were to clarify the program objectives, roles and responsibilities, share best practices and improve the program through feed-

(Continued on page 2)

the group on significant case results and the high level of communication between JI headquarters and the regional offices.

(b)(6)

Tim and Bob reviewed JI's investigative priorities and initiatives. IG Cal Scovel, who joined us for lunch, also offered thoughts in that area along with comments on mentoring and JI's Field Training Program (FTP). Overall, Cal described the situation as an exciting time for JI. The remainder of the afternoon included discussions of ALERTS, JI-3 Special In-

TIM HOSTS SAC/ASAC MEETING IN DC

On February 23-24, PAIGI Tim Barry and DAIGI Bob Westbrooks welcomed JI's Special Agents in Charge (SAC) and

Assistant Special Agents in Charge (ASAC) at the Capitol Skyline Hotel (see pictures). On Day 1, Tim opened by congratulating

(Continued on page 3)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 3/14	TUESDAY 3/15	WEDNESDAY 3/16	THURSDAY 3/17	FRIDAY 3/18
	<p>BRIAN– EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– CIGIE Leg Committee Mtg. (9:30)</p> <p>ANN– New York Outreach</p> <p>CAL– Out of office</p>			

NOTEWORTHY

(SAFTP continued from page 1)

back.

The conference was kicked off with opening remarks by Principal Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (PAIGI) Tim Barry and IG Cal Scovel, who both shared personal experiences with training programs. From there, participants were introduced to the concept of speed mentoring, which--as you may suspect--is eerily similar to speed dating. I tried to disguise it as an "Opening Ice-Breaker Activity," but as people were paired off and told they would be switching partners every 5 minutes they became wise to my game. The training officers, new hires, and special guest Amanda Barton, had 5 minutes to answer questions relating to either the most challenging case they have worked or the type of case they enjoy working. Some might tell you this was not an enjoyable experience--don't believe

them! I knew I had accomplished my mission when I walked around and heard people say, "I'll call you for advice." And "Why don't we talk later?"

(b)(6)

Lauren Malmon presented on effective communication skills

We also received instructional blocks about IDPs and ILPS from Yolanda Perry of the HRDC, effective communication skills from our resident mentoring expert Lauren Malmon, and a visit from DAIGI Bob Westbrooks and Deputy IG Ann Calvaresi-Barr, who provided many attendees with their first introduction

to the concept of networking.

(b)(6)

Everyone's contributions led to the overall success of the training program, as evidenced by answers on the course evaluation about participants' favorite part. Responses varied from sharing best practices, interactions with various members of the leadership team, and even--yes--the speed mentoring!

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(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

(SAC/ASAC continued from page 1)

vestigations, the FTP, and household goods moving fraud with Brodie Mack of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Day 2 included presentations by Len Meade on the upcoming JI Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) peer review and Madeline Chulumovich on her role as Chief of Staff. Susan Dailey and members of her staff spoke to the group regarding budget, IT, procurement, and training issues. Deputy IG Ann Calvaresi-Barr addressed OIG's congressional outreach and JA/JI interaction and provided some thoughts on leadership. JI ARRA Coordinator (b)(6) closed the morning with a review of ARRA activities and planned initiatives.

The conference concluded with a meeting between JI management and a number of enforcement attorneys from across DOT at the Headquarters Building. Tim, Bob, Bill Owens, and the SACs outlined JI structure and operations, and there was an open forum discussion and exchange of ideas focusing on future collaboration.

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(b)(6)

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OIG UNVEILS JI-JA COORDINATION TOOLKIT

Bookmark-worthy! Last week we added the JI-JA Coordination Toolkit to our Intranet Portal. This site, created as part of Cal's and Ann's initiatives to help improve the teamwork and synergy between our auditors and investigators, provides various resources. Currently, the toolkit includes a roster of subject matter experts in JI and JA and a catalog of recent case studies of effective collaboration. This site will be updated in response to your suggestions and feedback and our mission priorities.

As shown, you can access the Toolkit from the Spotlight section on our main Intranet [Portal site](#) or by this link [JA-JI Coordination Toolkit](#).

- Tony Wysocki, Program Director, JA-60

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HRDC PRESENTS ON IDP AND LEARNING PLANS: "WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?"

At the March 8th Community of Practice event, Angie Thorpe, Director of OIG's HR Development Center (HRDC), discussed DOT's Training Management System (TMS) that helps to organize our Individual Development Plans (IDP) and Learning Plans (ILP). Angie made clear that IDPs are simply a tool to aid the goal setting process—not a tool for performance appraisal. IDPs only include developmental goals. The performance and personal tabs are not available, even though you may see them in your TMS user interface. Since there seemed to be a lot of confusion surrounding the explicit purpose of the IDPs, Angie told us

that the goal setting process has been something the IG community has been doing for years. The IDP simply documents those goals so supervisors can periodically check them.

Angie noted that HRDC plans to phase out TIGR by the end of the fiscal year and integrate everything (CPE credits, evaluations, etc) into TMS or other systems. On the topic of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits, there was some consternation over why past CPEs hadn't been accredited into the TMS system from TIGR (e.g., TMS will say that "40 CPE hours not completed" when in fact you have completed

those CPEs). Angie explained that HRDC was "still catching up" so that all earned CPEs will eventually be accredited to your new and improved ILP.

HRDC will work with employees and supervisors to develop the IDP when needed and use it as a resource in reviewing and approving all annual ILPs in TMS, with the one caveat that the Continuing Resolution will limit the range of classes that can be contracted out. Most importantly, Angie's number one responsibility is to increase awareness of leadership and professional developmental opportunities across the OIG. Hopefully TMS can help us achieve that goal without any waste, fraud or abuse (right?).

To ensure everyone has information on how to use TMS, HRDC is releasing a draft copy of its internally developed [user's guide to TMS](#). This guide contains questions that HRDC receives daily. Please feel free to contact your Training Coordinator with additional questions.

-Peter Barber, Analyst, JA-40

IF THERE'S A FURLOUGH, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Last week, Cal held a virtual all-hands meeting on what staff should do if Congress does not reach agreement on the fiscal year 2011 budget after the current Continuing Resolution expires, putting Federal employees on furlough. Under a furlough, it is illegal for non-exempted employees—almost all of us—to report to work, come in to the office, tele-work, or volunteer time to OIG. Only exempted employees are to report to work until otherwise notified. At OIG, that means Cal, Bob Westbrooks (Investigations), Scott Harding (Hotline), and Connie Harshaw (HR). In the event of a Government shutdown, information on the status of the budget and the furlough will be regularly updated on our external web page: <http://www.oig.dot.gov/>.

NOTEWORTHY



INTRODUCING THE PROCESS STANDARDIZATION WORKING GROUP

The Process Standardization Working Group (PSWG), known unofficially as "Swig" to its members, first met in January for an all-day introductory workshop. The day started with a welcome from group sponsor Michelle Hill and a visit from Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation (PAIGAE) Lou Dixon. During the meeting, the group drafted its charter, generated over 70 ideas for standardizing JA's audit processes, and elected Co-Chairpersons, Akilah Boston and Marshall Jackson to lead the group.

At the close of the kickoff workshop, the team decided to reconvene and categorize the ideas and prioritize goals. Co-Chairs Akilah and Marshall presented the proposed working group charter to the PAIGAE on March 8th and briefed her on the ideas the group has proposed. The PAIGAE approved the group's charter and expressed her excitement with the group's ideas for improvement. Stay tuned for future articles on specific focus areas for the PSWG and visit the group's SharePoint site anytime: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/PSWG/default.aspx>.

Members of the Process Standardization Working Group:

Adam, Joann	Evans, Aisha	Longtin, Anne	Nealon, Marguerite
Apffel, Tyler	Harris, Wendy	Malinoff, Aaron	Ovelmen, James
Ben-Zadok, Daniel	Henson, Kiesha	Mammadova, Jamila	Saraco, Tony
Boston, Akilah	Howell, Meredith	Maund, Regan	Titus, Deanne
Culley, Brendan	Jackson, Marshall	Murphy, Darren	

PSWG CHARTER

Mission Statement

We are committed to identifying and consolidating best practices into one set of consistent processes for all of JA.

Vision Statement

We envision an organization with processes that are consistently applied and where staff has best practices and examples to follow.

Goals

1. Identify audit staff "pain points" that can be addressed by consistent practices.
2. Develop guidelines/processes that will address identified "pain points."
3. Communicate best practices to the JA community.



NOTEWORTHY



Michelle Starkey, Patti Lehman, Tom Shanahan, Patrick Paradise, Nelish Patel, Cordelia Bostic, Felicia Moore, Nate Caldwell, along with others, listen as the Case Study Class winds down on Friday afternoon.

OIG'S LAST INTERNS TAKE ON JA CASE STUDY

"Mission First, People Always" means if you focus on the people the mission almost always takes care of itself. A clear example of that is the JA Case Study class taught by Amanda Barton on February 28 through March 4. This class focused on the audit process and the tools needed to be a great auditor.

The class learned that the Yellow Book and GAGAS are very important to the auditor's job. The class walked step by step through OPM Chapter 2005, the entire Audit Process, including the timelines. Participating in a variety of exercises helped the class to work in teams and learn basic interviewing skills. With David Pouliott, Michelle Hill, Kimberley Bolding, and Wendy Harris serving as great bad examples of the "agency officials," it was clear that interviews can be challenging, which made it a bit more fun for

everyone. Joe Comé, AIG for JA-40, taught his rules for gathering evidence: ask the right questions, get the right answers, and don't lose them.

On Thursday, Dan Raville and Andrea Nossaman taught the OIG writing style. Tools for effective writing utilize the three "C's": Clear, Concise and Convincing. Other lessons focused on the difference between active and passive voice, the use of transitional words, and how to avoid



Jim Quinn and Meghann Noon talk after class ends.

redundancy, wordiness, and bu- reaucratese. Writing skills can always be improved, but making it fun and interesting meant a great day for participants.

One of the best exercises of the week focused on communication, where each participant sat back to back with a partner and drew a picture of abstract shapes. We explained to our partners the shapes, and they had to draw it, but the only catch was that the partners could only ask yes or no questions. It was interesting because it focused on how directions can be misunderstood, how detailed participants can be in descriptions, and how well each participant listened to one another, a fun activity that all of us enjoyed.

Several previous career interns shared their most interesting days working at DOT-OIG, including testimony and meetings with congressional staff. Michelle Hill shared her knowledge on policy and procedures, plus what skills are necessary to be successful. DOT-OIG's senior leadership team visited on Friday,

(Continued on page 7)



Jim Mullen hangs up a poster on verbal and non-verbal communication.

(Continued from page 6)

providing us with some advice to help along the way. Cal Scovel said to be comfortable with ourselves. Ann Calvaresi-Barr encouraged the class to be motivated, positive, and open minded and to always seek out feedback. Lou Dixon asked the class to be kind and respectful to people, gather knowledge, know their audience, and, most importantly, to understand there is no substitute for hard work. Brian Dettlebach reminded the class to set priorities, be honest, pay attention to detail, don't stress over the small stuff, and always do what is right. Susan Dailey told the class to never stop learning; she learns something new every day. Great advice from exceptional leaders that lead by example, and the class really appreciated them taking the time to come and visit.

What I enjoyed most about the week was getting to know the people and faces of OIG. I found that the participants had different backgrounds and experiences, with such diversity it added to the uniqueness of the class and really enhanced my learning experience. The JA Case Study class is the class to take whether you are a new hire or even if you just want to brush up on some of your auditing skills.

- Cordelia Bostic, Auditor, JA-20,
Baltimore

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JA-10 ATLANTA VISITS FAA AT MIRAMAR, FL

During the week of February 14, the Repair Station Audit Team from the JA-10 Atlanta Regional Office visited the FAA Flight Standards District Office and International Field Office in Miramar, Florida, to begin the survey phase of OIG's *Follow-Up Review of FAA's Oversight of Foreign and Domestic Repair Stations*. During the visit, our team (Kevin George, Anne Longtin, Manny Ramos, and Tariesha Snell) conducted interviews with FAA Aviation Safety Inspectors and Repair Station Quality Assurance Managers and received a briefing on FAA's new system for repair station oversight. Afterwards, we toured two aircraft repair stations where we observed technicians performing aircraft component and heavy airframe maintenance activities. One of the repair stations—

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progress. The inside of the airliner was completely gutted of its seats, restrooms, overhead bins, and floorboards, exposing a myriad of wiring, cables, and insulation. The airliner was buzzing with technicians who were busy repairing and readying the aircraft to return to service.

This audit is a follow-up to our 2003 report, *Air Carriers' Use of Aircraft Repair Stations*, where we found that although FAA has placed emphasis on improving its oversight of air carriers' in-house maintenance programs, it had not placed similar focus on its oversight of aircraft repair stations. Our current review will focus on whether FAA has effectively implemented our past recommendations for improved repair station oversight.

Future travel plans for the team call for site visits to other FAA oversight offices as well as selected foreign and domestic repair stations.

-Tariesha Snell, Analyst,
JA-10, Atlanta

NOTEWORTHY**JA-10 AND JA-60 VISIT THE ARTCCS IN CHICAGO AND MINNEAPOLIS**

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JA-10's Joe Hance, Sean Woods, and Won Kim accompanied by JA-60's Dory Dillard-Christian, Christina Lee, and Heather Voda went to the Air Route Traffic Control Centers (ARTCC) in Minneapolis and Chicago for an audit of FAA's En Route Automation Modernization Program (ERAM).

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OIG IN THE NEWS

The Case for Regulating Airport Runways

MARCH 3, 2011

(*theatlantic.com* on a JA-10 audit)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/03/the-case-for-regulating-airport-runways/71866/>

I care about safety. Safety is rarely popular. Everybody is for it -- until you have to buckle your seat belt, wear a motorcycle helmet or...it's your town's flight to JFK the airlines want to eliminate.

Fortunately, I have some new ammunition to support my cause. In October of 2010, the **Inspector General of the Department of Transportation** issued a report about New York flight delays. I encourage you to read the [report](#) for yourself.

Fraud Alert: That Letter is Not from DOT!

March 8, 2011

(*wtsp.com* on a JRI-3 and OIG Hotline case)

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=179677&catid=81>

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a fraud alert warning all current DOT or potential DOT contractors of a phishing scam.

According to the agency, these fraudulent letters request that current or potential contractors register by submitting their company's financial information on a release form entitled, "Authorization to release financial information."

Please be aware that DOT does not require any financial information to be submitted in order to be eligible for procurement.

[Editor's Note: You can find more information on this situation at DOT OIG's web page by clicking [here](#).]

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEET MARY KAY LANGAN-FEIRSON, JA-60'S NEW AIG

I am very excited to join the OIG family as the new AIG for Acquisition and Procurement Audits. While I am new to OIG and terms like "Yellow Book" and "GAGAS," I joined DOT 30 years ago as an Honors Attorney, right out of law school at the University of Maryland. Through the honors program, I worked in FHA's and FTA's Chief Counsel offices on federal aid highway, environmental, and rail car issues. After completing these rotations, I landed in the Office of General Counsel's Office of Legislation. While there, I worked on the re-authorization of several major DOT bills, working closely with the operating administrations, the Office of Congressional Affairs, and Congress. Finally, I moved over to the Office of General Law, where I began working on acquisition, appropriations, and other general law matters.

I have worked on many interesting issues at DOT. One of my favorite jobs was leading the DOT Counsel on Y2K, where we prepared for the possibility of a total shutdown of the transportation infrastructure. Yes, I got to spend New Year's that year hunkered down in an office at headquarters. I also served on the Secretary's Safety Review Task Force for hazardous materials transportation. But for the past 12 years, I served as lead counsel on the headquarters project—my most consuming and challenging assignment—where I gained a broader understanding of the problems that can plague a large construction project, such as zoning impediments, change orders, design deficiencies, and funding.



The basic government contracts training I received at the Judge Advocate General's school in Charlottesville, VA, helped me gain a solid foundation and desire to focus my legal career in government contracts.

I also had the opportunity to work on the legal issues surrounding the Secretary's blog and DOT's use of social media tools such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. I worked on the legal agreements behind IdeaHub, and on many of the CIO's policies for using Web 2.0 and social media tools. I have also worked with the CIO on the major system acquisition matters that come before the DOT Investment Review Board, which is responsible for conducting management oversight of DOT's major IT system acquisitions.

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I look forward to getting to know each of you and being part of OIG's exciting work. So, please stop by JA-60, W72-318, anytime.

— Mary Kay

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 3/7	TUESDAY 3/8	WEDNESDAY 3/9	THURSDAY 3/10	FRIDAY 3/11
	HRDC COP: IDP and Learning Plans			
ANN– TDY King of Prussia	CAL– EMT Mtg. (9:00) BRIAN– CIGIE Leg Committee Mtg. (9:30) CAL– S2 Updates (3:30)	CAL, BRIAN– Meeting with OMB (12:00)	CAL– Recovery Funds Work Group Committee Meeting (1:00)	

← TIM– Annual Leave →

NOTEWORTHY

NEW FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL FOR AUDITORS, ANALYSTS, AND INVESTIGATORS: GS-13

As announced on February 18, I have raised the full performance level from GS-12 to GS-13 for Auditor, Analyst, and Investigator positions, effective March 1, 2011. This is a big step to ensure we remain at the top tier of the OIG community and stay fully competitive in terms of our ability to retain top talent in DOT OIG. Raising the full performance level means that employees who are hired below the GS-13 level will not be required to compete for a GS-13 position. However, please keep in mind that promotion to a GS-13 is not automatic.

At the GS-13 level, Auditors, Analysts, and Investigators are required to have a mastery of professional knowledge of the theory, concepts, principles, and

practices of auditing and investigations sufficient to conduct difficult assignments involving interfaces and inter-relationships between programs, systems, functions, and policies. Employees are required to use judgment and ingenuity in interpreting the intent of applicable guidelines and—most important—must have demonstrated the potential for success at the higher grade before a promotion request is approved. Only the Principal AIGs for Audit and Investigations have the authority to approve promotions to this new full performance level.

Our Office of Human Resources has devised procedures and due dates surrounding the new full performance level. The process began on March 1 with supervi-

sors conducting an assessment of GS-12 Auditors, Investigators, Engineers, Economists, and other professional occupations that directly support our core mission activities. They will prepare a written justification for all recommended promotions. If approved, they will also complete the annual performance rating for 2011. A meeting will then be scheduled with all affected employees. They will notify the employees who are recommended for promotion, and provide feedback to those who are not being recommended on areas that need improvement for them to be promoted. Promotion paperwork will be forwarded to HR, and we anticipate that this process will be complete by April 15.

—Cal

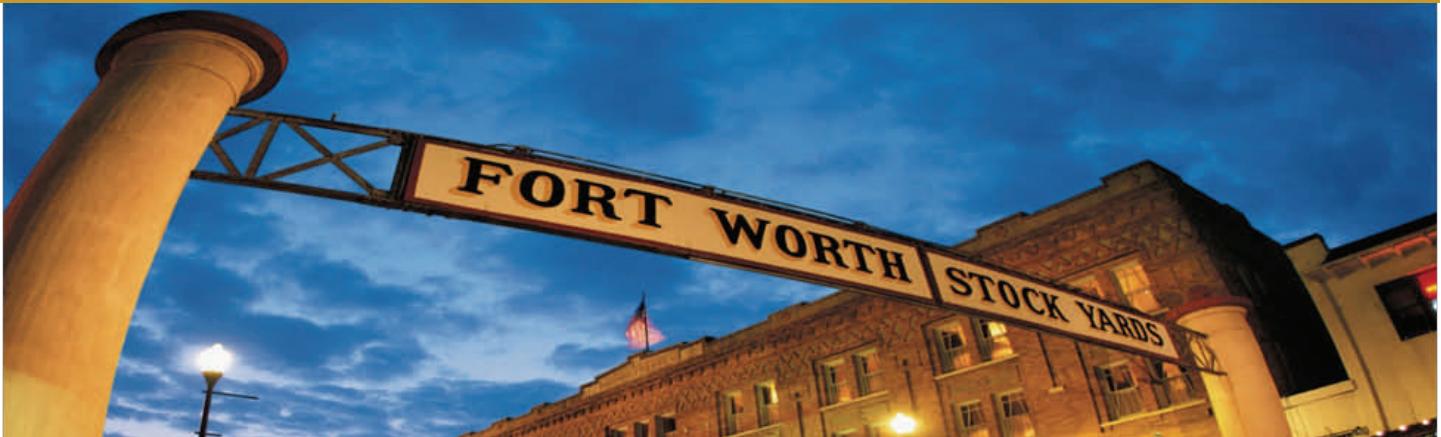
NOTEWORTHY**ANN HOSTS QUARTERLY DIG MEETING AT HQ**

On February 11, I hosted a government-wide meeting of Deputy Inspectors General. The

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NOTEWORTHY



FIELD IN FOCUS: Fort Worth, Texas

Welcome to Fort Worth—city of cowboys and culture! Living in Fort Worth connects you with a deep-rooted and proud Texas history and western heritage.

Everyone knows Texas is BIG, but did you know that El Paso is closer to the Pacific Coast than it is to Port Arthur on Texas' Gulf Coast? And Port Arthur is closer to the Atlantic Coast than it is to El Paso.

Fort Worth is located in north central Texas, 33 miles west of the Big D (Dallas). From DFW Airport—the third busiest in the world in terms of operations—you can fly directly to every major city in the continental United States within 4 hours.

Fort Worth offers plenty of fun things to do with its world class art

museums, daily Texas Longhorn cattle drives in the famous stockyards, plays and concerts at our majestic Bass Performance Hall, and our award winning zoo with over 500 species of wildlife in natural habitats .

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OIG in Fort Worth

Our office, located on the 13th floor of the Fritz Lanham Federal Building, has 14 auditors and 9 investigators. On the JA side, we have 257 years of combined audit experience and 107 years of combined law enforcement investigative experience and 80 years of DOT/OIG experience.

Fort Worth led audits—

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(Continued on page 5)

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organized under JA-40, Office of Highway and Transit Audits—has recommended that agencies improve motor carrier data quality and enforcement, enhance the NAFTA border crossing and CDL programs, and increase oversight of highway safety grants. We currently are working on transit safety challenges and NHTSA's defect investigations. Our work contributed to the creation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in 2000.

JA folks include Program Director, Kerry Barras; Project Managers Linda Morgan and Darrell Riegel; auditors/analysts Brian Chapman, Pat Conley, Carl Hamilton, Sandra Menjivar, Tony Saraco, Anette Soto, Farrin Tamaddon, Maurice Toval, Marvin Tuxhorn, and Stuart Weibel; and Administrative Staff Assistant, LaRue Burks.

JRI-6 investigations have focused on priority areas such as ARRA, contract/grant fraud, aviation safety, motor carrier safety, and hazardous materials violations. Successful case outcomes include convictions of a motor carrier involved in the deaths of 23 elderly passengers evacuated from Houston during Hurricane Rita; two former FAA employees on child pornography and obscenity charges; and three defendants involved in a scheme to avoid paying \$2.6 million in motor fuel taxes.

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is having less people and less room (a small office can offer little privacy at times) and limited access to support offices such as IT and HR .

Communication is paramount. Being so far from HQ can limit our ability to develop relationships with staff from other divisions and even with our leaders in the bunker. We have become experts in the use of videoconferencing, and have had recent videoconference meetings with NHTSA HQ staff and even with defect investigators in Germany. That was a unique experience given the time difference involved. Of course, the best thing about working in the field is having casual business dress.

(Continued on page 6)



Downtown Fort Worth, Texas. Our building is the squat, dark one at the left.

NOTEWORTHY



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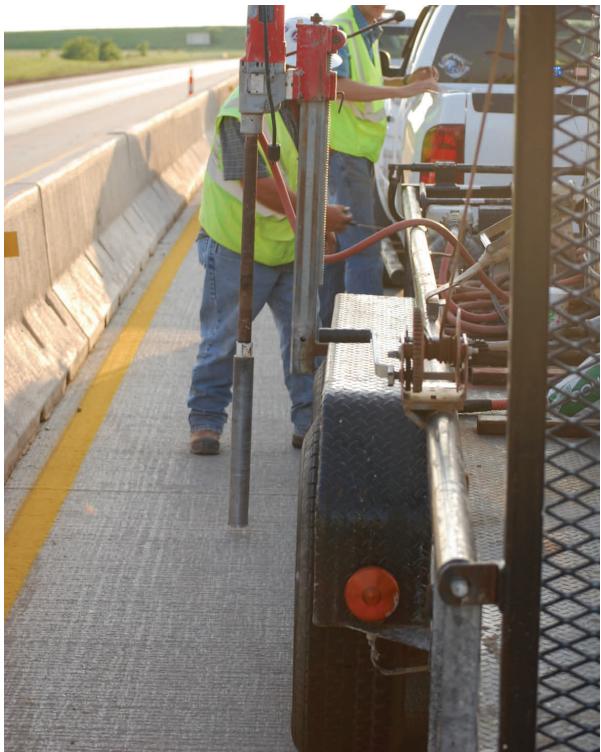


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NOTEWORTHY

JRI-6 CASE: COMPANY ACCUSED OF NOT MEETING SPECIFICATIONS ON AN ARRA PROJECT IS EXONERATED

Our Hotline receives thousands of calls a year. Some of the allegations fielded by our hotline are forwarded to the Operating Administrations to handle, while others are sent to the our regions to investigate. Expeditiously handling these hotline complaints is extremely important to maintaining the credibility of the DOT/OIG Hotline. Responding to hotline complaints involves some investigative "gum shoe" work to determine if there is any merit to the allegations. It is just as important to exonerate those unjustly accused as it is to put crooks behind bars. This was the case in Region 6's timely investigation into allegations of sub-standard construction on a \$55 million ARRA project in Oklahoma.



The hotline case was based on an anonymous caller who alleged that a contractor was not performing work to the minimum contract specifications. (b)(6)

(b)(6) reviewed the allegations and quickly made contact with the state district engineer and a former employee for the contractor, whose first name only was provided by the complainant. During the former employee's interview, (b)(6)"admitted" that (b)(6) had been directed by management to cover up shoddy work and to pour concrete thinner than specified by the contract.

Although the former employee provided detailed and seemingly credible information, testimonial evidence needs to be backed up with something more, uh, concrete. To corroborate the employee's statements, (b)(6) (b)(6) coordinated with the state DOT to take core samples from the locations where "thin" concrete was poured.

After the samples were taken, we learned that the concrete met project specifications for thickness.

Based on the physical evidence obtained through the core samples, we were able to show that the allegations were unfounded, thus helping to vindicate the subject company. By working quickly, and partnering with our state stakeholders, we were able to resolve the allegations made in this hotline complaint in about 4 month's time.



NOTEWORTHY



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OPENING DAY AT THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS; 2011 NEW HIRE CAPITOL TOUR

On February 16, Amanda Barton, Daniel Ben-Zadok, and new hires Nate Caldwell, Doris Kwong, Patti Lehman, Jamila Mammadova, Meredith Howell and Jim Quinn took the DC Circulator to Capitol Hill.

On the Hill, the new hires attended the House Subcommittee

on Space and Aeronautics' hearing on NextGen and heard Cal deliver his testimony.

The testimony was followed by a tour of the Capitol—another first for many—where we gaped at the magnificent stone and artwork that cover the walls and ceilings of even the

most utilitarian spaces. Back at our offices, we could only dream of inlaid mahogany desks, and cubicle walls of Indiana limestone.

- Jim Quinn, Auditor, JA-50



NOTEWORTHY

Distinguished Speaker (b)(6) Inspires DOT Staff

Visualize your life as a mountain. You slowly build a wide foundation of skills and knowledge, and over time hone them to a summit of expertise. Think Mt. Fuji. This is (b)(6) answer to a common conundrum: How do you manage the complexity of life and still become masterful at something? Take it step by step.

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spoke at the Department of Civil Rights' fourth Distinguished Speakers Series. His presentation—supported by a slide show of quirky, engaging images—appealed to visual and verbal learners alike.

(b)(6) talk focused on the coexistence of humanity and technology. We have moved from a world of coffee table conversations to couples on dates texting on their smart phones.

(b)(6) argues that the critical thinking, critical making, and creative leadership embodied in the arts and design can lead us to an enlightened form of innova-

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TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP	CREATIVE LEADERSHIP
Authority	Inspiration
More sticks	More carrots
Hierarchy	Networked
Linear	Nonlinear
Yes or no	Maybe (comfort with ambiguity)
Loves to avoid mistakes	Learns from mistakes

tion where art, design, technology and business meet.

As a leader, (b)(6) gives himself license to take risks and productively fail. As a takeaway, (b)(6) referred to his web page

for those characteristics that distinguish creative leaders from traditional leaders (see above).

- Emily Norton, Analyst, JA-40

To view a short video of a 2007 talk (b)(6) gave on the simple life, visit: [http://www.ted.com/talks/\(b\)\(6\).html](http://www.ted.com/talks/(b)(6).html).

OIG IN THE NEWS

DOT IG Notes Technical Problems in FAA NextGen Programs

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

(ainonline.com)

<http://www.ainonline.com/news/single-news-page/article/dot-ig-notes-technical-problems-in-faa-nextgen-programs-28823/>

Last week, **Department of Transportation Inspector General (IG) Calvin Scovel III**, along with an MIT representative and an FAA vice president, gave separate testimony on NextGen status before the House subcommittee on space and aeronautics. The **DOT IG** reported continuing technical problems with the en route automation modernization (Eram) project, a nationwide upper airspace flight data and management system necessary for full National Airspace System introduction of ADS-B, DataComm and system-wide information management (Swim).

Truck Inspector's Alleged Bribery Damages Trust in Safety Inspections

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

(AutomotiveDiscovery.com on a JRI-2 investigation)

<http://automotivediscovery.com/truck-inspector%20%99s-alleged-bribery-damages-trust-in-safety-inspections/924566/>

An attorney representing victims of tractor-trailer accidents in the Northeast has said that the alleged misconduct of a Federal truck inspector could have endangered many New York Motorists and the alleged up-state New York bribery scandal has undermined trust in truck safety inspections.

According to the paper, he was arrested in an investigation by the **U.S. Department of Transportation's Inspector General's Office** and the FBI.

NOTEWORTHY

IDP and Learning Plans—What Does it All Mean?

Find Out at the March 8 Community of Practice

On Tuesday, March 8, at 2 p.m. in the DOT Media Center, Angie Thorpe, Director of OIG's Human Resources Development Center will discuss IDPs, learning plans, and how they apply to you. The event will include a Q&A session.

Participants will not earn CPEs, but we believe that this presentation will provide those who attend with a better understanding of how the IDPs and learning plans can help them meet their training goals.

We hope to see you there!

Swearing In Ceremony

On March 1, Cal administered the Oath of Office to 24 former career interns. The history of the oath can be traced to the Constitution, where Article II includes the specific oath the President takes to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." The wording we use today as an Executive agency dates back to the Civil War.

OIG swore in the following staff in HQ and the regions:

- JA-10: Alfredo Atregeño, Nathaniel Caldwell, Ruth Foyere, and Thomas Shanahan
- JA-20: Cordelia Bostic, Jenelle Morris
- JA-40: Peter Barber, Daniel Ben-Zadok, Luke Brennan, Shirell Butcher, Michael English, Doris Kwong, Jamila Mammadova, Emily Norton, Kristi-Jo Preston, Michelle Starkey
- JA-50: Michael Day, Deanne Titus
- JA-60: Meredith Howell, Aaron Malinoff, Tashaun Ross, Patti Lehman, Patrick Paradise
- (b)(6)

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COMINGS & GOINGS

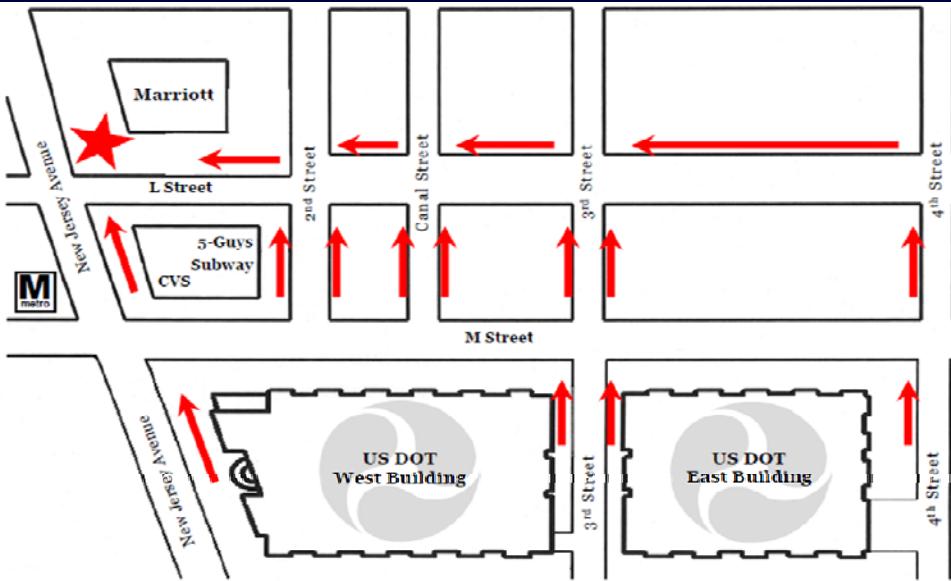
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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Cal and Maria grab their coats and head toward the OIG evacuation rally point at the corner of L and New Jersey.

OIG STAFF RALLY FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL

Secretary LaHood's Time and Safety Campaign is currently under way and will run through March 31. The campaign places special emphasis on emergency preparedness and asks all DOT agencies to evaluate their plans and ensure that employees are fully prepared to take proper action in the event of an emergency. You can find OIG's emergency evacuation procedures on our intranet at [OIG HQ Evacuation and Shelter in Place Procedures](#).

There are two types of actions required in the event of an emergency: evacuate the building or shelter in place. Instructions to

take shelter are announced over the public address system. Hearing impaired individuals will receive text messages to shelter in place through the emergency text message pager system.

Strobe lights will flash and alarms will sound when evacuation is required. In an evacuation situation, all employees should proceed to the nearest available stairway and evacuate according to the direction of the Fire Warden. At ground level, personnel should assemble across M Street at Block W7—the corner of L and New Jersey on the Marriott side of L Street, as shown on the map.

At the rally point, each HQ Office

(JA-10, JI-2, JM-20, etc.) will have signs reflecting their office symbols. You should find the person holding your office's sign, check in with your supervisor or designee to ensure you are accounted for, and remain at the rally point until the "all clear" signal is given to return to the building. Supervisors or their designees are responsible for accounting for all personnel, notifying Missing Person Reporters (identified by badges) of any missing personnel, and providing a final accounting to the Director, JM-10 (identified by an "Emergency Manager" sign). Note that you should be prepared to proceed to

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 2/21	TUESDAY 2/22	WEDNESDAY 2/23	THURSDAY 2/24	FRIDAY 2/25
 PRESIDENTS DAY	<p>CAL/ANN/LOU- Quarterly Mtg. with IG/ FAA (1:00 p.m.)</p> <p>CAL– EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL– S2 Updates (3:30 p.m.)</p>		<p>ANN– SAC ASAC Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>SUSAN– SAC ASAC Mtg. (9:30 a.m.)</p>	

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

and spend an extended period of time at the rally point in potentially inclement weather.

It is likely that OST will conduct an emergency evacuation drill sometime during the next 2 months, and that makes it all the more important that we understand what is expected of us now since these types of drills can be confusing. Note that you are not to evacuate unless you are certain that alarms and strobes are activated on your floor.

It should be noted that DOT is prohibited from using elevators to evacuate individuals with disabilities or medical conditions. Individuals who are unable to evacuate using the stairways will report to the nearest stairway area of refuge for assistance. The stairways have been designed to offer protection in the event of a fire emergency. Stairways are also equipped with a communication intercom system, 2-hour fire rating, and positive ventilation pressure to keep smoke out of the stairways. You can read

more on the topic of evacuating individuals with disabilities or medical conditions by accessing the evacuation procedures at [OIG HQ Evacuation and Shelter in Place Procedures](#).

Any questions concerning evacuation or shelter-in-place procedures may be directed to Laurie Meier, Director, Office of Procurement and Administrative Services.

—Laurie Meier, Director, Office of Procurement and Administrative Services, JM-10

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY

OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST ASSET—LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG ON PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The February 14 Leadership Brown Bag was standing room only with field staff connected via videoconference and phone to hear Ann speak about performance management and the critical role we each play as managers and senior leaders in promoting enhanced performance. Cal took time away from his testimony prep to kick off the Brown Bag. He said that a top area for improvement as identified through our employee survey results is performance management. As leaders, it is our responsibility to address the problem of poor performers. We must identify provide them with the three "T's"—tools, training,

and time—to become successful, and if, after a fair assessment, we find that their performance is not up to par, we must take appropriate actions. We owe that to our mission and to our organization.

How often have we all said, "our people are our greatest assets?" Ann asked us to think about how much time we actually spend with our staff, investing in their work, progress, and performance. She emphasized the need to find time—quality time—for this important responsibility that we, as supervisors each carry. For performance management to be effective, it requires structure, communica-

tion, investment of time, and accountability. She

said that performance management should be a natural activity—a part of our daily routine—you take the edge away with discussions about performance by continually assessing, recording, and communicating progress and talking to your staff. Ann engaged us in an in-depth discussion on the performance management tips in the table below.

—Madeline Chulumovich,
Chief of Staff, J-2



Ann's Performance Management Strategies for Supervisors

- Set meaningful and attainable expectations—individually and with your team. Make modifications to them as needed and communicate them in a timely manner.
- Engage staff in the process—make it a collaborative effort and one that focuses on building in feedback.
- Provide staff with the tools, resources, and support needed to be successful.
- Create a positive, respectful, and supportive environment that also doesn't shy away from being honest.
- Continually assess, record, and communicate progress—not only at mid-point or end-of-year. Talk to your staff often.
- Coach, mentor, and explore ways to optimize employees' strengths while addressing areas for targeted improvement.
- Reward solid performance.
- Tackle discipline by grounding work in standards.
- Learn from others and from mistakes.

NOTEWORTHY

LEGAL ADVICE ON JURY DUTY

As David Wonnenberg pointed out in his recent tale of extended grand jury service, Federal employees are prohibited by law from receiving compensation for jury service in the Federal and DC court systems. A different statute provides that compensation earned by Federal employees for service on *state or local* juries must be credited against their pay. These laws prevent Federal employees from being compensated twice—first, by being paid their salary while on court leave and, second, by the courts for appearing for jury duty.

Your liability to the Federal Government for compensation for jury service is not lessened if you voluntarily decline compensation, so you should initially accept all compensation offered by states and localities and then turn over to the Government the appropriate amount. Although Federal employees may not be compensated for jury service when they are on court leave, Federal employees are permitted to keep reimbursements for travel or subsistence while on jury duty. The difference between compensation and reimbursement depends on the exact wording of the state or local law. Some states provide compensation only, some provide only an expense reimbursement, and others have a hybrid scheme. If you receive compensation for service on a state or local jury when on court leave, you should remit the appropriate amount of compensation to the OIG CFO by check. Make your check out to DOT OIG and send it to JM-30 (specifically, Charnell Jenkins, HQ Office W71-202). The check will then be forwarded to the U.S. Treasury. An alternative method, which should be reserved for large sums, is to reimburse the Treasury by having the amount of compensation withheld from your pay.

The OIG Office of Legal Counsel has put together a set of questions and answers pertaining to court leave when summoned for jury duty.



What if my jury service was longer than my regular work day?

You may be entitled to a pro rata share of the offered compensation for sitting on a jury if the service is longer than the amount of court leave you took. You are not entitled to comp time.

My duty hours start at 7 AM. I am not required to show up at the courthouse until 9 AM. Do I have to work those 2 hours?

If your regular duty hours begin before the time of the summons, or if you are excused by the court before your regular duty hours have expired, whether you must work is a decision supervisors should make on a case-by-case basis. However, the employee's first duty is to the court. Employees who are likely to spend a substantial part of their day at the courthouse, they should not be expected to work prior to their summons time. Supervisors should not expect excused jurors to return to work if it would pose a hardship or would otherwise be unreasonable,

taking all the facts into consideration, including commuting time and the employee's need for rest.

I served on a jury on my RDO. Can I accept compensation for that service?

Yes, because you were not in a duty status. This also applies to state jury duty performed on a Saturday or Federal holiday.

Can I move my RDO so that it does not coincide with my jury duty?

You should follow OIG's policy on

NOTEWORTHY

alternative work schedules.

My jury service required me to deliberate until late at night. I am really tired. Can I sleep in without charge to my leave account?

This is permitted at the discretion of your supervisor.

The state court gave me compensation plus a small travel allowance that did not cover my actual costs. Can I deduct a portion of my actual expenses from the compensation?

No, you cannot deduct your actual transportation costs from amounts provided as juror compensation—you must remit the entire compensation amount to the Federal government.

I am working on an important project. Can I seek to be excused from jury duty because of work commitments?

Generally no. Only in rare circumstances should a Federal employee seek to be excused from jury duty because of a work commitment.

I am a criminal investigator. May I continue to receive Law Enforcement Availability pay while on court leave?

Do I have to pay tax on reimbursements? Am I going to be taxed on compensation from a state that returned to the Federal Government?

Yes. The statute authorizing court leave provides that employees shall receive the same amount of pay that the employee would receive but for the summons for jury duty.

What if jurors are paid for mileage from home to the courthouse?

We cannot provide tax advice, but the IRS provides that information on the following information in an online FAQ:

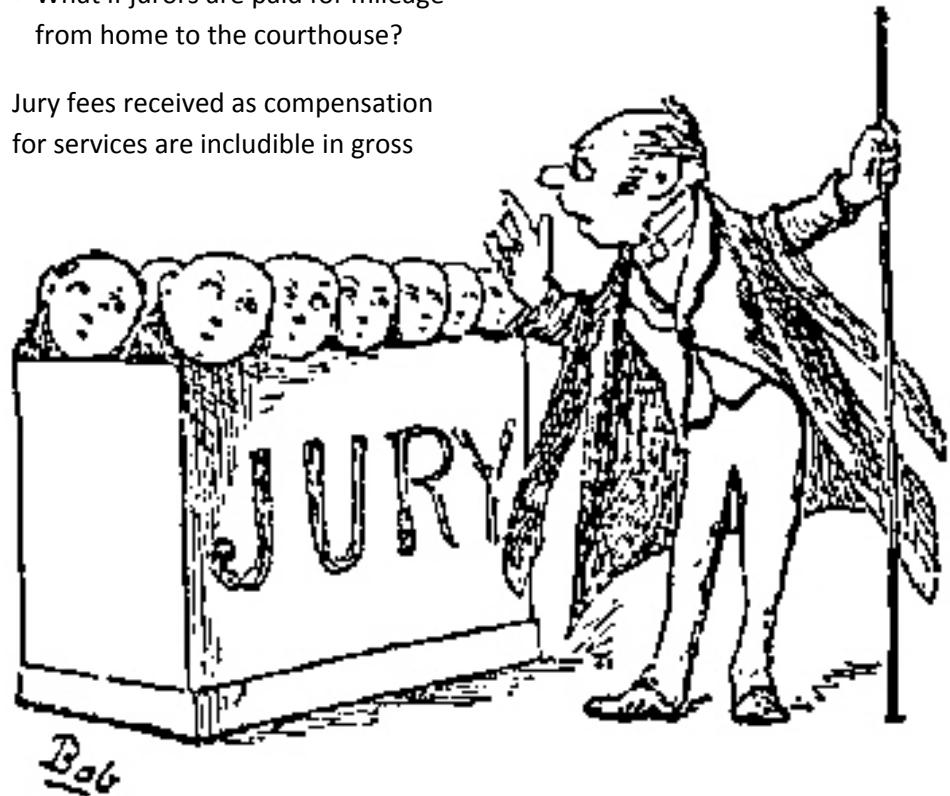
- Is payment received for jury duty subject to income tax?
- What if jurors are paid for mileage from home to the courthouse?

Jury fees received as compensation for services are includable in gross

income. See section 1.61-2(a)(1), Income Tax Regulations. However, amounts received separately as reimbursements or allowances for travel to and from the courthouse, meals, and lodging during jury duty are not included in gross income.

Some employers pay employees their regular wages on days that the employees perform jury duty. In exchange for these wages, the employer may require the employees to pay to the employer the jury fees that the employees receive as compensation for jury service. If an employee must pay these jury fees to his or her employer, the employee may claim an above-the-line deduction on Form 1040 for the amount of the fees paid to the employer.

—Seth Kaufman, Senior Counsel, J-3



NOTEWORTHY

MARLIES GONZALES RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

On February 15, 2011, Warren Lubow, Area Chair for the Department of Defense, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) visited the DOT-OIG, Regional Office in Sunrise, Florida, to present Special Agent in Charge

(SAC) Marlies T. Gonzalez of Region 4 with the "Patriot Award."

ESGR's mission is to "promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees." ESGR primarily serves as an informational service regarding the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), awards employers for their support of employees in the National Guard and Reserve, and also act as professionally trained Ombudsmen for neutral mediation concerning USERRA compliance issues. ESGR created the Patriot Award to publicly recognize companies and individuals who provide outstanding support and cooperation to their employees who have answered their Nation's call to serve.

viduals who provide outstanding support and cooperation to their employees who have answered their Nation's call to serve.

(b)(6), (b)(7)c
, (b)(6), (b)(7)c —currently serving in Afghanistan as the (b)(6)
, (b)(6), (b)(7)c nominated (b)(6), (b)(7)c for being a highly supportive supervisor while (b)(6)serves. Chair Lubow explained supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the National Guard and Reserve units. Congratulations to SAC Gonzalez on her award and support of America's warriors.

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

JA-50 DOES MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR TRAINING

JA-50 staff attended a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) training session at HQ on February 9. The interactive course is part "personality inventory" and part team-building . The personality inventory attempts to explain our individual, seemingly random and idiosyncratic behavior—the proposition that our behaviors and methods are a reflection of basic differences in the way we perceive and understand our environment. The upshot of the personality inventory is that it can help team members understand themselves and one another on a more basic level. The goal being

that with this knowledge, the group as a whole can make better decisions.

Aside from applying Jungian psychology, it was amazing (to me, at least) to visually grasp just how large a percentage of the JA-50 staff had less than 6 months onboard, and how many had less than 15 months. With such an inflow of new personnel, it was a great way for the group's veterans to put a face to the names of the rookies, and for the new hires to put a face to the names of, well, just about everyone (aside from the "yeah, that's the person in

the cube next to the bulletin board/copy machine/pillar" method of identification). Plus, it helped that we identified our respective 'power animals' (lion, eagle, cat, catfish, etc.).



Although some will use it more than others (MBTI has its adherents as well as its scoffers), it was a great way to get acquainted with all the team members!

—Jim Quinn, Auditor, JA-50
(INTP, by the way)

OIG IN THE NEWS

NOTEWORTHY

Lawmakers Request Dulles Rail Audits

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

(Washingtonpost.com)

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dr-gridlock/2011/02/congressmen_request_audit_of_d.html

Republican Congressmen Frank Wolf and Tom Latham on Tuesday requested an annual audit of the Metrorail extension to Loudoun County as a way to prevent cost overruns and ensure the project is completed on schedule.

In a letter to **Calvin Scovel, inspector general of the U.S. Department of Transportation**, Latham (Iowa) and Wolf (Va.) asked for an annual audit of both the first and second phases of the project.

HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR — FEBRUARY 2011

Name of Course	Date	Time	Instructor
Managing Employee Performance and Conduct	Feb 22-23	9:00 - 4:00	B. Alexander and A. Lane
MBTI for Team (JA-2) - HRDC	Feb 22	8:30 - 12:30	D. Alexander
MBTI for Team (JM-40) - HRDC	Feb 23	8:30 - 4:30	D. Alexander
Performance Feedback - Practicing the Difficult Conversation - HRDC	Feb 24-25	9:00 - 4:00	B. Alexander and C. Harshaw
JA Case Study - HRDC	Feb 28-Mar 4	9:00 - 4:30	A. Barton
Management Workshop: Supervision - HQ - W74-101	Mar 1	Noon - 1:00	OHR

TIPS TO REDUCE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN TMS**1. Delete Cookies**

- Open **Internet Explorer**
- Navigate to **Tools** in the menu
- Select **Internet Options** to open the General Tab of Internet Options
- Locate the Temporary Internet Files
- Click the **Delete Cookies** button. The "Delete all cookies in the Temporary Internet File?" window will open
- Click OK

2. Clear Browser History

- Open up **Internet Explorer**
- Navigate to **Tools** in the top menu
- Click **Internet Options** at the bottom of the dropdown list. A window will open to the General Tab
- Locate the History section toward the bottom of the window
- Click on the button **Clear History**. "Are you sure you want Windows to delete your history of visited Web Sites?"
- Click **Yes**. Then click on the "OK" button

3. Disable or Turn Off Pop-Up Blockers

Skillsoft and other courses appear in pop-up windows. You can allow all pop-ups, or allow them only for this site. Be sure to re-enable these options when you are finished.

- Open up **Internet Explorer**
- Navigate to **Tools** in the top menu
- Scroll down to **Pop-up Blocker** in the drop-down list
- Select **Turn off Pop-up Blocker** from the list that appears to the left
- To re-enable, Open up **Internet Explorer**
- Navigate to **Tools** in the top menu.
- Scroll down and hover over **Pop-up Blocker** in the drop-down list
- Select **Turn On Pop-up Blocker** from the list that appears to the left

4. Check Compatibility with Skillsoft Courses

- If the course you want to take is from Skillsoft, open a Web Browser and go to <http://browser.skillport.com>
- Follow the instructions

NOTEWORTHY

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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(b)(6) All five investigators joined OIG within the past year to work on ARRA investigations and oversight. The training was also opened to JA personnel planning audits involving FHWA's oversight of ARRA projects and DBE programs. Aisha Evans, Tashaun Ross, Paul Stark, Rachel Alderman, and Aaron Malinoff from JA -60 attended some sessions and reported that they were useful and entertaining.

(b)(6) has more than thirty years experience in Federal law enforcement, and provided anecdotes and case studies from his career.

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JI PROVIDES CONTRACT FRAUD TRAINING FOR NEWLY HIRED ARRA INVESTIGATORS

On February 1st and 2nd, (b)(6) (b)(6) JI's Director of ARRA Investigations, conducted a two-day training course at OIG Headquarters on Contract/Grant and DBE Fraud. Topics included ARRA trends and investigations to date, false claims, under bidding, price fixing, the False Claims Act, and indicators of fraud in highway construction.

Inspector General Cal Scovel and PAIGI Tim Barry spoke to the investigators and thanked them for their hard work and excellent oversight of ARRA projects. Inspector General Scovel stated that, so far, "DOT OIG has hit it

out of the park with our ARRA oversight." He also noted that the ARRA work by both JA and JI has far exceeded that of most other OIGs, and the important work we do is getting the recognition it deserves from Congress.

John also spoke to the investigators about JI's priorities for ARRA in 2011, which include a review of change orders and claims filed on projects that were underbid by more than fifteen percent.

In attendance were:

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 2/14	TUESDAY 2/15	WEDNESDAY 2/16	THURSDAY 2/17	FRIDAY 2/18
 ANN– Leadership Brown Bag (12:00 p.m.)	ANN & BRIAN– CIGIE Mtg. (10:00 a.m.)	CAL– NextGen Testimony (10:00 a.m.)	FRONT OFFICE– ARRA Update (10:00 p.m.)	

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

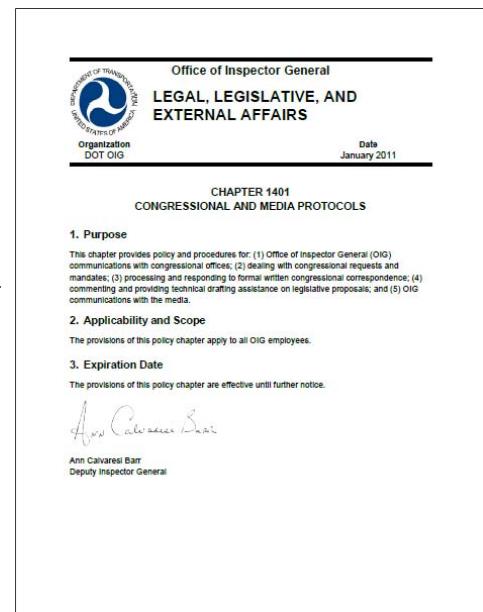
FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH OIG'S NEW CONGRESSIONAL AND MEDIA POLICY

With the opening of Congress's new session and the continued arrival of new OIG employees, now is a good time to introduce our collected congressional and media practices and procedures in a new single OIG policy.

The policy is [available on the OIG intranet](#), as is an abbreviated document that outlines the [policy's key elements](#). Many will find that the policy represents a recitation of familiar practices and standard procedures, but we hope that it will serve as a useful resource and training tool for new employees as well.

The policy does contain a few new elements. Notable among these is the replacement of the practice of notifying SES and front office executives of briefings and communications with the Hill via email updates with a new tool on SharePoint designed to make these updates accessible, searchable and trackable for all OIG staff as well as our senior leaders. Anyone in OIG can access or add to these shared updates directly through the [Congressional Communications Tracking System \(CCTS\)](#) on the OIG intranet, which also provides email alerts on new items to anyone in OIG who subscribes.

As always, J-3 stands ready to assist anyone who has questions or needs help regarding CCTS or congressional and media contacts in general. Please don't hesitate to contact me, David Wonnenberg or Eric Weems.



- Nathan Richmond, Director and Counsel for Congressional & External Affairs, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE

OIG Colleagues,

As you know, we are in the process of developing an inclusive, OIG-wide mentoring program. As the initial data collection strategy, we plan to roll out a series of cross-organizational focus groups to gather information from staff to ensure that our program will meet the collective needs of the OIG population.

The purpose of these focus groups is two-fold: 1) to provide some general background information on mentoring, and 2) to gather data as a starting point for developing the vision and guiding principles that will serve as the underpinnings of the program.

The group discussions will center on broad questions analyzing staff's prior experiences with mentoring, identifying potential organizational needs that the program could address, discussing core skills and knowledge mentees may want to develop as part of the program, and identifying positive factors for program success as well as potential obstacles. Please keep in mind that our goal is to have a consistent program across OIG that will be flexible enough to meet the needs of individuals throughout the organization,

whether they come from JA, JI, J3, or JM, in headquarters or the field. The program design will enable you to create the type of mentoring partnership that is conducive to your own work environment and unique developmental needs.

We are pulling all groups together

Our goal is to have a consistent program across OIG that will be flexible enough to meet the needs of individuals throughout the organization.

to expedite the information gathering process, so that we can quickly begin work on the program's design and implementation. The focus groups will consist of a diverse, cross-cutting sample, broken up by a series of GS groupings. We will hold the majority of the focus group sessions at Headquarters and videoconference with the Regional offices. However, we also plan to visit several Regional offices to ensure that field employees have an opportunity to share their perspectives. We encourage you to volunteer to participate and

share your ideas with us when the focus group schedule is announced over the next couple of days.

Based on the results of our focus group discussions, if time permits, we will make ourselves available to further discuss any needs and concerns. You may also take advantage of the mentoring email list (mentoring@oig.dot.gov), which is monitored regularly; we welcome your comments and questions through this venue. Furthermore, we will be returning to the head of each organization after information is collected to solicit feedback as to whether the overall program plan will meet the needs of each organization's specific mission.

Cal and I fully support this program as part of employee development within OIG, and look forward to completing our data collection and moving forward to the implementation of this important program.

Thanks in advance for your interest and cooperation; I am very excited about this for all of us!



-Ann Calvaresi
-Barr, Deputy
IG

NOTEWORTHY

REGISTER FOR MENTORING FOCUS GROUP

If you're interested in participating in a mentoring focus group, please register for a group session by sending a message to mentoring@oig.dot.gov. Refer to the focus group schedule Lauren Malmon emailed on February 9, 2011, and select a session based on your own grade level and the correct location. Participation will be on a first come, first served basis. Also, please indicate if you will need a conference calling number. Come to the mentoring focus group sessions prepared to discuss/share the following: (1) any prior experience you have had with mentoring; (2) potential organizational needs that the program could address; (3) core skills and knowledge that mentees may want to develop; and (4) positive factors for program success as well as potential obstacles. Feel free to contact Lauren Malmon at (202) 493-0301 (lauren.malmon@oig.dot.gov) with any questions or comments. You may also email mentoring@oig.dot.gov.

LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG ON VALENTINES DAY

Just a reminder that on Monday, February 14, from noon to 1:30 pm EST in the OIG Conference room, Ann will be leading the Leadership Brown Bag discussion, for GS-14s and above, on "Performance Management." Ann will engage you in a discussion on your role as a manager in the performance management process, highlight best practices, and share her experiences. Please let Ellen Craig (Ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov) know if you will be videoconferencing or calling in for the brown bag. Please note that this Brown Bag session is not the same as the 1 ½ day course offered by the HRDC, "Managing Employee Performance and Conduct for Supervisors," which is being held the following 2 days. This HRDC course will instruct you on the "nuts & bolts" of performance management.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009!



On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) into law in response to the economic crisis facing the nation. The Act provides for unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability so that taxpayers know where their tax dollars are being spent. ARRA designated over \$48 billion to the Department and \$20 million to our office to conduct timely oversight of DOT's funds. Our office has had a very busy two years. Early on, we developed a comprehensive oversight approach consisting of short and long-term strategies for our ARRA budget, hiring, audit, and investigative activities. The approach we created gave us a strong foundation which we continue to build on. We have conducted over 200 fraud awareness briefings to over 17,000 people, and have 48 criminal investigations under way. We have issued seven audit reports and four ARRA advisories, and have 12 ongoing audits and eight planned for FY 2011. Congratulations to all of our staff for a job well done. Our ARRA work is truly an OIG-wide effort. On Thursday, our audit and investigative staff will brief Cal and Ann and the rest of the senior leadership team on our ongoing ARRA activities and the work that lies ahead.

OIG IN THE NEWS

Charges Filed in Mississippi for CDL, Hazmat Test Falsification

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

(Landlinemag.com on a JRI-4 investigation)

http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2011/Feb11/020711/020711-05.shtml

A retired high-ranking Mississippi state trooper and a retired state Department of Public Safety employee have been charged in Federal court following an investigation over the falsification of CDL test scores.

According to the **U.S. DOT Office of Inspector General**, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation worked with OIG, and the FBI to examine allegations that state troopers had “aided and abetted others in creating false commercial driver’s license test scores to obtain CDLs.”

O’Hare Airport at Risk of Never Expanding, Airlines Say in Court

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20110204/NEWS10/110209917/o'hare-airport-at-risk-of-never-expanding-airlines-say-in-court#axzz1DOLL61rt>

United Airlines and American Airlines warned Friday that the expansion of O’Hare International Airport may never be completed.

In their brief, United and American noted that in 2005, the **Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation** “warned the city that unless the airlines’ approval was obtained, the risk exists that the completion phase would never be completed. That risk has now materialized.”

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR — FEBRUARY 2011

Name of Course	Date	Time	Instructor
Performance Management - IG Conference Room	2/14/2011	12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	A. Calvaresi-Barr
TeamMate 101: Introduction to TeamMate - HQ (W71-101)	2/15/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Akilah Boston
Managing Employee Performance and Conduct - HRDC	2/15-16/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	B. Alexander and A. Lane
TeamMate FY 2011 Skills Update- HQ (W71-101)	2/16/2011	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Akilah Boston
Management Workshop - HQ (W71-101)	2/17/2011	12 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	OHR
Managing Employee Performance and Conduct	2/22-2/23/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	B. Alexander and A. Lane
MBTI for Team (JA-2)	2/22/2011	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	D. Alexander
MBTI for Team (JM-40)	2/23/2011	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	D. Alexander
Performance Feedback - Practicing the Difficult Conversation - HRDC	2/24-25/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	B. Alexander and C. Harshaw

What is a GOAL?

A **Goal** is nothing more than an end-point you want to reach (an accomplishment). It can be either short-term or long-term.

SMART GOALS

Specific - a definite and tangible outcome

Measurable - clear indicators as to how the achievement of the objective will be met

Agreed - collaborative effort between you and your supervisor

Realistic - should be within your reach or attainable

Timely - a clear indicator of when the objective will be achieved

Training now has a mailbox: Training-HRDC

Training's NEW main number: 202-260-8560 with voicemail

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

FEBRUARY 4, 2011

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(b)(6)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 2/7	TUESDAY 2/8	WEDNESDAY 2/9	THURSDAY 2/10	FRIDAY 2/11
	<p>CAL– EMT (9:30 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– CIGIE Leg. Committee mtg. (9:30 a.m.)</p>			

NOTEWORTHY

CATCHING UP WITH CAL

On February 2, 12 employees gathered in the IG Conference room, and 6 employees connected through video or teleconference to ask questions and speak with Cal in an informal setting he designated "Open Mic Wednesday." It was also an opportunity to introduce some employees to our new Chief Information Officer, Jason Carroll, and Lauren Malmon, who will be developing OIG's new mentoring program.

Notably, Cal shared the top three office priorities based on the OIG Annual Survey: (1) Audit Report

Review Process and Timeliness, (2) Performance Management, and (3) Leadership Training/Communications. Cal also discussed the current Federal budget issues and said that "OIG is in as good shape as possible." Cal went on to explain that there will not be an across-the-board promotion freeze and most likely, there will not be a hiring freeze at OIG. Cal plans to hold another "Catching Up with Cal" session in the next couple of months, so stay tuned!

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—Daniel Ben-Zadok, Analyst, JA-40

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

SUPII CLASS SUCCUMBS TO SNOW DAY

The week of January 24, a good mix of supervisors and managers from JI, JA, and J-3 attended Supervision II, Managing Work Groups and Teams. This 4-day training course required me to travel in on Sunday, the day my Bears lost to our arch rival "The Packers." Needless to say, I was not in the best of moods that Monday. But it was so nice to see Deb Alexander again after SUPI and see some familiar faces and meet some new folks within the OIG.

As discussed in a previous *Inspector* article, the course focused on the Johari Window, which is the framework for self-knowledge and development, along with Tuckman's team model development, conflict resolution using the M.E.E.T tool, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator self-assessments. We also did a lot of role playing—which caused many eyes to roll. However, our large and very lively group rolled with it and had some fun in the process!

**Now, being a Chicagoan,
I couldn't help but be
perplexed about the
hoopla over a few inches
of snow, but this is DC,
and I wasn't in Chicago
anymore.**

One new aspect of the Supervision II course was the introduction of an Action Learning Plan project, which requires the class to come up with a plan to address an actual OIG issue, using the applied techniques from the class. On day 3, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Bob Westbrooks, who served as the group's project sponsor, presented the project question to three teams: "*How can we encourage a greater sense of commitment and loyalty to DOT/OIG among employees to ensure that the OIG is the employer of choice among talented employees?*" This question goes hand in hand with the OIG survey question, "*If offered a comparable job elsewhere, would I take it?*"—41.4 percent of OIG overall said they would. Needless to say, this causes Cal some concern, which he expressed to our group Monday morning. So, when presented with this project, we quickly realized the importance of this real life problem, which required some important actionable solutions.

Then on Wednesday came the snow/ice/thunder snow—whatever that is. Now, being a Chicagoan, I couldn't help but be perplexed about the hoopla over a few inches of snow, but this is DC, and I wasn't in Chicago anymore. After being presented with the project, our team quickly realized that we had to work fast to get a plan together so that those commuters could get a jump on their dreaded commute. Very early Thursday morning Deb was doing all she could to coordinate remotely with three separate groups, some of which were battling power outages and child care issues. Many of us tried to work on our projects via blackberries, personal phones, email and/or conference calls—but in the end the weather prevailed, and we decided to call that day a wash and make our presentations to Bob on February 10 instead of on January 28. So, now that we have an extra 2 weeks to work on our project the pressure is on to really deliver! Don't worry Cal, after we are done, no one will ever want to leave DOT/OIG! Stay tuned for the details and some interesting information on team dynamics.

—Michelle McVicker, Special Agent-In-Charge, JRI-5, Chicago

OIG IN THE NEWS

OIG to Review FAA's Air Traffic Facility Realignment and Consolidation

FEBRUARY 2, 2011

(AvStop.com on a JA-10 audit)

http://avstop.com/feb_2011/oig_to_review_faa_air_traffic_facility_realignment_and_consolidation.htm

Many of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) air traffic control facilities were built over 40 years ago and are approaching the end of their useful life.

On September 1, 2010, the FAA established a Special Program Management Office to plan and manage large-scale realignments and consolidations. The **Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General (OIG)** developed an initial spending plan of \$1.5 billion through fiscal year 2017 for such efforts as airspace re-designs, facility planning and development, and construction of new facilities.

In November 2010, the then-Ranking Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Subcommittee on Aviation stated that with the FAA embarking on NextGen and given the current budgetary environment, there were significant opportunities for the Agency to realign and consolidate its vast network of aging facilities.

They requested that **OIG** review the FAA's current plans for consolidating air traffic facilities and assess the major cost drivers and technical challenges associated with these efforts.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)



J-3 CAN GIVE YOU THE SUPPORT YOU NEED TO DO YOUR AUDITS

On Wednesday, February 2, OIG employees gathered in conference room W71-101 with David Wonnenberg (J-3) and Amy Berks (J-3) for training on the Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and other relevant legislative training. David Wonnenberg kicked off the training with a pop-quiz on "Civics 101" and an introduction into what J-3 does on a day-to-day basis. He explained that J-3's duties go way beyond Omer's weekly baked goods. Rather, J-3 helps us through the congressional process and keeps us abreast of the daily happenings on Capitol Hill. David described J-3 as the "interface" between OIG auditors and the Hill. As a former staffer in the Senate, David was able to give employees useful insight into the inner workings of Congress and reassured OIG staff that our efforts are appreciated at the highest levels of Congress.

Amy Berks followed up on David's primer on Congress and delved into the more byzantine realm of agency rulemaking processes and regulations. Amy also enlightened OIG employees on how to access the CFR. Rather than perusing through the entire 12 shelves of the "regulatory rainbow" near Fritz Swartzbaugh's desk, she showed us how to quickly and easily access the CFR and FR docket folders online. Reading regulatory public comments can bring different viewpoints to the table, but it can also help an auditor frame the "technical, operational, and legal details" of the law (that is, "criteria") that are necessary for an agency program to meet statutory goals.

—Peter Barber, Analyst, JA-40

HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR — FEBRUARY 2011

Course	Date	Time	Instructor
TeamMate Basic Supervision - HQ (W74-101)	2/3/2011	9 a.m. - Noon	Akilah Boston
CITRIX Certification Training (JM-40) - HRDC	2/7-11/2011	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	TBD
MBTI (JRI - 3) -HQ - Conference Room #6	2/7/2011	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Deb Alexander
TeamMate Roundtable- HQ (W71-101)	2/8/2011	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Akilah Boston
TeamMate Roundtable- HQ (W74-101)	2/9/2011	2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Akilah Boston
MBTI (JA-50) - HQ - Conference Room #6	2/9/2011	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Deb Alexander
TeamMate 101: Introduction to TeamMate - HQ (W71-101)	2/15/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Akilah Boston
Managing Employee Performance and Conduct - HRDC	2/15-16/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Ben Alexander, April Lane
TeamMate FY 2011 Skills Update- HQ (W71-101)	2/16/2011	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Akilah Boston
Performance Management - IG Conference Room	2/16/2011	12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Ann Calvaresi-Barr
Management Workshop - HQ (W71-101)	2/17/2011	12 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	OHR
Performance Feedback - Practicing the Difficult Conversation - HRDC	2/17-18/2011	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Ben Alexander, Connie Harshaw

IDP FAQS

What is an IDP?

An Individual Development Plan, or IDP, is written plan developed by the supervisor and employee tailored to the employee's developmental objectives and the developmental activity for achieving these objectives. The purpose of an IDP is to increase current proficiency, development, and progression of the employee through a systematic development plan.

Who develops the IDP?

Each **Employee** has the primary responsibility for working closely with his or her supervisor to develop and monitor the IDP.

So you can't find your employee?

Here are some steps you can take in TMS to find them. Go to "My Employees," then "Org Chart." Click "Employee" (snapshot), then "Learning Plan" (go box). "Personal/home" will welcome you to the employee. Click "View" to view employees IDP. Hit "Home" to return to regular page.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Cal kicked off the data-rich All-Hands meeting.



Lou talked about strategies to improve timeliness of reviews.



Ann introduced plans for a new formal mentoring program, lead by Laurie Malmon.



Scott Florcsik gave a rundown of the IT assessment results.



Jessica Dziewcznski from FMP presented the 2010 OIG Survey results.



Cal presented *The Inspector* staff with commemorative coins for their efforts to improve communication at the OIG. Left to right: Heather Voda, Christina Lee, Emily Norton, Madeline Chulumovich, Karen Sloan, and Andrea Nossaman. Not shown: Dan Raville.

CAL HOSTS FIRST ALL-HANDS OF THE NEW YEAR

Last Thursday at DOT Headquarters, Cal kicked off the first All-Hands meeting of 2011. He thanked OIG employees for their hard work last year and highlighted accomplishments by the OIG Morale Committee, the CFC Campaign, and *The Inspector* newsletter team. Cal described 2010 as a "banner year" for JI, leading to 92 indictments, 72 convictions, 59 administrative actions, and \$66.2 million dollars in fines and restitutions. JA produced 126 audit reports (including single audits), nine hearings, \$1.2 billion in recommendations for funds put to better use, and \$189 million in questioned

costs. Altogether, our work led to financial recommendations of \$19 for each OIG budget dollar, earning it a spot in the top three—if not the top—most productive OIGs in 2010. J-3's past year was distinguished by excellent "cradle-to-grave" support of JA, including the new standard procedure of assigning a legal counsel to each audit. Cal also mentioned a new initiative to develop an OPM chapter on congressional and media communication protocols, which may be published by the end of the month.

Cal welcomed four new hires to OIG:

Anita Bonds, new Staff Assistant to J-3 and member of the Front Office support team; Laurie Meier, new Director of the Office of Procurement and Administrative Services; Jason Carroll, new Chief Information Officer; and Angie Thorpe, new Director of the Human Resources Development Center and OIG veteran.

Jessica Dziewcznski from Federal Management Partners, Inc., presented the 2010 OIG Survey results, including top 10 improvements from 2007-2010 and top 10 areas where further improvements are needed. Cal, Lou, and Ann followed up with

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 1/31	TUESDAY 2/1	WEDNESDAY 2/2	THURSDAY 2/3	FRIDAY 2/4
ANN- @ 3rd Street Office (8:00 a.m.)	CAL- EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	 <p>GROUNDHOG DAY Catching up with Cal (12:00 p.m.)</p>		

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

their thoughts on the planned actions needed to address the areas of concerns, touching on issues such as the critical importance of leadership, communication, accountability, and timeliness (see next article for more on the 2010 OIG Survey). Of particular note, Ann announced that in the next week or so OIG would be bringing in a resident expert, Lauren Malmon, to develop a formal mentoring program for the organization.

Scott Florcsk discussed the results of the 2010 IT Assessment ([click here to see assessment](#)), conducted by Gartner, Inc. He described the short-, mod-, and long-term actions

needed to complete the 22 improvements that Gartner recommended—many of which have already been completed.

Cal concluded the meeting by sharing his view of future prospects for the organization. He reported that, although "no one in this building knows what will happen [to the budget] in the coming months," we are well-positioned because of our important oversight role and our strong reputation for quality work. He also mentioned that JA and JI have re-baselined their entire body of work: JA completed its 24-month plan, and JI "scrubbed" its entire

caseload and reviewed its rationale for opening investigations.

Last, Cal introduced potential plans for a day-long oversight and accountability forum at DOT headquarters for stakeholders to share their ideas for accountability and oversight. Cal said this effort was "a big maybe" because it requires significant logistic and administrative efforts from the organization. Whether the conference occurs this year will depend on timing and our capacity and energy in view of our workload.

- Christina Lee, Analyst, JA-60

2010 OIG SURVEY RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

At last week's All-Hands meeting, Cal described the 2010 OIG Survey as "your report card to me and all our leadership." He stated that he considered OIG employees one of his stakeholders, in addition to the President, the Secretary, and Congress. The OIG Survey is one of the important tools he uses to gauge his and OIG leadership's success in serving our organization.

FMP's Jessica Dziewcznski, who took the lead in preparing the survey, presented the survey results with the aid of a PowerPoint briefing, which—along with the full report—can be found on Sharepoint: [2010 OIG Survey Briefing](#) [2010 OIG Survey Results Report](#). Jessica started off by congratulating OIG on its impressive 88 percent response rate, which was much higher than

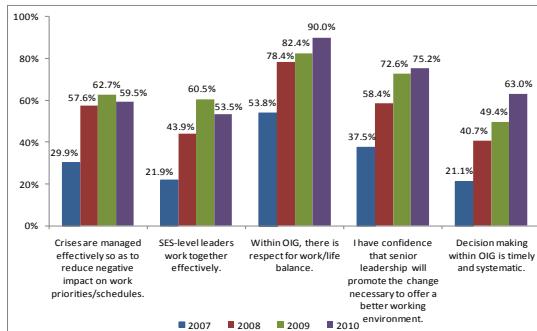
other agencies, which generally achieve a 50-75 percent response rate. She continued by presenting the survey results, including major drivers for strengths and weaknesses, as well as top improvements and areas where further improvement is needed.

The top improvements at OIG from 2007 to 2010 included crisis man-

(Continued on page 3)

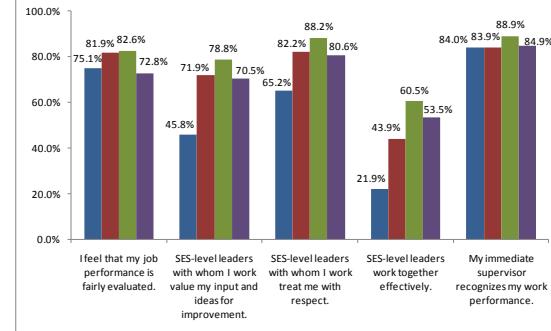
NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Top 5 Improvements (2007 to 2010)



*Please note that two of the above items showed declines between 2009-2010; however, these items also showed the largest overall improvements from 2007-2010

Top 5 Declines (2009-2010*)



*No items declined from 2007-2010; therefore, declines from 2009-2010 are presented



(Continued from page 2)

agement, SES collaboration, respect for work/life balance, efforts of senior leadership to promote a better work environment, and timely/systematic decision making. The top areas for improvement included fair performance evaluations, SES valuing employee input/ideas for improvement, and respectful treatment by SES.

Jessica also broke down the survey data in greater detail, including differences in favorability between new and existing employees and among OIG organizations. Of particular interest was the disparity between OIG headquarters and field locations concerning their satisfaction with services by Human Resources, Office of Procurement & Administrative Services, and Audit Planning, Policy & Technical Support (JA-2). Jessica posited that this may have more to do with field clients being farther away than with the quality of services. Among the open-ended questions, the one with the

most participants (196) was the "If you were Cal for a day" question.

Following Jessica's presentation, Cal gave his take on work yet to be done, which he divided into four main issues: the critical importance of leadership, communications, accountability through all levels, and an emphasis on timeliness as part of our organizational culture. Regarding the importance of leadership, Cal also noted that it was "lonely out there" to have the responsibility of leadership, so he was looking for "allies" at all levels. For accountability, Cal emphasized the need to better address the problem of poor performers: We need to "make sure tough calls are made, as needed."

Cal described the issue of timeliness as a "key pain point" at OIG, which is why he feels it is the number one item for improvement in the coming year. Lou took the podium to discuss changes under way to improve the timeliness of reviews. First, Lou

said a new group would meet to discuss how to provide more structure and guidance in the OPM. Lou emphasized the need for teams to work closely with their writers throughout the audit to produce well-written drafts with solid messages that require little revision. "If the draft looks good, it won't need as much review." As Special Assistant, Dan Raville reviews final drafts to help ensure they will pass Lou's muster.

Cal discussed other changes, such as possible improvements to the awards and exit interview processes, and employee and leadership development. Ann noted OIG's plan to introduce a new formal mentoring program. This is an investment in people's development and an extension of our "People Always" motto. Ann identified Lauren Malmon as OIG's new resident expert to develop the program, noting she is "one of the best in the field."

- Christina Lee, Analyst, JA-60

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

SES OFFSITE MEETING

Two weeks ago, senior management returned to the scene of the 2010 HQ holiday party to get serious.

Cal and Ann summoned OIG's senior executives to the Capitol Skyline Hotel to get away from the din and distractions of daily operation and strategize for continued success. A highly effective organization requires that its senior leaders remain "in harness," pulling together on challenging journeys.

After opening remarks from Call and Ann, the group received a couple hours of training on "collaborative leadership," led by Dr. Russ Linden, an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia, University of Maryland, and the Federal Executive Institute, and a management educator with 30 years experience helping government and private organizations develop leadership, foster innovation, and improve organizational performance. Through discussion and exercises, we touched on many concepts Linden has put forth in articles and books, including his most recent one *"Leading Across Boundaries: Creating Collaborative Agencies in a Networked World."*



Following the training, the entire group rolled into a working lunch in which each AIG gave a brief overview of their recently completed 24-month tactical plan of audits. This allowed all AIGs, and JI, to become aware of one another's planned work and priorities.

As if that wasn't enough, Cal then led a discussion on the results of the recent Employee Survey—he made it clear that he wants the significant "pain points" addressed by his SES corps.

Cal closed the session by thanking the senior staff for their efforts on the tactical planning, and for increasing the communications throughout the agency. He reiterated that senior leadership is key in improving the quality and timeliness of OIG products, the work environment, and performance management.

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—Jeff Guzzetti, AIG JA-10

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

DIG HOLDS LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG ON SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP



On January 12, 2011, over 50 GS-14s, GS-15s, and SES squeezed into the front office bunker or tuned in via teleconference or phone for the second leadership brown-bag on "The Four Roles of Leadership and Leadership Styles." I was on leave during the first brown-bag and was very interested to see what a leadership brown-bag was all about. By the end, I found it to be a positive experience (two thumbs up!) and saw the great potential these discussions will have in increasing my leadership knowledge and in cultivating a positive leadership culture at OIG.

Ann led the discussion by encouraging attendees to discuss any

lessons learned or experiences resulting from the first brown-bag on "What Makes an Effective Leader," held in November. Several participants offered great examples. One stated that after the last discussion on seeking feedback, she asked her team how well she was doing—and afterwards, found herself wondering, "...now, how can I get honest feedback?" Ann shared her experiences on obtaining feedback from staff and said that at one time she even had a suggestion box in front of her office to solicit feedback from staff!

Ann introduced an article on "Situational Leadership Theory," which focused on recognizing that one leadership style does

not fit all situations. The article further stated that a leader must be aware of a group's willingness and ability to do a task, and then adjust the leadership style accordingly.

For a leader to be successful, Ann noted that the leader needs to invest time to understand the group and be flexible enough to use an appropriate leadership style.

Following Ann's comments, participants discussed the article's four leadership styles and provided some real-life examples using the styles. An interesting discussion also ensued on the pluses and minuses of using a "cookie-cutter," one-size fits all leadership style and in applying the four leadership styles in a matrix situation. As the hour quickly expired, Ann encouraged us to try this leadership approach and look on it as an opportunity to learn.

See you at the next leadership brown-bag in February—topic and date to be determined.

—Dave Pouliott,
Program Director, JA-40

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

TO INDICT, OR NOT TO INDICT? THAT CERTAINLY IS A QUESTION

The months of November and December last year found me serving as a grand juror in Washington, DC. It proved to be a great experience, made even more relevant given the efforts of our JI colleagues whose investigations often end up in front of grand juries for indictment.

The first few days in November were spent getting to know the process and the other grand jurors. DC's courts consist of the Court of Appeals and the Superior Court. I was seated in the Superior Court, which handles all local trial court matters, including civil, criminal, domestic violence, family court, and tax issues.

Up to five separate grand juries are impaneled in DC Superior Court at any given time—each one generally tied to a particular genre of criminal activity. Some are seated 5 days a week for 5 weeks. But for us—the 23 jurors seated on Grand Jury 3—we operated on a Monday through Wednesday schedule for 9 weeks, plus two mandatory recall days in January to wrap up unfinished business. During that time the Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSA) mainly brought us criminal cases known as Rapid Indictment Proceedings, or RIPS,



which ranged from drug possession and/or distribution to illegal gun possession.

Unlike criminal trials—which are open to the public and where jurors determine guilt or innocence typically based on a standard of reasonable doubt—grand jury proceedings are secret and jurors determine whether a case should move forward to trial by indictment. To obtain that indictment, a prosecutor must show that it is more likely than not (a.k.a. "by a preponderance of the evidence") that the accused committed the crimes. Understanding this gave new meaning to the sentence we include on all indictment-related web-postings we do with JI:

"Note: Indictments, informations, and criminal complaints are only accusations by the government,

all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty."

We were given instructions that if we happened to know about a case in some way and weren't able to be impartial, we had to recuse ourselves from that particular case. Tim and his team can rest assured that I did not hear any OIG-related cases.

I came away with a significantly deeper understanding of the court system in general, and DC's laws in particular. Did you know that in DC it is illegal to have anything hanging (air freshener, fuzzy dice) from the rearview mirror of your vehicle while driving? Or that picking rocks out of Rock Creek Park and taking them out of the park also is illegal?

(Continued on page 7)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Beyond the practical civics/legal lessons, I found the AUSAs to be highly intelligent and dedicated public servants. They took time to answer our myriad questions about each case—some probing, some not. Grand jurors are something of a captive audience. There certainly were some slower moments, but the AUSAs did what they could to ensure we remained engaged and on our toes for the 212 total cases we heard.

There is an administrative note in all of this: as Federal employees

we must abide by certain requirements as they relate to accepting/not accepting the stipend offered for service on a jury. Should you be called to serve and you have any questions, get in touch with both JM and J-3 as there are policies to follow(some in the OPM).

While it was certainly my privilege and fortune to serve as a grand juror, perhaps not so fortunate were my wonderful colleagues in J-3 tasked with taking up the extra workload while we indicted away on Indiana Ave

NW. I wish to thank all of them, but a particularly special shout out to Brian, Nathan, and Eric for bearing the brunt of my absence. Thank you gentlemen, and may you never be indictable.



—David Wonnenberg,
Congressional and Public Affairs
Officer, J-3

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY SUPERVISOR ARRESTED FOR TAKING BRIBES FROM COMPANY OFFICIALS

On January 21, 2011, James H. Wood, a supervisor of the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) Buffalo, New York, field office, was charged with accepting bribes in his official duties from or on behalf of motor carriers. The offense carries a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Our investigation revealed that Wood accepted bribes from safety consultants for Canadian commercial trucking companies, who paid him to provide inside information that enabled some trucking companies to avoid or delay inspections of their vehi-



cles. Wood also accepted cash bribes to initiate compliance audits that could put a competitor company out of business, and at times Wood helped trucking firms get friendly audits that allowed companies to keep potentially unsafe vehicles on the road. A cooperating witness admitted to paying approximately \$70,000 to Wood over the past 2 years for information and assistance.

After JRI-2 NY received the initial complaint, it conducted several undercover monitored phone calls, two undercover meetings where the inspector took bribe money and then arrested the subject—all within 10 business days.

OIG is working closely with FMCSA to assist in taking follow-up actions. The investigation is being worked jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b)(6) was the lead/case agent, assisted by (b)(6), (b)(6), (b)(7)c, (b)(6), (b)(7)c and agents of the FBI.

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG'S CFC CAMPAIGN ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE...WITH PIZZA

Not that I ever had a doubt, but OIG blew the doors off (ok, maybe that's a bit much) its 2010 CFC Campaign fundraising goal! We raised \$51,343 or 107 percent of our \$48,000 goal.

Of note, we raised \$5,207 through our variety of special events, which I think provided a nice distraction,

office-wide camaraderie, and oh yeah...lots of fun!

On behalf of the entire OIG CFC team, I want to thank all of you who contributed, particularly during these trying economic times of pay freezes and the like.

Finally, thanks to all of OIG's CFC

keyworkers for going above and beyond this year. We couldn't have done it without you. Good luck to whoever takes over the Vice Chairmanship reins next year. It has been quite a rewarding experience.

Regards, [Mitch Behm](#)
Your CFC 2010 Campaign Vice Chair

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HOT TOPICS IN ETHICS

DOS AND DON'TS OF PREPARING TAX RETURNS FOR OTHERS

With the deadline for Federal and state income tax returns approaching, your ethics officials wanted to share information about what Federal employees can and cannot do with respect to preparing income tax returns for others. As a Federal employee, it is (with limited exceptions) a crime under 18 U.S.C. §§ 203 and 205 to represent others—with or without compensation—in matters in which the United States is a party or has an interest. Please refer to U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) [Advisory Opinion 85 x 3](#) and [Advisory Opinion 00 x 11](#) for more information.

YOU CAN...

- Assist in preparation of income tax returns for others for compensation or without charge.
- Sign income tax return as the preparer.
- Provide "behind-the-scenes" assistance.
- Make routine inquiries about the status of an "offer in compromise" (*but be careful that your inquiry does not devolve into advocacy or an attempt to influence*).
- Be listed as authorized party to receive tax information from IRS on IRS Form 8821 (which on its face indicates that it is not an authorization for representation).
- Answer direct factual questions such as which taxpayer records you used to compile the figures which appear on the return (*NOTE: If you are asked or anticipate being asked questions by the IRS, you should seek ethics counseling immediately*)

YOU CANNOT...

- Act as the individual's representative in an IRS audit or other Federal tax proceeding (which may include signing IRS Form 2848).
- Argue any theories or positions of why you used certain figures, decisions, interpretations before the IRS.
- Attempt to influence or advocate the taxpayer's position in any communications you have with the IRS.
- Correct any erroneous information in the file or discuss any matter that is an actual or potential controversy.
- Share in compensation from others' representation through a partnership fee distribution agreement - you must have a bookkeeping arrangement to ensure that you do not share in those fees - or make up those specific losses in another way.

In addition to these restrictions, you are subject to the general restrictions on outside activities, such as not using Government equipment or facilities for your outside activities. Similarly, you may not list your Government telephone number as a contact point for your business clients. In addition, if the individual or entity for which you are providing tax services has a DOT connection (e.g., a contractor, grantee, regulated entity), you should seek ethics advice concerning the potential conflict of interest, which would involve different criminal statutes and ethics regulations. If you need advice on this or other ethics question, please do not hesitate to contact your ethics officials.

—Seth Kaufman, Senior Counsel, J-3

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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(b)(6) . From deceased on payrolls to overly padded contract estimates, ARRA has inspired new levels of creative fraud in the transportation field.

(b)(6) shared(b)(6)10 years of expertise on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) fraud. DBE presents special challenges because it affects small businesses that compete for and participate in highway, transit and airport contracts. DBE fraud tends to occur mostly in the post-award and performance period when firms are used as pass thru's or front companies by prime contractors for a modest fee or percentage of the contract value.

Both presenters encouraged the group to become more familiar with criminal and civil violations, look out for fraud indicators, and to communicate with our colleagues in JI to better understand our respective jobs. (b)(6) admitted(b)(6) is a "big fan of cross-training" both JA and JI employees so that all develop better working knowledge and relationships with the other side of the house. (b)(6) offered to facilitate communication between JA and JI, encouraging discussion with SACs (Special Agents in Charge) during the audit process.

JA-60 enjoyed this presentation and would like to especially thank the investigators for entertaining all of our questions, even the non-fraud related ones!

—Meredith Howell, Analyst, JA-60

(b)(6) AND (b)(6) TEACH

JA-60 CONTRACT AND DBE FRAUD COURSE

Last week, JA-60 sat down for a few hours of first class training on fraud detection from resident specialists

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Their collective investigations expertise spans over 50 years, and we were glad to benefit from that. Special Agent in Charge (JRI-5) Michelle McVicker also dropped in to observe.

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what to look for, what to do, and who to contact if we encounter or suspect contract and grant fraud in our audit work.

First, we heard from (b)(6)—who once wanted to be an accountant—about the types of investigations JI conducts and the criminal statutes associated with fraud. Depending on the type of fraudulent activity, JI pursues violators using civil, criminal, anti-trust, administrative action means, or a combination of these. Penalties include jail time, fines and restitution payments, termination of employment, and suspension and debarment.

(b)(6) has encountered some pretty crazy situations and schemes in(b)(6) time as an investigator, but none compare to what he's seen in(b)(6) tenure as the (b)(6)

This training session was a behind the scenes tour of JI, and our intrepid guides gave us the scoop on

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

TMS AND THE EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS

Last October, OIG began using DOT's Training Management System (TMS) as its primary system to track and record employee training and development. TMS is an electronic learning management system which is available to employees 24 hours / 7 days a week allowing them to complete courses online, register for training, and view their learning history at their convenience.

We are still using TIGR in addition to TMS to record training. At this time, TMS lacks a financial management function, forcing OIG to rely on TIGR to continue to track our training budget. Our ultimate goal is one training system, and we look forward to the day when that becomes a reality.

In addition to TMS, employees were introduced to the concept of an ***Individual Development Plan (IDP)***. An IDP is simply a vehicle to assist staff and managers in identifying and addressing individual and organizational developmental goals. These goals are based on a comparison of staff skills and abilities and those required by their current position. Ultimately, IDPs create a partnership between employees and managers ensuring employees are given the opportunity to meet their goals and succeed in their current position.

HRDC has created a presentation further explaining the importance of IDPs and step-by-step instructions on how to create an IDP, which can be found on SharePoint. Reminder: IDPs are due **January 31, 2011**.

The next phase in the employee development process is ***Creating a Learning Plan***. The learning plan identifies developmental activities and items needed to accomplish the established goals identified in the IDP. To assist employees with identifying items, HRDC is adding the approved core curriculum to TMS providing those employees with an “item pool” based on their current job-related competencies. In addition, the audit curriculum has a 40-hour requirement ensuring staff meet their mandatory training requirements. HRDC is hoping to have the core curriculum created, tested, and ready to go live on **February 1, 2011**.

HRDC has gone through many staff changes over the last 6 months and now that we are fully staffed, we look forward to addressing future training requirements and employee developmental needs. We ask for your continued patience as we fine-tune our training policies and procedures.

Training Coordinators: HRDC scheduled a teleconference call on Thursday, January 27, at 1:00 pm EST. Please notify HRDC if you did not receive the invitation to attend this meeting.

Finally, HRDC has set-up a centralized mailbox (TrainingHRDC@oig.dot.gov) to ensure your training issues and requests are delivered to the right person and addressed in a timely manner.

HRDC looks forward to great year of learning and development.

Many thanks, HRDC

OIG IN THE NEWS**Federal Truck Safety Inspector Accused of Taking Bribes From Company Officials**

JANUARY 21, 2011

(BuffaloNews.com on JRI-2, New York Office)

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/buffalo/article319054.ece>

A truck safety supervisor for the U. S. Department of Transportation was arrested by federal agents Thursday on charges that he took thousands of dollars in bribes from trucking company officials.

James H. Wood, 44, of Delevan, was charged with felony counts of bribe-taking and conspiracy.

The U. S. Attorney's Office identified him as a Buffalo supervisor with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, which is part of the DOT. He was investigated by agents from the DOT Inspector General's Office and the Buffalo FBI Office.

Agents from the DOT Inspector General's Office received information on Jan. 11 that Wood had been taking bribes for years from companies that his agency was supposed to monitor, according to court papers.

During the investigation, a safety consultant for Canadian trucking companies made tape recordings of Wood for federal agents.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)**HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR —****January & February 2011**

Course	Date	Time	Instructor
SUP II	1/24-27/2011	8:30- 5:00	Deb Alexander, M. Ginnerty
Management Workshop Hiring Reform	2/1/2011	Noon - 1:00	Connie Harshaw
TeamMate Basic Supervision - HQ (W74-101)	2/3/2011	9:00 - Noon	Akilah Boston
CITRIX Certification Training (JM-40)	2/7-11/2011	8:00 - 6:00	
MBTI (JRI - 3)	2/7/2011	8:30 - 4:30	Deb Alexander
MBTI (JA-50)	2/9/2011	8:30 - 4:30	Deb Alexander

NOVEMBER SUP II ACTION LEARNING PLAN

The Supervisor II Action Learning Plan project for the November class came directly from Cal, who asked, *"How can OIG (as an agency and staff) retain a talented workforce? I am particularly concerned about the new workforce—that is, Gen Y recently hired for our Federal Career Intern Program?"*

The two teams from the class presented different ideas for consideration, with an emphasis on different ways to rotate talented staff, developmental goals for interns, and opportunities for growth. They also suggested a new small, short-term workgroup to finalize the plans for the new hire program. Those at the meeting expressed their enthusiasm and tasked the groups with additional follow-up. A memo was sent to Cal outlining the workgroup details and work has already begun on some of their suggestions.

—Amanda Barton, New Hire Program Interim Manager and Audit Process and Policy Team Project Manager, JA-2

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



ASSESSMENT OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE OIG'S IT ENVIRONMENT

Employees may remember that earlier this year OIG brought in the Gartner Group to conduct an independent assessment of our current information technology environment. The IT assessment was a valuable tool and confirmed that opportunities exist for improving our IT environment. The new Chief Information Officer, combined with a solid blueprint, will ensure that "the year of the electron" will be followed by a year of technical advancement.

The consultants conducted over 30 interviews with employees

from all corners of the organization, analyzed a collection of almost 100 servers spread out over 15 offices, examined current policies and procedures, and performed comparisons on budgeting and staff to other Federal OIGs. In the end, the Gartner Group recommended 22 initiatives that, if implemented, will stabilize current IT operations, sustain OIG business, and enhance IT operations. The initiatives were also identified as requiring immediate action (less than 1 year), mid-term action (1-2 years), or long-term action (greater than 2 years).

A NOTE FROM THE IG

As many of you already know, I like to conduct All Hands meetings every 6 months, usually in January and July. I will be holding our next All Hands Meeting on Thursday, January 20, in the Oklahoma City Room at Headquarters.



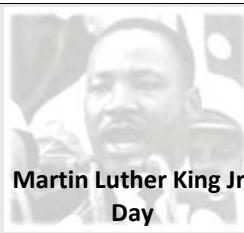
Our agenda will include a presentation by the contractor as he walks us through the 2010 OIG Survey results. You will all have an opportunity to ask questions. Scott Florcsik will then brief us on our recently completed IT assessment. I'd also like to introduce the office's new CIO, Jason Carroll, who is coming to us from the Department of Energy. Finally, I'd like to present my assessment of our office's prospects for the coming year, covering topics such as what kind of work is coming up and what our budget will look like going forward.

We will do everything we can to electronically link the field to the meeting. Although we have been challenged with this in the past, we will do the best we can reach out to the field for next Thursday's meeting.

Best Regards,

Cal

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 1/17	TUESDAY 1/18	WEDNESDAY 1/19	THURSDAY 1/20	FRIDAY 1/21
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Brian— CIGIE Meeting (9:30 a.m.)			

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

Some of the recommended initiatives were projects that our IT shop had been working on and have since been completed, such as (1) developing a system to track changes to computer systems; (2) publishing an IT strategic plan and a roles and responsibilities matrix; and (3) integrating IT into the budgeting process.

Some mid-term initiatives have been in an active-development status and should be completed in 2011. These include (1) upgrading all of OIG's data storage hardware and soft-

ware; (2) upgrading the data center that houses all our servers; and (3) developing policies that define how IT is managed.

The long-term projects include (1) establishing a disaster and recovery operation whereby e-mail and other services remain available in the event of a headquarters catastrophe; (2) modernizing our audit management software; (3) combining some of our close-to-100 servers into a much smaller number through a new technology called "server virtualization"; and (4) converting applications that rely on individual lap-

top software installations into web-based alternatives.

The Gartner Group also compared resource allocations of DOT OIG with OIG IT shops from other Federal agencies and found that DOT is trying to accomplish more with less. Specifically, the consultants found that our IT group was underfunded and staffing was inadequate to support the IT infrastructure.

More information on the IT assessment will be presented at next Thursday's All Hands meeting!

- Scott Florcsk, Acting CIO, JM-40

2010 ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SURVEY UPDATE

We are looking forward to sharing the results of the 2010 OIG Annual Employee Survey with you at the All Hands meeting next Thursday, January 20. In the meantime, here are two final survey factoids!

How many questions in the 2010 survey were repeated from previous years' surveys?

22

What was mentioned as the MOST beneficial HR resource?

HR Staff

Because they are knowledgeable, helpful, and courteous!

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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selecting the future audits, (2) highlights of the proposed future work, and (3) how they related to OIG's Strategic Plan. There were also discussions about the status of our ongoing projects and how we plan to expedite some of our older portfolios. The meetings also focused on how we plan on using our staff and ensuring that they will be actively engaged on new projects as existing jobs begin to wind down.

It was particularly beneficial to get input on the issues from JI to better coordinate JA/JI efforts over the next 2 years, and to get J-3's perspectives about the possible focus and direction of the new Congress.

Although plans are always subject to change, all-and-all everyone thought the meetings were productive and provided an open forum for discussing how we plan to best target our resources over the next 24 months. Next steps are for Cal and Ann to meet with Department officials and Congressional Members and staff to discuss the plans and obtain their input. The final tactical plans will be posted on SharePoint over the next several weeks. We'll shoot you a link when they're available.

- Dan Raville, JA-1

JA 24-MONTH TACTICAL PLANNING

At the JA managers' conference in August, Cal tasked us with developing an inventory of new audits ideas and requested that we compile a 24-month tactical plan within 120 days. The goal was to develop a 2-year "blueprint" showing how we plan to use our resources and staff to best target the needs of Congress, the Department, and the traveling public.

Using a variety of methods, such as risk analysis and brainstorming sessions, over the past 4 months each JA office developed a chronological inventory of planned audits and created spreadsheets identifying (1) the issues to be covered, (2) tentative staffing, (3) an ex-

pected start and end date, (4) outside assistance needed, and (5) how the idea was developed (e.g., mandated by law or of significant interest to Congress).

Each office also prepared a one-page information sheet for each planned audit that described the issues, objectives, and background in more detail. In total, JAs identified 120 potential audits that could be conducted over the next 2 years.

Just before the holidays, the AIGs and Program Directors for each JA office met with Cal, Ann, and Lou along with representatives from both J-3 and JI to discuss the proposed audit plans.

The focus of these meetings were mainly on (1) the criteria used for

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)



FIELD IN FOCUS: Seattle Office

Where is the field office?

The Seattle Field Office is located in downtown Seattle, nestled between Mount Rainier and the Pacific Coast. The distance between OIG headquarters and our little Western outpost is about 2,324 miles. A direct flight will take you between 5 and 6 hours, depending on the jet stream direction.

Gloria Echols, Susan Zimmerman, Susan Cohen, Henning Thiel, Curtis Dow, and Teri Vogliardo. We also have two HQ audit staff members who are assigned to our office, Steven Smith and Andy Sourlis.

On the investigative side we have our [REDACTED] (b)(6)



Who works in our office?

Our office is relatively small, staffed with investigators, auditors, and analysts. On the audit side, we have over 250 years of combined work experience. These are divided between our Program Director, Darren Murphy, our Project Managers Chuck Ward and Jerry Savage, and our auditors and analysts Debbie Kloppenburg, Gregg Bond, Diane Brattain, Linda Major, Mike Dunn,

What is something about our office that the rest of OIG might not know?

In 2005, this office identified a single finding of \$250 million in surplus land being held by airports that should have been sold with funds returned to the taxpayers. Also, we are CFC record breakers, with an 86 percent participation rate and an average donation of \$680 per em-

(Continued on page 5)



We're on the 6th floor, so we have to look up! This picture should also tell you something about the myth that it always rains in Seattle.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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(Continued from page 4)

ployee—twice the average of federal employees.

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Manhattan in a winter storm—that's what we have here almost daily. A drive that normally takes 25 minutes may end up being an hour and a half or more. Most Seattle OIG employees use public transportation to get to work. Luckily, the public transportation options are fairly decent. While we have no Metro hidden under the city, we have the nation's largest ferry system for the numerous island dwellers in the Great Pacific Northwest. We are using anything from bicycles to trains to come to work, with the farthest out employee traveling about 110 miles round trip every day.

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What's it like to work in Seattle?

It has its challenges. The area has had tremendous population growth in the past few decades and the road system is stretched to the max with no room to expand. The rush hour traffic can be horrendous... Imagine taking all retired Floridian drivers and dropping them into

What are the unique challenges of working in a field office?

Being far from HQ has its own challenges—and a few advantages. Sometimes we are far removed from what is occurring in D.C. and learn about happenings after the fact. If

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

we need something signed off, we can't easily walk into a SESer's office and get it done (try getting a yellow grid sheet signed off from here). This being a small office with little to no privacy, we have to learn to resign ourselves to one another's quirks. Last, we can't be part of any of the HQ parties, easily attend training, or join prominent speakers in the atrium.

On the other hand, we are less prone to surprise visits, our west coast dress codes are slightly more relaxed, and we don't feel the need to rush up any escalators... Life on the west coast has a slightly calmer pace to it. With that in mind, most of us working in the field see enough benefits to offset being so far away from HQ's hustle and bustle.

-Henning Thiel, Analyst,
JA-10, Seattle

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OIG IN THE NEWS

17 years of FAA delay on NTSB air safety recommendations

JANUARY 11, 2011

(*Washington Examiner* on Cal's letter to Congress on NextGen)

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/01/17-years-faa-delay-ntsb-air-safety-recommendations>

After investigating more than 140,000 aviation accidents, NTSB has fact-based authority for its recommendations on how to make the skies safer. Unfortunately, the Federal Aviation Administration doesn't always pay heed. Case in point: Even though nine people died in glider-aircraft collisions over the past 20 years, FAA has still not followed NTSB's 2008 recommendation to require gliders to carry transponders so that air traffic controllers and other pilots can "see" them in the sky...

Traffic Collision and Alerting System's importance in preventing mid-air collisions was heightened on Dec. 21, when **Department of Transportation Inspector General Calvin Scovel** issued a report to Congress noting a "cascading effect" of serious flaws—including software glitches—in NextGen, the FAA's new \$2.1 billion air traffic control system.

Scovel pointed out that numerous gaps remain between another federal aviation advisory committee's recommendations and FAA's actions to date.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

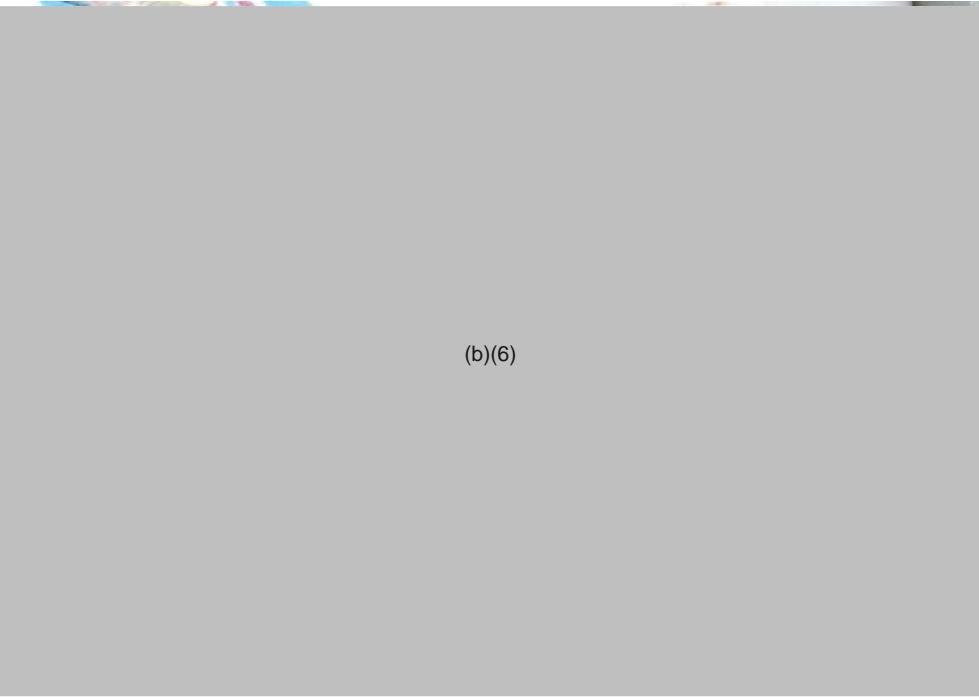
MEET OUR NEW LEGAL INTERN:

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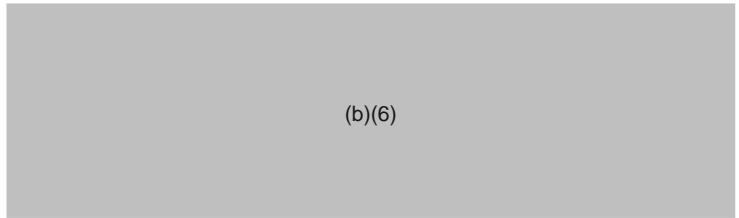
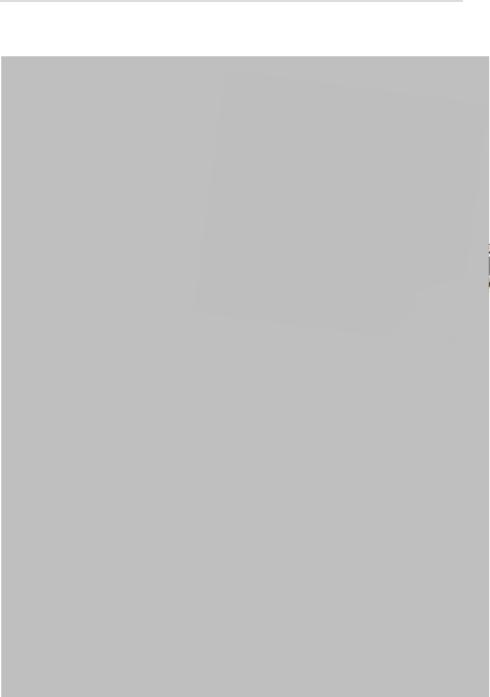
NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR — January 2011

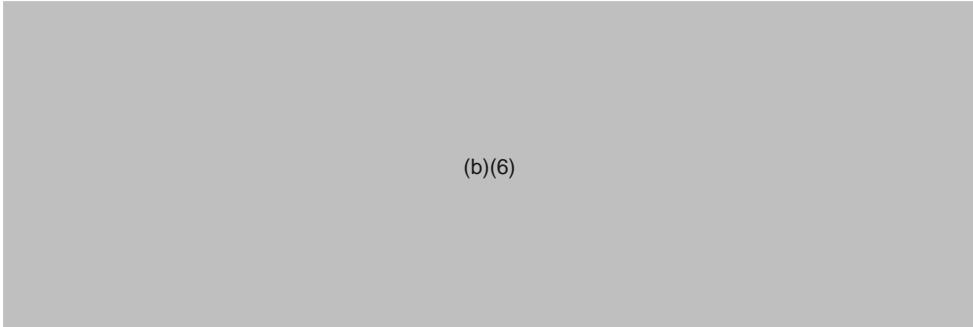
Name of Course	Date	Time	Instructor
TeamMate Cross Indexing & Independent Referencing - HQ-W74-101	Jan 6	9 a.m. - noon	Amanda Barton
HRDC TMS Collaborators	Jan 10-14	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	HRDC
TeamMate Advanced (Supervision & Management) - HQ-W71-101	Jan 11	1 - 4 p.m.	Amanda Barton
TeamMate 201 - HQ-W74-101	Jan 19	9 a.m. - noon	Akilah Boston
Managing Employees Performance and Conduct - Supervisors	TBD	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Ben Alexander, April Lane
MBTI for Teams- JM-40	TBD	8:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Deb Alexander
Management Workshop - Hiring Reform	TBD	Noon —1 p.m.	Connie Harshaw, Barbara Green
SUP II	Jan 24-27	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Deb Alexander, M. Ginnerty
Generational Differences in the Workplace	Jan 24	8:30 a.m. - noon	Ben Alexander
Generational Differences in the Workplace	Jan 24	1 - 4:30 p.m.	Ben Alexander
Generational Differences in the Workplace	Jan 25	8:30 a.m. - noon	Ben Alexander
Generational Differences in the Workplace	Jan 25	1 - 4:30 p.m.	Ben Alexander
TeamMate FY 2011 Skill Update HQ- W71-101	Jan 25	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Amanda Barton
Managing Employees Performance and Conduct - Supervisors	Jan 26-27	9 a.m. - noon	Ben Alexander, April Lane
JA Case Study	Jan 31– Feb 4	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Amanda Barton


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END SHOT


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COMINGS & GOINGS


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Clarification to last week's TI article, "Deputy IG Presents Learning Plan Project to SUP II Class": The December 8 course was the second SUP II class held. The first course also participated in the Learning Plan project.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FEDS TALK CONTRACTS AT OIG-SPONSORED FAEC CONFERENCE

As co-chair of the Federal Audit Executive Council's (FAEC) contracting committee, Terry Letko of JA-60 single-handedly organized an FAEC conference on procurements, held on December 13, 2010, at the Department of Education. Despite the holiday season, attendance hit maximum room capacity.

Keynote speakers at the conference included Dan Gordon, Administrator for the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP); former DOT-er Joanie Newhart, Associate Administrator with OFPP; Michael Whitlock, a trial attorney for the Department

of Justice; and the IG's own John Long, National Director of ARRA investigations. Mr. Gordon started off the conference giving a well-received talk on addressing high-risk procurements and the focus of OFPP efforts moving forward.

Terry and JA-60's Ann Wright, Dana Short, David Lahey, and Christina Lee each took a turn at the podium to discuss various aspects of the procurement world from work they recently completed. Topics included strengthening suspension and debarment practices, performing cost and price analysis, and lessons

learned from significant acquisition audits.

Terry did a phenomenal job organizing the conference and lining up such highly regarded speakers in the procurement world. A lot of important topics were covered in a limited amount of time, and feedback from the conference was positive. The conference not only highlighted the outstanding work we have accomplished, but was a true testament to IG teamwork.

— Jill Cottonaro, Lead Analyst, JA-60

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 1/10	TUESDAY 1/11	WEDNESDAY 1/12	THURSDAY 1/13	FRIDAY 1/14
	CAL —EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	BRIAN —GMUSL Mentor- ing Program (8:00 a.m.) ANN —Leadership Brown Bag (noon) CFC Jeans Wednesday (\$3, HQ)	CAL, ANN, LOU, TIM, SUSAN, BRIAN— SES Leaders Off-Site (8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.)	CFC Jersey Friday (\$2, HQ)

NOTEWORTHY

More photos from the FAEC Conference

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CAL'S ALL HANDS MEETING

On Thursday, January 20th at 1:00 pm EST, Cal will hold an ALL HANDS meeting to discuss the findings of our IT (year of the electron) assessment, results of our 2010 Employee Survey, and prospects for the year ahead. The All Hands meeting will be held in the Media Center and will be webcasted to our field offices. Please remember to send questions you would like addressed by Cal to Toby Burt, (toby.burt@oig.dot.gov) by close of business, Friday, January 14th.

ANN'S LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG FOR GS-14s AND ABOVE

On Wednesday, January 12th from noon to 1:30 pm EST, Ann will hold a leadership brown bag for GS-14s and above on the four roles of leadership and leadership styles. The session will be held in the IG conference room. If you plan to attend—in person, by conference call, or by videoconference—please e-mail Ellen Craig (ellen.craig@oig.dot.gov).

NOTEWORTHY

DEPUTY IG PRESENTS ACTION LEARNING PLAN PROJECT TO SUPII CLASS

The week of December 6, eight managers and supervisors from across OIG settled into 3rd Street for the second part of the three-part introductory supervision course.

Jim Mallow (JA-20), Aisha Evans (JA-60), Dana Short (JA-60), Len Meade (J-2), Nate Custer (JA-20), Rob Romich (JA-10), George Banks (JA-20), and I eagerly awaited instruction from Deb Alexander and Michele Ginnerty on effective supervisory techniques and management principles.

Over the 4 days we covered topics such as the difference between teams and groups, Tuckman's team model development, conflict resolution, and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator self-assessments. Although there were few surprises among the group regarding our Myers-Briggs preferences and work styles, the big shocker was that George Banks is an introvert (we're still not buying it, George).

One new aspect of the Supervision II course was the introduction of an Action Learning Plan project, which requires the class to come up with a plan to address an actual OIG issue, using the applied techniques from the class. On day three Deputy Inspector General, Ann Calvaresi-Barr, who served as the group's project sponsor, presented the project question to two teams: *"How can OIG balance individual and organizational needs within our resource allocation process? Specifically, how can OIG best ensure effective utilization and maximum development of staff?"* On December 17, the two teams presented their action plans to Ann and AIG for Administration, Susan Dailey. Ann and Susan both expressed their enthusiasm about the ideas presented and tasked the groups with additional follow-up.

Stay tuned for the results in the near future!



— Toayoa Aldridge, Program Director, JA-50

OMER POIRIER AND NICK COATES WIN “OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS” AWARD FROM CCIG

J-3's Chief Counsel Omer Poirier and Associate Counsel Nick Coates were honored at the annual Council of Counsels to the Inspector General (CCIG) Awards Ceremony on December 15, 2010. The CCIG is an informal group of Federal *Inspector General* Attorneys who meet monthly to share information and discuss common OIG legal issues. Omer and Nick received an award for "Outstanding Contributions to the Inspector General Community for Exemplary Service Formulating Training and Continuing Education." Each received the award for diligence and efficiency in developing attorney training courses for the OIG community. Their areas of concentration and course development were investigations, warnings, criminal trials, subpoenas, grand jury and workplace searches. Congratulations Omer and Nick!

- Barbara Hines, Associate Counsel, J-3, and member CCIG Awards Committee

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HRDC TRAINING CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2011

Name of Course	Date	Time	Instructor
TeamMate Cross Indexing & Independent Referencing - HQ-W74-101	Jan. 6	9:00 - noon	Amanda Barton
HRDC TMS Collaborators	Jan. 10-14	8:00 - 4:30	HRDC
TeamMate Advanced (Supervision & Management) - HQ-W71-101	Jan. 11	1:00 - 4:00	Amanda Barton
TeamMate 201 - HQ-W74-101	Jan. 19	9:00 - noon	Akilah Boston
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MBTI for Teams- JM-40	Jan. 20	8:30 - 4:30	Deb Alexander
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JA Case Study	Jan. 31- Feb. 2	8:30 - 5:00	Amanda Barton

OIG IN THE NEWS

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

FAA's ERAM is late, over budget, and could have 'cascading' effects on NextGen, says Scovel

January 3, 2011

(Fierce Government IT on a JA-10/60 audit)

<http://www.fiercegovernmentit.com/story/faas-eram-late-over-budget-and-could-have-cascading-effects-nextgen-says-sc/2011-01-03>

A key FAA air traffic control modernization effort is late and could require as much as another \$500 million to complete, says **Transportation Department Inspector General Calvin Scovel**.

Audit: Airport Grants Handled Improperly

December 29, 2010

(DailyMe on a JA-10 audit)

<http://dailyme.com/story/2010122900001233/audit-airport-grants-handled-improperly.html>

[In contrast to] a report from an FAA-hired independent auditor, who found most of money was handled properly... [DOT OIG reported], the airport received more than \$4 million for construction work on temporary pollution and erosion control, but could not provide documentation that the work met contract requirements.

DOT IG: FAA Faces Serious NextGen Challenges

December 24, 2010

(Air Transport World on a JA-10 audit)

<http://atwonline.com/international-aviation-regulation/news/dot-ig-faa-faces-serious-nextgen-challenges-1223>

US Dept. of Transportation Inspector General Calvin Scovel left a lump of coal in FAA's Christmas stocking, asserting this week in a letter to Congress that the agency "faces several organizational, policy, logistical and training challenges" in implementing the NextGen satellite-based ATC system that tops FAA's agenda.

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SPECIAL AGENTS EARN THEIR EXPERT RIFLE QUALIFICATIONS

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, and I went to the Federal Law Enforcement Center to attend the Law Enforcement Rifle Training Program in December. We all successfully completed the course and obtained "EXPERT" qualifications.

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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CAL AND ANN KICK OFF FIRST JA-JI COORDINATION QUARTERLY MEETING

On December 2, Cal, Ann, Lou, Tim, and JA Assistant IGs (AIG) and JI Special Agents-in-Charge (SAC) held their first quarterly meeting to discuss ways to strengthen JA-JI coordination. All agreed that while relations are good, more opportunities exist for sharing information and collaborating on areas of mutual interest.

Cal set the stage by outlining his plan to rebaseline audit and investigation priorities, particularly in light of the new Congress coming in. Currently, JI is reviewing the criteria and rationale it uses to select cases, while JA is in the midst of a comprehensive 24-month planning effort. Cal believes the new Congress will expect a lot from the accountability community, specifically an

increased focus on dollars savings—identifying fraud, waste, and abuse; funds put to better use, and questioned costs. Accordingly, Cal said that we must leverage every resource we have and make the most out of the resources we already have. By working closely together, JA and JI expect to identify lessons learned from ongoing and past audits and investigations, ensure we have a mutual support mechanism in place to share information, and use the expertise and skills of our auditors and investigators.

The JA-JI coordination effort began over a year ago, when Ann (as PAGAE) and Tim tasked a work group—co-chaired by Tony Wysocki (Acting AIG, JA-60) and Ted Doherty (SAC, JRI-1 Boston)—to assess and imple-

ment ways to enhance the coordination of our audit and investigative work to help achieve the OIG's mission. Tony and Ted along with work group members Gregory Bond (JA-10), (b)(6), (b)(7)c

, (b)(6), (b)(7)c Darrell Riegle and Annette Soto (JA-40), and (b)(6), (b)(7)c have discovered that there is ample opportunity to collaborate, as well as to learn from each other to further enhance our mission—despite the fact that JA work primarily focuses on modal administration programs and program recipients and JI work primarily focuses on contractors and individuals. For example, JA and JI successfully collaborated on the Aviation Safety Disclosure Investigation of NW Airlines Certificate Manage-

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 12/13	TUESDAY 12/14	WEDNESDAY 12/15	THURSDAY 12/16	FRIDAY 12/17
BRIAN — OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.) CAL & TIM — Meeting with the Deputy Secretary (10:00 a.m.)	CAL — EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	 <p>CFC Jeans Wednesday</p>		

The 2011 Senate Calendar: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/OIG%20Newsletter/2011%20Senate%20Calendar.pdf>

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

ment office, which resulted in FAA fining NW Airlines for failing to perform required inspections. Tony and Ted are putting the finishing touches on a document that will include examples of successful JA and JI collaboration, as well as points of contact with specific areas of expertise. When completed the document will be shared with all staff through SharePoint.

As the SACs and AIGs shared information on common types of investigations, ongoing and planned audits, stakeholders, successful prosecutions and audits, and challenges and trends, common themes began to emerge—such as weak OA oversight of grants and the opportunity for fraud. All agreed that our work could benefit from using one another as resources. Earl Hedges (Acting AIG, JA-20), Mitch Behm (AIG, JA-50), Joe Come (AIG, JA-40), and Tony highlighted some specific staff skill sets that could be shared with JI: CPAs, IT security experts, economists, engineers, procurement, and grant specialists. Similarly, JI's work—

(b)(6) —could point to management vulnerabilities that warrant an audit.

Before wrapping up the meeting, suggestions were made on how to maintain our momentum and get the word out to the entire organization. Suggestions included holding a Community of Practice; holding a joint JA and JI Managers' Conference/In-Service; sharing JA's 24 month plans with JI and seeking their input on audits; and holding an OIG JA/JI forum in the spring/summer for OAs, Congress, and outside experts to discuss our lines of efforts and accomplishments and to pose our priorities. Last, Ann asked the SACs and AIGs to reach out to their JA/JI counterparts in the field on a monthly basis to discuss the status of audits and investigations, as well as trends and challenges.

Following the 2-hour meeting, Cal and Ann met with Tim and the SACs from each of JI's seven regions and headquarters, along with Ron

Engler, Director of Special Investigations. Cal provided his perspective on JI's investigative mix of transportation safety, employee integrity, and grant fraud cases. The new Congress will likely take a greater interest in investigations that involve improper payments, government procurement, and the integrity of federal contractors. Cal also said that JI should also look for ways to promote economic fraud investigations—broker fraud, household goods, and prevailing wage investigations—so their full impact is transparent in the current economic climate. Ann suggested the use of management advisories as a means to highlight trends in a particular investigative category, which would give the Department an opportunity to consider oversight improvements.

The next SAC-AIG quarterly meeting will be held in late February or March.

—Tom Yatsco, Acting Deputy AIG, JA-40, and Bill Owens, Special Agent-in-Charge, JI-2

NOTEWORTHY

CoP EVENT: WHAT CAN THE ECONOMISTS DO FOR YOU?

The Economic Analysis Team, otherwise known as the TEA Shop, recently presented at a Communities of Practice event entitled, "What Can the Economists Do For You?" Betty Krier, Michael Day, Jerrod Sharpe, Chia-Mei Liu, Brian McNamara, and Kang Cao each discussed their role in the Tea Shop. Their past econometric analyses include the benefits of high speed rail on the Northeast Corridor and the effects of Amtrak's poor on time performance. Their current project is on the root causes of Amtrak delays. Potential Future projects include effects of airline mergers on small communities, change in airline prices, and change in airline ridership. The Economists discussed what they can do for your group and said that people should reach out to them if we want their help.

- Heather Voda, Analyst, JA-60

WHAT EXACTLY CAN TEA SHOP DO FOR MY GROUP?

We can assist by:

- Making objectives more precise
- Identifying key performance aspects
- Defining a scope
- Shaping the methodology
- Crunch numbers



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HOT TOPICS IN ETHICS

TRAINING CALENDAR

12/13/2010 8:30 AM	Audit Evidence and Documentation (USDA - B. Crandlemire) USDA - Bruce Crandlemire, Instructor
12/14/2010 8:00 AM	IT Infrastructure Group: Team Development (D. Alexander)
12/14/2010 9:00 AM	TeamMate 101: Introduction to TeamMate Related documents available for download here and in the Training Documents folder titled "TeamMate 101: Introduction to TeamMate" folder.
12/15/2010 8:30 AM	Interviewing Techniques for Auditors (HRDC - C. Buncher) Carole Buncher, Instructor

The following courses are in the developmental stages, so check the Training Calendar and stay tuned:

- **Generational Differences in the Workplace** - January 2011 launch date planned
- **MBTI for Teams** - January 2011 launch date planned
- **OIG Project Management** - March 2011 launch date planned
- **TeamMate Courses (Beginning to Advanced)** - Launching all during 2011

How would you like to win 10,000 coins to be deposited in your name for the CFC Penny Wars?

The Office of Human Resources is sponsoring a contest to see how many employees visit the HRDC Training Calendar to discover and plan for upcoming courses that are offered here at Headquarters. If you log on and visit the [HR Development Center Training Calendar](#), we will tally the number of hits on Friday, December 17 and announce a WINNER! You should convince your coworkers to visit the site because the more employees that visit from your office, the better your chance of winning is for your organization. We all know that if your organization wins, you get the catered breakfast and bragging rights. Official results will be announced based on the [OIG-HRDC Training Calendar Site Usage Summary](#) on the closing date of the contest, **December 17, 2010 at midnight**. If you are assigned to a field office, you can still enter the contest, just visit the site and make your hit count for your team J!

This contest is funded by private donations and sponsored by the Office of Human Resources.

Reminder:

Annual Ethics Training

J-3 is happy to announce the new and improved Annual Ethics Training, which is now available in your Learning Plan on the new training system, TMS, for all GS employees. This year's annual ethics training features a "pop quiz" in which employees will follow the adventures of Larry Lambast, Tad Pohl, and Kitty Katz, among others, as they navigate the government ethics rules and regulations in a series of hypothetical quandaries.

OIG's deadline to complete the ethics training is Tuesday, December 21st. In light of the upcoming holidays and need to take use-or-lose leave, we urge employees to take the annual ethics training earlier rather than later.

Please refer to Chief Counsel Omer Poirier's December 7th email for further details. For technical assistance with TMS, please contact Sherry Reck.

- Spritz Snicklebaum,
Associate Counsel, J-3

HOT TOPICS IN ETHICS (cont.)

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
General Counsel

Memorandum

Subject: Acceptance of Holiday Invitations and Gifts
(Bah Humbug!)

Date: 11/22/10

From: Rosalind A. Kalapp
Ethics Official

To: Secretarial Officers
Administrators
Chief Counsels



During the holiday season, representatives of concerns that do business with or are regulated by the Department or from organizations that lobby on behalf of these concerns may try to spread cheer by sending gifts, or offers of gifts, and party invitations to Departmental officials. Scrooge that I am, I must remind you that, pursuant to the regulations of the Office of Government Ethics, Departmental employees may not accept gifts, gratuities, meals and refreshments, or anything worth \$20.00 or more from these concerns and organizations. One possible exception is attending, with Counsel's approval, a non-lavish (no pheasant under glass and truffles) function which is not aimed specifically at Departmental employees and is widely attended, such as by Congressional representatives, other governmental officials, representatives of various sectors of industry, and members of the press. But, beware! If the invitation is from a nonsponsor of a function, more than 100 persons must be expected to attend and the market value of the invitation must not exceed \$335 (\$167.50 if attendance of an invited guest has also been approved). Notwithstanding, you should not attend if at the time of the event the host is a specific party to an action currently before you for decision, such as a ruling in an air carrier fitness case, an enforcement action, or the award of a contract or grant. Finally, be warned that this and other exceptions to the general rule are very narrowly interpreted.

Questions about the rule, or possible exceptions, should be directed to the Chief Counsel's office for modal administration employees or to the Office of the Secretary (OST) Ethics Office x69150 for OST employees.

cc: The Secretary
Deputy Secretary

A Reminder from Scrooge:

Presidential appointees **may not** accept a holiday invitation or gifts from a registered lobbyist or lobbying organization without approval.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

CFC SILENT AUCTION WINNERS

Last week, the OIG's west elevator lobby played host to a scene right out of Christie's - but instead of priceless works of art and invaluable antiquities, we auctioned off things of much greater value: the time and generosity of our colleagues.

Before I get to the run-down of the auction results, I'd like to take the opportunity to remind you all that there is still just a little bit of time left to make a pledge to the CFC - we're getting close to our goal, but your pledge could be the one that pushes us over the top! Just log on to www.employeeexpress.gov to make a donation using the OIG Reporting Unit Number **4179000**. Of course, if you prefer to use the paper pledge form or if you'd like to flip through a paper copy of the catalog of charities, any of our Keyworkers will be happy to provide you with one, and I'm sure they'd all be happy to take a moment or two out of their day to answer any questions you have about either the electronic or paper-based processes.

And now, without further ado, I give you the folks who had the tenacity to outbid their peers and win the items that were up for sale:

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(Continued on page 7)

OIG IN THE NEWS

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Officials Cite “Layers of Failure” in Copter Crash

December 7, 2010

(Fox News on an investigation by the
IRI-9 Seattle office)

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/12/07/govt-air-safety-questioned-firefighting-crash/>

A firefighting helicopter crash that killed nine people two years ago was caused by deceptions on the part of the company that leased the aircraft to the U.S. Forest Service and a lack of federal safety oversight, the National Transportation Safety Board determined Tuesday.

Carson Helicopters of Grants Pass, Ore., intentionally altered documents to exaggerate the helicopter's performance capabilities in order to win a Forest Service contract, the board said.

NTSB has alerted the **Department of Transportation's Inspector General** that Carson's actions may merit a criminal investigation, Hersman said.

Missouri Man Pleads Guilty In Selling False Aircraft Inspection Labels

December 8, 2010

(Avstop.com on an investigation by
the JRI-5 Chicago office)
http://avstop.com/news_december_2010/missouri_man_pleads_guilty_in_selling_false_aircraft_inspection_labels.htm

Joseph J. Fisk, 58, of Ozark, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England to the charge contained in a July 28, 2010, federal indictment. Fisk is the owner of Air & Marine Radio, LLC, in Ozark.

From March to September 2009, Fisk created fraudulent FAA inspection labels on his computer. The fraudulent labels represented a satisfactory annual or 100-hour inspection of an aircraft.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee. It was investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration, the **U.S. Department of Transportation - Office of Inspector General**, and the FBI.

(Continued from page 6)

- (b)(6)

Congratulations to all of our winners - and HUGE thanks to all of the folks who made a donation to the auction.

-Matt Williams, Analyst, JA-50

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

END SHOT

, (b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ANN KICKS OFF LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG SESSIONS

We had a dynamic turnout for the first leadership brown bag session with over 35 GS-14s and 15s present in person and via video and phone conference! Ann graciously thanked the group for their interest in the leadership brown bags and stressed how important effective leadership is to her and Cal. Ann said that she hopes the brown bag sessions will provide us with guidelines, tips, and lessons learned to help us effectively lead our groups. Ann noted that the impetus for the brown bags came from OIG audit managers who approached her after the Audit Managers conference in August. At the conference, Cal moderated a panel consisting of Front Office SES that discussed the attributes of a successful leader.

At the first brown bag session, Ann shared the article "What makes an effective leader?" with us. I highly recommend that regardless of your grade level or position that you take a few moments to read the article: [Brown Bag #1: What Makes An Effective Leader?](#)

Ann emphasized the importance of knowing what our teams value in a leader and suggested that we ask them to provide feedback on how we, as managers, are performing. It

could be as simple as asking staff for feedback on how well you led a meeting. She also encouraged us to reach out to staff to see how they perceive us and gave ideas on how to do this in a non-threatening way. Ann also reminded us that we need to point out to staff how their work fits into the OIG's strategic plan so they understand the goals they are working toward. Ann underscored that we need to constantly practice improving our leadership skills whether that is in making our meetings work, learning to communicate better, recognizing and encouraging employees, or building our teams. She encouraged us to not be afraid to take risks or slip up as these are stepping stones for improvement and—most importantly—seek feedback. Then when something we try does not work, try another technique!

Ann closed the session by asking us what we would like to get out of these brown bags. We identified 10 potential topics for future monthly sessions, including motivating across generations, organizing and leading effective teams, developing emerging leaders, and managing chaos and conflict. Ann stated she will continue her involvement in the brown

bag sessions and noted that future sessions may include external speakers, panels, and other SES.

How do I view these leadership sessions? Well, I believe we started at the right time of year with the Fall season upon us. I'm like the leafless tree that has to survive through the seasons of change—what better time to try new leadership skills before Spring? I may have a wintery time slipping and sliding as I practice the leadership tools we learn in these sessions. Hopefully, by Spring I will show new growth and have leaves of green and maybe even bear fruit in the Summer!

I am looking forward to the next brown bag that is tentatively scheduled **for January 12** on the *four roles of leadership!* Stay tuned.

-Joann Adam, Project Manager,
JA-20, OK



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 12/6	TUESDAY 12/7	WEDNESDAY 12/8	THURSDAY 12/9	FRIDAY 12/10
CAL – Sup II Kickoff (9:00 a.m.)	CAL – EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	(b)(6)	CFC Final Event (Breakfast)	CAL – Air Transporta- tion Association of American Mtg (10:30 a.m.)
ANN – DOA Perform- ance Review Board (9:00 a.m.)				
BRIAN – OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)				

NOTEWORTHY

BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS POLICY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Cal has kicked off the holiday season by authorizing Business Casual dress for all OIG employees during the Holiday Season until December 30th. Except for CFC's Jeans Wednesdays, jeans are not permitted, and you should wear business attire if you have any meetings outside of the office or with non-OIG personnel.

OIG MEETS MANDATE FOR ISSUING ITS SEMIANNUAL REPORT

On November 30, OIG released its Semiannual Report to Congress for the second half of fiscal year 2010. The report showcases our hard work and strong commitment to provide the Secretary, Congress, and the public with in-depth analyses of important transportation issues. In the 6 months covered, we issued 78 reports with a total of 234 recommendations, including financial recommendations totaling over \$633 million. Our investigative work resulted in 53 indictments, 41 convictions, and a total of nearly \$66 million in fines, restitutions, and recoveries.

In the past, we have had difficulty meeting the congressional man-

date to issue our semiannuals within 2 months after the end of the reporting period. To stay on track this time, we took a somewhat different tack, including involving the right people at the right time, establishing clear responsibilities and deadlines, and meeting with all the principals at critical stages. We still had our share of hiccups and angst along the way. To determine how we can make the process better for the first 2011 semiannual—which we are already preparing for—our next step is to have a "hotwash" with all the principals.

Thanks to all OIG staff who helped make this effort a success, and a special thanks to Craig

Pryor in OST for maneuvering us through typesetting and printing.

- Karen Sloan,
Communications Officer, J-2



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

CAL AND SUSAN HEAD TO THE SEATTLE OFFICE

On October 25th and 26th, Cal and Susan Dailey visited the JA and JI staff in the Seattle Regional Office. Their visit began with a Great Northwest themed potluck luncheon featuring salmon, fresh apples and homemade cider, potato and macaroni salads, veggies, chili, mac 'n' cheese, meatballs, cheeses, salami, chips, and a variety of desserts. With all appetites satiated, and since food puts everyone in a good mood, it was time for the general staff meeting. Cal discussed our accomplishments of the past year and laid out his plans for the future. Susan spoke about our budget, procurement, HR, and IT issues. The audit staff then briefed Cal on plans for upcoming audits, and the investigative staff briefed him on ongoing investigations and plans. (b)(6)

(b)(6) .



Cal started the second day by addressing representatives from FAA, FTA, FHWA (Washington State and Oregon), FMCSA, and NHTSA. Cal spoke of the need for the modes to work with OIG so that, together, we can ensure that DOT's objectives are achieved and that the modes get OIG support in establishing and maintaining more effective and efficient organizations. After meeting with the regional administrators, Cal met separately with Seattle and DC staff, GS-13 and below, to give each person the opportunity to raise concerns directly to him. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

- Chuck Ward, Project Manager, JA-10, Seattle

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



Cal addressed the DOT Regional Administrators of the different modes.

NOTEWORTHY

RECOVERY FRAUD CONFERENCE HELD IN PHILLY



Vice President Joe Biden spoke at the Recovery Fraud Conference.

The national Recovery Fraud Conference was held in Philadelphia on November 15-18, and DOT OIG staff was present to hear from Vice President Joe Biden, Rep. Darrell Issa, and other high-level officials. Over 500 investigators, auditors, OIG staff, and prosecutors gathered to trade best practices and discuss the latest trends and technology to prevent and detect Recovery fraud.

The conference was hosted by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, the Presi-

dent's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, and the Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

Vice President Biden likened the OIG community's Recovery fraud efforts to a "posse" formed to provide a fundamentally different level of transparency "to make sure every dollar is accounted for and every official is held accountable. To cut out any and all cases of waste and fraud so that tax dollars go exactly where tax dollars are supposed to go." The Vice President commended the RATB website, which he said "deputizes thousands of citizen IGs," and he praised the development of new sophisticated tools used to identify fraud and share investigative referrals.

Rep. Issa discussed his pledge to increase oversight in the upcoming Congress with more fact-finding hearings. He urged OIGs to be more proactive and "look between the cracks" as the Recovery Act in his view has also created new sources of government waste. Rep. Issa talked

about legislative changes he wants to see in the IG system, including job protection for Inspectors General to ensure they are never punished "for doing their job" and providing OIGs with testimony subpoena authority. Rep. Issa indicated his committee will be focusing on public safety and jobs/the economy.

(b)(6)

- Bob Westbrooks, Deputy AIG
for Investigations, JI-3



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

2010 OIG ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SURVEY: ANALYSIS UPDATE

It's time for another update on the 2010 OIG Annual Employee Survey! Below you will find two quick "Survey Factoids" that FMP provided to give a sneak peak at this year's survey results. As a reminder, FMP is currently analyzing the survey data and will be sharing complete survey results with OIG in January. If you have questions or concerns about the data analysis and reporting phase of the survey project, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Dziewczynski at jdziewczynski@fmpconsulting.com or 703-671-6600 x 142.

Survey Fact 1

Several open-ended questions were added to this year's survey. These questions offered employees an opportunity to provide specific suggestions for improving OIG. Which open-ended question received the most responses?

"If you were Cal for a day, what one organizational or operational change would you make" was the open-ended item with the largest response. A total of **196** employees provided a response to this question.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to offer open-ended comments via the survey!

Survey Fact 2

Which JA organization responded the most favorably to the following item?

"OIG culture places an emphasis on providing high quality products."

JA-20 responded the most favorably among JA organizations, with **100%** of participants agreeing that OIG culture emphasizes high quality products.

While JA-20 responded the most favorably, all JA organizations had favorable responses to this survey item (84% - 100% favorable). Please stay tuned for full survey results in January!

FAEC CONFERENCE: DECEMBER 13TH 2010

DOT OIG is coordinating the **Federal Audit Executive Council (FAEC) Procurement Training Conference** that will be held on **Monday December 13th from 8:30 am-4:30 pm** at the Department of Education Auditorium. Speakers include Dan Gordon, Administrator for the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP); Joanie Newhart, OFPP Associate Administrator for Acquisition Workforce Programs; and DOT OIG's own Dave Lahey and Christina Lee, who will discuss the recent audit of Air Traffic Controllers Optimum Training Solution (ATCOTS). There is still room to enroll, so RSVP by December 6th to Heather.Voda@oig.dot.gov or [Jill.Cottonaro@oig.dot.gov](mailto>Jill.Cottonaro@oig.dot.gov) to reserve a spot and earn 6 CPE hours!

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG'S SAFETY CATALOG DRAWS INTEREST FROM OMB OFFICIALS

On November 23, 2010, we provided the OIG Safety Catalogue to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials, which will be shared and viewed internally within its Transportation Branch team. OMB officials will review the entire collection of documents, including a new 12-page internal memorandum. The documents (all available on [SharePoint](#)) provide both a high-level overview and specific details supporting the Safety Catalogue team's research. OMB plans to review the material and let us know if it identifies any additional topics that should be included. It should be noted that the Safety Catalogue team responded in short order to complete additional quality assurance checks necessary to allow the OIG to provide the documents to a non-DOT office. We thank the Safety Catalogue team (listed below) for its work on this project, as well as Karen Sloan (J-2) and Dan Raville (JA-1) for assistance in writing and editing.

-Travis Wiley (Senior Analyst, JA-10, Atlanta), Doris Kwong (Analyst, JA-40, NY),
and Chris Brothers (Program Manager, JA-40)

Safety Catalogue Team			
Marshall Anderson	JA-10 (Atlanta)	Doris Kwong	JA-40 (NY)
Peter Barber	JA-40 (DC)	Andrew Olson	JA-10 (HQ)
Greg Bond	JA-10 (Seattle)	Kristi-Jo Preston	JA-40 (Cambridge)
Chris Brothers	JA-40 (DC)	Farrin Tamaddon	JA-40 (Ft Worth)
Michael English	JA-40 (NY)	Teri Vogliardo	JA-10 (Seattle)
Ben Huddle	JA-10 (HQ)	Travis Wiley	JA-10 (Atlanta)

Training Calendar

11/30/2010 1:00 PM	TeamMate Basic Supervision - HQ Rm W71-101 (Amanda Barton)
12/6/2010 8:30 AM	SUP II (D. Alexander, M. Ginnerty)
Note: This class will take place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (it will not meet on Wednesday)	
12/7/2010 12:00 PM	Management Workshop: Performance Management (April Lane)
12/8/2010 8:00 AM	IT Infrastructure Group: Team Development (D. Alexander) 
12/8/2010 9:00 AM	TeamMate 301 - HQ Rm W76-102 (Akilah Boston)
12/8/2010 12:00 PM	OIG Holiday Party
12/14/2010 8:00 AM	IT Infrastructure Group: Team Development (D. Alexander) 
12/24/10	Holiday—Christmas Day*
1/6/2011 9:00 AM	TeamMate Cross-Indexing and Independent Referencing - HQ Rm W74-101 (Amanda Barton)
1/11/2011 1:00 PM	TeamMate Advanced Supervision and Management - HQ Rm W71-101 (Amanda Barton)

* Federal Holiday for pay and leave purposes; Christmas Day (12/25) falls on a Saturday.

OIG IN THE NEWS

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Singapore Airlines Cargo Pte Ltd. Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Air Cargo Shipments

November 30, 2010

(*New York Paralegal Blog* on an investigation by the JRI-3 Portsmouth, VA office)

<http://www.newyorkparalegalblog.com/2010/11/singapore-airlines-cargo-pte-ltd-agrees.html>

Singapore Airlines Cargo Pte Ltd. has agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$48 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices in the air transportation industry, the Department of Justice announced today.

Today's charge is the result of a joint investigation into the air transportation industry being conducted by the Antitrust Division's National Criminal Enforcement Section, the FBI's Washington Field Office, the **Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General**, and the U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General.

(b)(6)

Construction Giant Admits Fraud Over Minority Firms

November 30, 2010

(*The New York Times* on an investigation by the JRI-2 New York office)

www.nytimes.com/2010/11/30/nyregion/30fraud.html?r=2&scp=1&sq=Schiavone&st=cse

A heavy construction company that has been involved in some of New York's biggest infrastructure projects admitted on Monday that it had defrauded government programs for five years, and agreed to forfeit \$20 million for crimes it committed while performing \$691 million in public contracts.

The case also involved **agents from the inspectors general of the federal Labor and Transportation Departments** and the Internal Revenue Service, and was overseen by a prosecutor in Ms. Lynch's office.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

IG SERIES: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

This is the second in a series of profiles regarding other agency Inspector General offices. This week's profile is of the US Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General.

Web site: <http://www.justice.gov/oig>

(b)(6)



The organization: About 435 people total. The audit regional offices are located in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. The investigations regional offices are located in those same cities, plus they have additional offices in Boston, Detroit, El Paso, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Trenton, New York, and Tucson. Total FY 2010 annual budget was \$84 million. The DOJ IG office consists of an immediate office, which is comprised of the Inspector General, the Deputy Inspector General, and the Office of the General Counsel and five major division components. Each division is headed by an Assistant Inspector General. The five OIG divisions are: Audit, Investigations, Evaluation and Inspections, Oversight and Review, and Management and Planning.

Sample audit report: "THE U.S MARSHALS SERVICE'S OVERSIGHT OF ITS JUDICIAL FACILITIES SECURITY PROGRAM" <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/USMS/a1102.pdf>

Sample investigation: "FORMER ABRAMOFF COLLEAGUE KEVIN RING CONVICTED OF CONSPIRACY, HONEST SERVICES FRAUD AND PAYING GRATUITIES RELATED TO ILLEGAL LOBBYING SCHEME" http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/press/2010/2010_11_15.pdf

Production: During the 6-month period ending March 31 of this year, the DOJ OIG Audit Division issued 42 internal and external audit reports, which contained more than \$5.2 million in questioned costs and made 135 recommendations for management improvement. Specifically, the Audit Division issued 20 internal audit reports of Department programs funded at more than \$600 million; 22 external audit reports of contracts, grants, and other agreements funded at more than \$27 million; and 59 Single Audit Act audits funded at approximately \$660 million. On the Investigations side of the house, the DOJ OIG received 1,159 Hotline calls and an additional 3,513 allegations from other sources. They opened 173 cases, closed 125 cases, and had 405 cases in progress. They had 48 criminal indictments, 53 arrests, and 48 convictions/pleas.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

TASTE OF OIG-CFC CHILI COOK-OFF

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

SES & MANAGERS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR CFC JEANS WEDNESDAYS

(b)(6)

A STRONG IG PRESENCE IN “HOT-LANTA”

My quest to visit all JA-10 regional offices (and other JA/JI offices if I get the chance) took me to the great city of Atlanta this past month. The "southern hospitality" of the entire staff there was outdone only by their professionalism and dedication. The Atlanta Office is the largest of all DOT OIG regional offices.

Located on the 17th floor of the downtown Federal building, the Atlanta Office houses 19 employees from JA-10 and 6 employees from JI Region 4. The JA-10 folks are led by Tina Nysted and Robin Koch, both 20+ year veterans of the DOT OIG, and both basking in last week's victory by Auburn over Alabama, since they both graduated from Auburn right into the DOT OIG. They specialize in aviation safety and some acquisition audits. The JI special agents are led by 13-year veterans (b)(6), (b)(7)c, (b)(6), (b)(7) and they specialize in contract fraud cases that span over the 8-state area of their region.

Most folks have a fabulous view of the CNN Center, the Atlanta skyline, and the Georgia Dome—where the NFC-leading Atlanta Falcons play on Sundays. The office is located in downtown Atlanta with easy access to the "MARTA" subway system. After a 3-day visit to the office, and after meeting with all the audit teams and most of the staff one-on-one, it is easy to see how the office earned its great reputation.



-Jeff Guzzetti, AIG, JA-10

NOTEWORTHY

NEW INTERN KRISTEN BIDWELL REFLECTS ON JA CASE STUDY TRAINING

On November 15, at a few minutes before 7 am I walked into the DOT building not really sure what to expect. You see, it was my first day on the job with DOT/OIG. I knew there will be the usual first day paperwork and such, but my first day on the job would not be totally spent at DOT Headquarters; I was scheduled to go over to Third Street and participate in the OIG Case Study training.

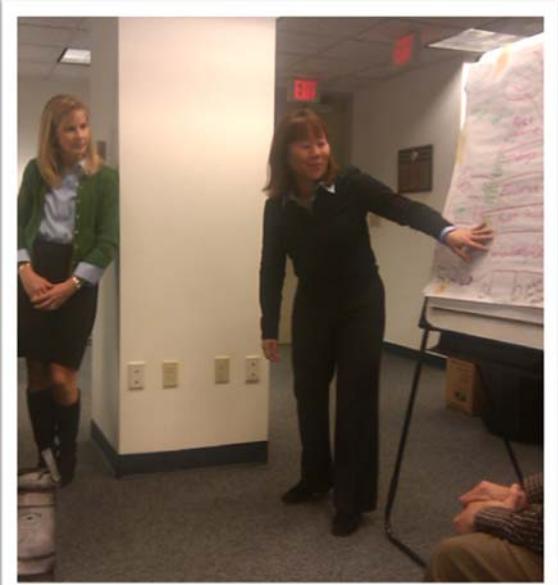
Not being an auditor, I was curious to learn the process, and that first week I was ready to lay the foundation. Right off the bat, we were introduced to the other participants in class; there was a sampling of folks from the various JAs: 10, 20, 40, 50, and 60. (An interesting note is that in the class there was a doctor, a professor, and a boxer just to give an idea of the various backgrounds.) We were also introduced to Yellow Book and Chapter 2005; we quickly learned the importance each documents lends to the audit process. (*I think Michelle would have a conniption if I didn't mention these.*)

The first 3 days were spent dissecting the Audit Process Flowchart and putting real meaning behind the various phases. From the Proposal Phase to the Final Report Phase, we learned skills to effectively plan a meeting and interview using probing questions, standards of evidence, elements of a finding and professional skepticism. Thursday was set aside for writing skills,

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, (b)(6) We worked on developing the written message, using active voice, following the three C's (clear, convincing and concise), and keeping the reader's interest. That afternoon, three of our peers arrived from headquarters to discuss their experiences while preparing testimony for congressional hearings. Friday morning, we welcomed Ann Calvaresi Barr, Lou Dixon, and Susan Dailey. During their visit, they gave their perspective on the work of the DOT/OIG. They encouraged us to take leadership roles, learn, get involved, and to stretch ourselves and our managers.

(Continued on page 12)

HOW TO DRAW AN AUDITOR

Kristen Bidwell (left, Analyst, JA-50) Doris Kwong (right, Analyst, JA-40, NY) explain their depiction of an auditor.

(Continued from page 11)

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Having the opportunity to gather the skills and lay the foundation of auditing as I begin my work with DOT/OIG is a great way to start off on the right foot. I have an understanding of how the audit process works and the various phases involved with an audit, and I've gathered the skills to be successful.

Our a final assignment in OIG Case Study: to draw an auditor. Take a look at the depictions we came up with in class. Which one looks like you?

-Kristen Bidwell, Analyst, JA-50

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END SHOT

* IT TIP OF THE WEEK *

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Did you know that every laptop has an ID card reader on the left side, and starting next year, OIG employees will be able to login to their computers using only their ID badges and their PIN?

- Scott Florcsk, Acting CIO, JM-40

COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2010 OIG AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2010 OIG Awards Ceremony celebrated everyone's accomplishments over the past year and recognized 60 individuals and 24 teams for their contributions. IG Cal Scovel highlighted some of the numerous achievements of the office: 126 audit and single audit reports with over 400 recommendations, and investigations that led to 92 indict-

ments and 72 convictions. Deputy Secretary John Porcari made a guest appearance and congratulated OIG staff for their hard work in helping the Department meet its mission.

OIGers from the regions traveled to headquarters to be recognized for their contributions. The ceremony turned bittersweet as An-

gela McCallister's parents joined Cal on stage to accept an award on her behalf. A moment of silence was shared in her memory.

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-Emily Norton, Analyst, JA-40



OIG invited Deputy Secretary of Transportation, John Porcari, to be the Guest Speaker at the Awards Ceremony.



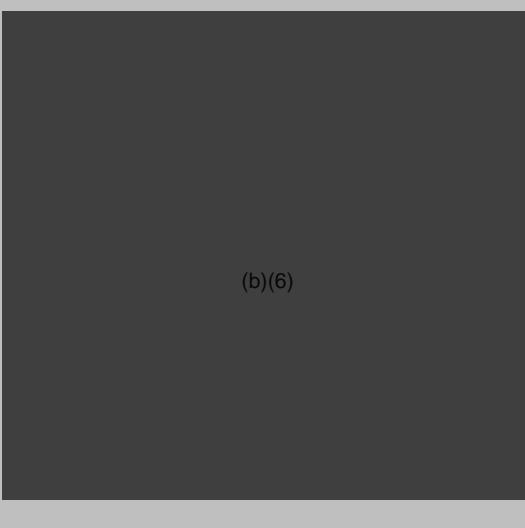
Representatives from the Hazardous Materials Permits and Approvals Audit Team, who had won the Secretarial Transportation Safety Award the day before.



Christina Lee and Heather Voda (Analysts, JA-60) accept a Team Award on behalf of *The Inspector* newsletter



Lorena Simpson (Support Services Specialist, JM-10) strikes a pose with Cal and her Marguerite Christensen Award.



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William Savage (Senior IT Specialist, JA-2) accepted a Team Award on behalf of the Statistical Data Analysis Team.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY 11/22	TUESDAY 11/23	WEDNESDAY 11/24	THURSDAY 11/25	FRIDAY 11/26
BRIAN— OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	CAL— EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	 <p>CFC Jeans Wednesday (\$3, HQ)</p>	 <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	 <p>CFC Jersey Friday (\$2, HQ)</p>

NEXT COP- “WHAT CAN ECONOMISTS DO FOR YOU?”

The next CoP event, “What Can Economists Do for You?” will be held early this December 2010. If you have any ideas for an upcoming CoP, or if you would like to participate on the CoP Committee, contact Chris Frank.

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

As we transition from the 111th to the 112th Congress in January and the balance of power shifts in the House, we can expect to see many changes, including new committee makeups and new oversight hearing agendas. Congress will also face tough choices and challenges regarding when and how to pass the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills. Here are several dates to keep in mind.

- **Nov. 15:** Post-election session of 111th Congress begins. Orientation sessions begin for incoming senators and representatives.
- **Nov. 16:** Senate Democratic and Republican leadership elections.
- **Nov. 17:** House Republican leadership elections.
- **Nov. 18:** House Democratic leadership elections.
- **Week of Nov. 22:** House and Senate in recess for Thanksgiving.
- **Dec. 3:** The current continuing appropriations law expires.
- **Jan. 1, 2011:** Federal income tax rates are scheduled to increase, reverting to pre-2001 levels.
- **Jan. 3, 2011:** Terms of members of the 112th Congress begin (constitutional date). The swearing-in of House and Senate members is likely to occur Jan. 4 or 5.
- **Late January, 2011:** The President’s annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress.
- **Feb. 7, 2011:** By statute, the President is required to submit his annual budget proposal to Congress by the first Monday in February.



-Nathan Richmond, Director and Counsel for Congressional and External Affairs, J-3

NOTEWORTHY

2010 OIG Annual Employee Survey: Analysis Update

It's time for a quick update on the 2010 OIG Annual Employee Survey! Federal Management Partners (FMP) is continuing to analyze the survey data, and we are looking forward to learning the results of this year's survey in January. At that time, FMP will share key survey results and will also provide a comprehensive report with detailed analyses including data breakdowns (e.g., headquarters vs. field results). In the meantime, below you will find two survey facts that provide background information and a sneak peek at this year's survey results. If you have questions or concerns about the data analysis and reporting phase of the survey project, please contact Jessica Dziewczynski at jdziewczynski@fmpconsulting.com or 703-671-6600 x 142.

Survey Fact 1

OIG has been conducting the annual all employee survey since 2007. Which year's survey had the most respondents?

- **2010 had the most respondents.**
 - 378 employees participated in 2010
 - 270 employees participated in 2009
 - 272 employees participated in 2008
 - 326 employees participated in 2007

Thanks again to everybody who participated in the 2010 OIG survey!

Survey Fact 2

Which JI organization responded the most favorably to the following item:
"Over the past year there have been improvements in the policies, processes, and/or tools I use to complete my work."

- **JI-2** scored the most favorably among JI organizations, with **100%** of participants reporting improvements over the past year.

Stay tuned for full survey results in January!



JA-10 ATLANTA PENNY WARS WRAP-UP

We made about \$180 and the blue team won! I must add that this was one of many games played. I believe all of the games/activities in total raised about \$500!

Ruth Foyere

IG SERIES: USDA OIG



DOT OIG is one of 73 "statutory" IG offices. So, where do our 72 siblings live? What kind of work do they do? How big are they? This is the first in a series of snapshots on other OIGs. This week's profile is of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's OIG.

USDA Inspector General

Phyllis K. Fong -- she has served in that position for nearly 8 years. Ms. Fong was recently elected as the first Chair of the CIGIE.

The organization

About 700 people total. Regional offices located in Beltsville, Maryland; Temple, Texas; Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, and San Francisco.

Sample audit report

"Administration of the Horse Protection Program and the Slaughter Horse Transport Program" <http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33601-02-KC.pdf>

Sample investigation

Illegal cockfighting in Virginia resulted in the successful Federal prosecution of numerous individuals.

Production

During the last half of fiscal year 2009:

- Issued 23 audit reports and 147 investigation reports
- Investigations and audits led to 568 arrests, 454 convictions, \$36.4 million in recoveries and restitutions, 115 program improvement recommendations, and \$2.9 million in financial recommendations

During the entire fiscal year 2009:

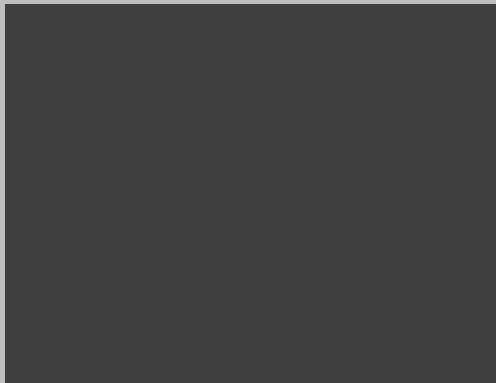
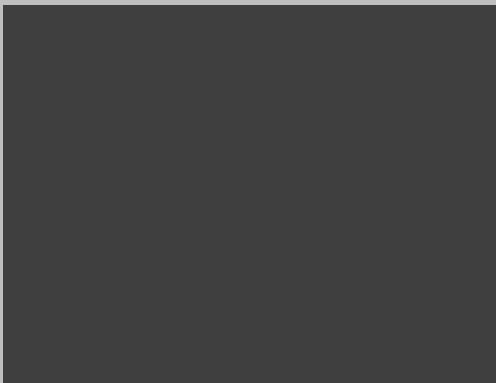
- Initiated 31 Recovery Act audits, completed 2
- Issued 16 *fast reports*—quick turnaround reports intended to alert management to immediate issues

Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/oig/index.htm>

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG CFC GUITAR HERO WORLD TOUR COMPETITION

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END SHOT

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* IT TIP OF THE WEEK *

Know Your PIN

Next month, OIG employees will be able to log in to their laptops using their PIV cards and PIN. If you have forgotten what your PIN is, you will need to have it reset at the office location you originally received your card at. JM-40 will be scheduling a time to sit with you to configure your cards. This won't happen though unless you KNOW YOUR PIN!

- Scott Florcsk, CIO, JM-40

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.



THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR OIG VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE

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This issue of *The Inspector* pays special tribute to our OIG veterans. Last week, we sent out a call for photos and details of military service, and we had a great turn out! Not only did we receive emails from both our veterans and their friends, we had a great time chatting with the veterans as they reminisced about their time in the service. We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to all who have served honorably in the military. Your courage and patriotism attest to the value of military service. Thank you so much for the sacrifices that you and your family have made to protect our Nation's freedom.

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, 11/8	TUESDAY, 11/9	WEDNESDAY, 11/10	THURSDAY, 11/11	FRIDAY, 11/12
BRIAN – OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	ANN – DOD OIG SES Performance Review Board (8:30 a.m.) CAL – EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CFC Guitar Hero Championship (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)	 CFC Jeans Wednesday (\$3, HQ)	 VETERANS DAY	 CFC Jersey Friday (\$2, HQ)

OIG VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE

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OIG VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE

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OIG VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE

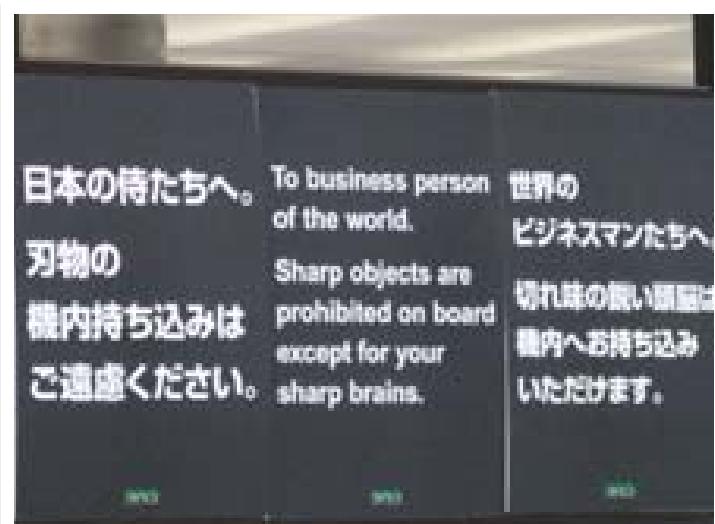
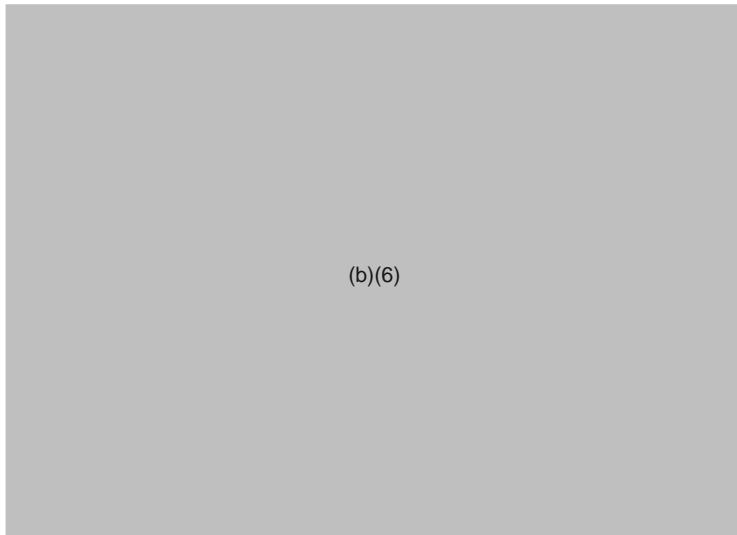
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OIG VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE

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OIG VETERANS OF MILITARY SERVICE

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JA-40'S TERRIFIC TOKYO TRIP

Joe Come, Kerry Barras, Darrell Riegel, and I travelled to Tokyo, Japan for a week in October to discuss issues related to our audit of NHTSA's defect investigation and recall processes. We met with Japanese officials from the Consumer Commission, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (MLIT), and the National Safety and Environment Laboratory (NTSEL).

Our trip began on a warm Sunday morning in the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport where we prepared ourselves for the grueling 14-hour flight to Tokyo. Once we arrived in Tokyo, we stretched our legs and picked up our luggage—enough clothes to dress a small village. We soon realized that this was not going to be a normal TDY trip as we noticed the Japanese symbols on signs and saw vending machines that sold eve-

rything from soft drinks to beer and coffee with brand names we never heard of. We also went into bathrooms that had remote controls!

We used all modes of transportation on our trip—buses, trains, cars, and our own feet—to get to and from our interviews, and of course, we got lost as most streets in Tokyo are not named and zigzag without any logic. We arranged for amazing interpreters to assist us with interviews, and we obtained a wealth of knowledge about Japan's recall system. The interview with the Consumer Commission gave us insight to the problems that plague the recall system. The interviews with MLIT and NTSEL officials allowed us to learn how their recall process compares with NHTSA's. We also observed

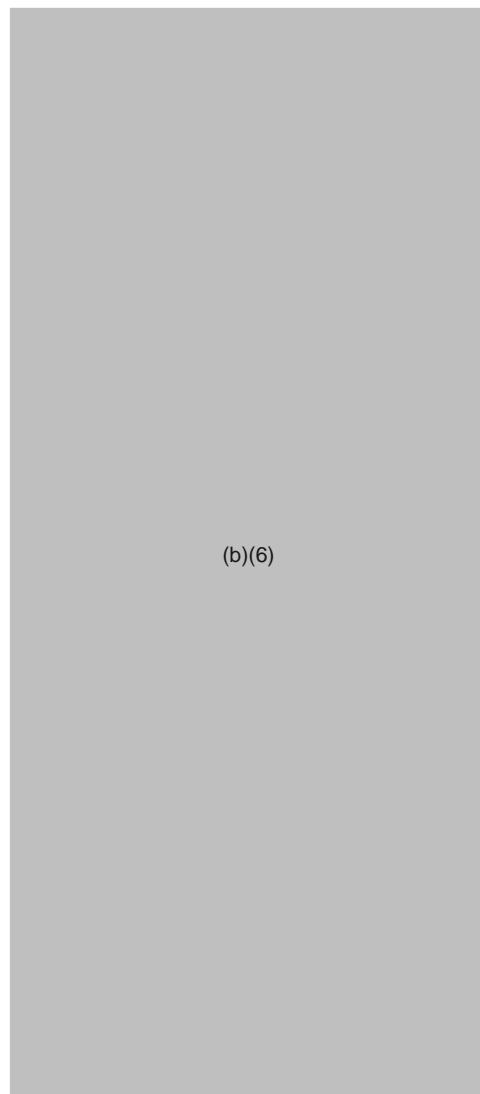
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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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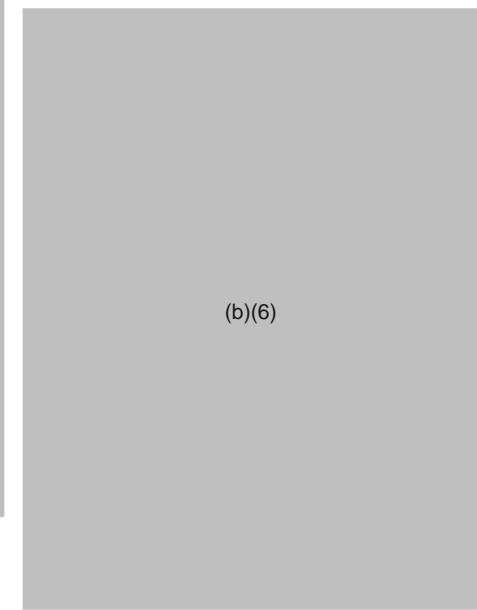
a defect investigation test on a vehicle during our tour of the lab.



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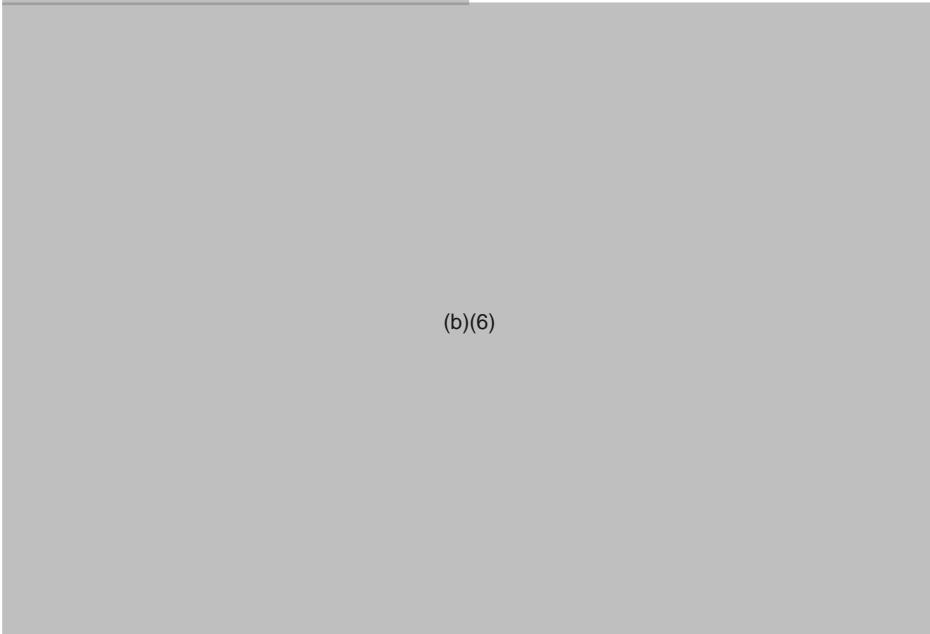


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long flight. We got back on an American Airlines flight for a quick 12-hour flight to Fort Worth. We left with great information for our audit, (b)(6) memories about Japan, and lots of pictures! And, back in Texas,

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-Sandra Menjivar, Analyst, JA-40,
Ft Worth, TX



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of effective leadership: canasta, canolis, and Chianti. During the afternoons Ann conducted one-on-one meetings with just about every analyst and investigator. We even had a chance to get in a group photo with our office (b)(6)

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ANN VISITS CAMBRIDGE OFFICE

The Cambridge Office got the opportunity to host our Deputy Inspector General, Ann Calvaresi-Barr, and Program Director Tom Yatsco for two action packed days on October 25th and 26th. With only a few days left until winter (well, at least it seems that way in these more northern parts), Ann and Tom got to enjoy some beautiful (and unseasonably) warm weather with our renowned New England foliage in full swing.

Ann immediately and easily won over the office on Monday morning in about 3 seconds. How is

this possible you might ask. Well,

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early morning sugar rush got the entire office ready for some hard hitting discussions and well-focused work.

Ann and Tom spent a day with JA and a day with JI. Ann led a group meeting with each side of the OIG "house" to review significant OIG happenings like the new budget, and discuss all the fine work that happens here in our field office. We learned many important things like the three C's

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While we were sad to see Ann and Tom head back to D.C., we will always welcome them back with open arms. (As long as they bring more cookies!)

—Kristi-Jo Preston and Dwight "Blake" Schwader (with historical factual information provided by John Hannon), Cambridge, MA

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

**GET TO KNOW THE RECIPIENTS OF THE IG'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
PUBLIC/COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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Training Calendar

11/11/2010 12:00 AM Holiday - Veteran's day

11/15/2010 8:30 AM JA Case Study - HRDC (B. Kennedy)

11/16/2010 1:00 PM TeamMate 201 - HQ Rm W71-101 (Amanda Barton)

11/18/2010 12:00 PM Brown Bag COP--Supervision (D. Alexander, M. Ginnerty)

11/25/2010 12:00 AM Holiday - Thanksgiving Day

11/30/2010 1:00 PM TeamMate Basic Supervision - HQ Rm W71-101 (Amanda Barton)

12/6/2010 8:30 AM SUP II (D. Alexander, M. Ginnerty)

12/7/2010 12:00 PM Brown Bag COP: TBD

12/8/2010 9:00 AM TeamMate 301 - HQ Rm W76-102 (Akilah Boston)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

New York Airport Flight Caps Fail to Curb Delays, Report Finds

NOVEMBER 2, 2010

(Bloomberg on a JA-10 audit)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-02/new-york-airport-flight-caps-fail-to-curb-delays-report-finds.html>

New York airport flight limits haven't been successful in curbing delays and need to be adjusted, a U.S. **Transportation Department inspector general** report found.

Federal limits imposed at New York's Kennedy and Newark, New Jersey's Liberty, and maintained at New York's LaGuardia, in 2008 brought "little meaningful improvement in New York's delay situation" that year, **Lou Dixon**, an assistant inspector general, said in a report posted today on the agency website.

"Although delays have since declined due to a drop in air traffic, once the economy recovers and flight volume returns, delays will likely rise again and increase passenger dissatisfaction," Dixon wrote.

The Federal Aviation Administration extended last year the flight caps to Oct. 29, 2011, giving it time to craft a long-term solution for cutting flight delays at the airports. The three New York-area airports are the second-, third- and fourth-most congested in the nation this year through August, with fewer than 75 percent of flights arriving on time, according to federal data. San Francisco has the Nation's most congested airport.

EXPERIENCE OF LEGAL INTERN/LAW CLERK

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

**1st ANNUAL CFC MINI-GOLF TOURNAMENT
RESULTS**

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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END SHOT

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*** IT TIP OF THE WEEK ***

Did you know...that as a current DOT OIG employee, you may obtain a copy of Microsoft Office for your HOME personal computer for \$9.95 through Microsoft's Home Use Program (HUP)?

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Over 130 employees have participated in this program to date, which has been going on for several years. The current version being offered for home is Office 2010 (the latest version released), and if you happen to be a Mac owner (like me), you can get Office 2008 for Mac for the same price. The following link will provide detailed instructions on how to use the program: http://portal.oig.dot.gov/ER/JMDocs/JM40%20CIO/HUP_instructions.pdf

- Scott Florcsik, CIO, JM-40

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

EDITORS' NOTE: The newsletter email account had issues with bouncing emails back to senders, but IT fixed the problem. A big thanks to the tech wizards at IT!

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY

A CLOSER LOOK AT CIGIE

Everyone should be familiar with the name CIGIE, but how much do you know about them, what it does and how it relates to individual OIGs? We wanted to take this opportunity to shed some additional light on how its role has evolved along with the broader OIG community.

The Council of Inspectors Generals on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) is a relatively new Federal entity, but with longstanding roots and tradition. It was created by Congress in 2008 as one of many OIG community reforms by combining the two separate councils formerly known as the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency (ECIE). The CIGIE effectively joined the previously segregated communities of the presidentially appointed and Senate-

confirmed IGs and the IGs appointed by their respective designated federal entities. The CIGIE, of course, remains an independent entity within the Executive Branch. Its goals is to address the integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies and set standards and policies to aid the establishment of a well-trained and highly skilled workforce in Offices of Inspectors General. To accomplish this, CIGIE periodically updates its [Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General](#), also known as The Silver Book.

With a current total of 73 statutory IGs, CIGIE maintains 7 standing committees covering the following areas: audit, information technology, inspection and evaluation, integrity, investigation, legislation, and professional

development. In addition to being a member of the CIGIE Legislation Committee, the DOT IG also serves as the co-chair of CIGIE's Recovery Funds Working Group (RFWG), consisting of the 29 IGs who oversee agencies that received funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The RFWG serves as a mechanism to develop OIG community views and a point of communication and coordination on matters affecting the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. To date, the OIG community, through the RFWG, has issued five reports. Our own office led one of these time-sensitive OIG-wide audit, *Recovery Act Data Quality: Errors in Recipients' Reports Obscure Transparency*, which included the work of seven OIGs.

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, 11/1	TUESDAY, 11/2	WEDNESDAY, 11/3	THURSDAY, 11/4	FRIDAY, 11/5
CAL – Kickoff Sup II (9:00 a.m.) BRIAN – OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	CAL – EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CAL, ANN, LOU, TIM – Annual OMB Mtg. (1:00 p.m.)	 <p>CFC Jeans Wednesday (\$3, HQ)</p>	43rd Annual Secretary's Award Ceremony (1:00 p.m., DOT HQ))	2010 OIG Award Ceremony (1:00 p.m., DOT HQ)

NOTEWORTHY

(Continued from page 1)

Since its establishment, CIGIE has received heightened attention from Congress and has been identified in an increasing number of enacted and proposed legislative provisions expanding its traditional role. One recent example directed CIGIE to examine the policies and procedures Amtrak has in place to ensure an effective working relationship with its OIG in accordance with IG Act principles. The CIGIE is also expanding its training role and has plans to establish a comprehensive training academy to offer various courses beneficial to the broader OIG community. While CIGIE is currently funded through annual assessments from individual OIGs, it is working toward establishing direct funding from Congress.

For those of you with PCIE award plaques in your office recognizing your hard work from days gone by, hold on to these valuable relics. The CIGIE continues to hold annual award ceremonies for the entire OIG community, and we are very proud of our Dulles Corridor Metro Project Safety Testing Team for being recognized with a CIGIE Award for Excellence at this year's ceremony.

- Nathan Richmond, Director and Counsel for Congressional & External Affairs, J-3, DC

LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG RESCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18

Ann will host the first Leadership Brown Bag on **November 18, from noon to 1 p.m. at DOT HQ, Conference Room 74-101**. GS-14s and above are invited to attend in person or via videoconference, podcast, and/or phone. Check your emails for a conference call number as the event approaches.



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

2010 OIG ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SURVEY: ANALYSIS UPDATE

As you may know, the 2010 OIG Survey has been closed for about 2 weeks. OIG's consultant, Federal Management Partners (FMP), is hard at work analyzing the data, and it will be presenting the results to OIG at an all-hands meeting in January. During that meeting, FMP will share the main results of the survey, including OIG's biggest strengths, challenges, and areas of improvement and decline. A comprehensive report will also be made available for employees interested in reviewing the complete survey results.

To give you a sneak peak of the survey results, FMP will be providing periodic "Survey Factoids" over the next 2 months as the data are analyzed. If you have any questions or concerns about the data analysis and reporting phase of the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Dziewczynski at jdziewczynski@fmpconsulting.com or 703-671-6600 x 142.

SURVEY FACTOIDS

Which five organizations reached a response rate of 100% in the 2010 OIG Survey?

1. JA-2
2. JA-50
3. JI-2
4. JRI-1
5. J-3

Great job to these organizations, and everybody else who contributed to our outstanding response rate!

Individuals in which three organizations expressed the most interest in having a mentor?

1. JA-60
2. JA-50
3. J-3

OIG is currently working to develop a mentoring program, and the survey results will help leadership to gauge the scope of interest in mentoring across the organization.

OIG SAFETY CATALOGUE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON SHAREPOINT

The OIG Safety Catalogue can now be found on SharePoint, at <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/JA1/default.aspx>. Also posted are briefing slides of the OIG Safety Catalogue and the list of program areas presented at the August 2010 Audit Managers' Conference, as well as the Safety Catalogues of FAA, PHMSA, and Surface Programs. **These documents represent the final product of an effort requested by the Inspector General, tasking JA leaders to improve our understanding of where vulnerabilities exist in our own safety work.** The catalogue documents are a listing of DOT safety programs broken out by Operating Administration, including prior OIG coverage and relevant budgetary and risk data. This information has been circulated informally and has been considered as managers prepare the 24-month audit plan. We hope that adding the plan to SharePoint will facilitate further use of the Safety Catalogue in other strategic planning efforts.

-Doris Kwong, Management Program Analyst, JA-40

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

TEAMMATE USERS' CONFERENCE: WHAT'S NEW IN TEAMMATE WORLD

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Akilah Boston and Amanda Barton attended the 2010 TeamMate Users' Forum in San Antonio, TX, from October 17 - 20, 2010. They attended 2 ^{1/2} days of workshops, plus 3 nights of networking opportunities.

The Forum provided an opportunity for the TeamMate parent company, CCH, a division of Wolters-Kluwers, to showcase the current release (version 9.1) and give a sneak peek at the items in development. The current release is being tested here at DOT, and the OIG TeamMate office hopes to be ready to move it out in the very near future to all users.

Lou Holtz, the former Notre

Dame Football Coach, served as the keynote speaker. He urged participants to cultivate a passion to win in their work. He spoke about the need for constant improvement—if you are doing what you always done, you aren't improving.

There was also a big buzz from other users about TeamRisk, the risk and controls module of TeamMate, as many auditors are now performing risk-based audits. The continued improvements to TeamCentral (which tracks recommendations and issues in a central database) were impressive. The seamless design of the entire suite of products allows for less duplication of effort.

But after this version, what's next? CCH showed off what they call "R. Next." Due out in about 6 months, this upgrade highlights a variety of changes coming to the program. For Issues (Findings), it will be possible to have multiple recommendations for a single finding. The Workflow User Interface will mirror the changes made in Microsoft Office 2007 with ribbons located at the top of each screen, simplifying functionality accessibility and workflow creation. Although substantial upgrades are being made to other TeamMate modules, EWP's new dashboard will allow you to see the status of work items (e.g., milestones, procedures, and coaching notes) from the TeamMate Explorer screen without opening up the projects.

So what's beyond the "R.Next" upgrade? CCH is developing a Blackberry application that allows Coaching Notes to be viewed and answered. The application will also allow issues and recommendation tracking from your Blackberry, when in conjunction with TeamCentral. Amanda and Akilah were also impressed with the "smart pens" that Teammate is currently ex-

(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

ploring. These pens have an embedded hard-drive to electronically store notes as the user is writing, which can later be uploaded. This allows users to quickly cut and paste interview notes, even drawings, into Team-Mate rather than having to type this information twice! (The TeamMate Staff tried to win a "smart pen" but with no luck.) Finally, redaction may eventually be possible in TeamImage. This would allow PII to be permanently redacted from any scanned document. All of these developments are in progress

and should show up in future releases of the program.

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-Amanda Barton,
Project Manager, JA-2

WHEN TO GET YOUR FREE FLU VACCINATION AT DOT HQ

OIG employees at DOT HQ are eligible to receive seasonal flu vaccinations; however, OIG was never sent the broadcast message about OIG's day for flu shots. OST has apologized for the mix-up and will let OIG employees go on any of the remaining days. The vaccinations will be administered in the West Building Atrium from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following days:

Thursday, October 28

Tuesday, November 16

Tuesday, November 30

To expedite the vaccination process, please bring your DOT government employee badge. Also, please dress so that you can receive the vaccination without removing several articles of clothing, as the injection will be in the upper portion of your arm.

NOTE: If you are currently pregnant, a note from your physician is required prior to receiving the vaccination. If you need accommodation services or have any additional questions, please contact Tonya Templeton on (202) 366-0798 or by email at tonya.templeton@dot.gov with your request.

OIG IN THE NEWS

U.S. Attorney: Engineer Forged DHEC Seal

OCTOBER 22, 2010

(GSA Business on a JRI-4 investigation)
<http://www.gsabusiness.com/news/36529/print>

U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles said today that a North Carolina man hired to manage the extension of the runway at Oconee Regional Airport transferred an unauthorized seal of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control onto a set of construction site plans.

Nettles said the maximum penalty Wynn could receive for each count is a \$250,000 fine and imprisonment of 20 years. The case was investigated by agents of the **U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General** and S.C. DHEC, Office of Criminal Investigations, Nettles said.

Controller Staffing and Training at Critical Air Traffic Control Facilities

OCTOBER 24, 2010

(Avstop.com on a JA-10 audit)
http://avstop.com/news_october_2010/controller_staffing_and_training_at_critical_air_traffic_control_facilities.htm

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General plans to review air traffic controller staffing and training at the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) busiest, most complex air traffic control facilities.

Due to increased controller attrition and hiring, the FAA currently faces a shortage of fully certified controllers at these locations, and only fully certified controllers are qualified to control traffic at all positions of their assigned area and provide on-the-job training for new controllers.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HOW TO QUESTION A CHATTY CATHY: A COURSE ON INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES FOR AUDITORS

Last week, 11 (newer) OIG employees participated in 3 days of interviewing training. The group learned to apply a structured model for unstructured interviews and how to develop dynamic questioning techniques.

The most difficult exercise involved interviewing several common types of "challenging" interviewees, specifically, "Arrogant Al," "Chatty Cathy," "Hostile Harry," and "Nervous Nelly." The interviewers were confronted with interviewees that read magazines, played on Blackberries, and even took pills in the midst of questioning! Somewhat surprisingly, the group learned that a Chatty Cathy is the most difficult type of interviewee.

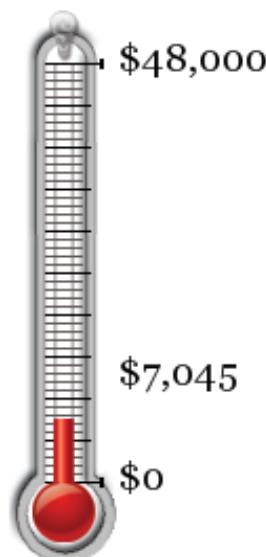


How NOT to interview an auditee

After experiencing the challenges of our peers last week, we are prepared to get out in the field and dig up some testimonial evidence!

- Emily Norton, Analyst, JA-40, HQ

CFC UPDATE: MINI GOLF, CHILI COOK-OFF, AND HOW TO DONATE NOW



The 2010 CFC continues, including today's Mini-Golf tournament from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Although we've had a great response so far, we've still got a long way to go before reaching our goal of **\$48,000**--with only 7 weeks left to get there.

Next up in the OIG CFC Cavalcade of Caring Carnival is our perennially popular OIG Chili Cook-Off, to be held on Thursday, November 18. This year, we're upping the ante on the Cook-Off by adding the opportunity to purchase a collection of recipes straight from the kitchens of your fellow OIGers. But we need your support for that in recipe form. Please submit your original recipes (e-mail or hard copy) to either Ana Rover or Myra Clemens **no later than November 4th**.

"But wait, Matt," I'm sure you're all saying to yourselves, "What if we want to give money now? Why do we have to wait until November 18th?" Well, the truth is, there's no need to wait at all! Just log on to www.employeeexpress.com or www.cfcnca.org.

It's easy, takes about 10 minutes, and does a world of good for those who benefit from the work of CFC. Of course, if you'd prefer to use the paper version of the catalogue and pledge form, your CFC keyworkers can provide those as well, and they'd all be more than happy to help you out with any questions you have on the process. Finally, when you make a donation, please remember to fill in the OIG's organization code (**4179000**) where prompted so that we as an organization can count your gift towards our fundraising goal of **\$48,000**.

-Matt Williams, Analyst, JA-50

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT



On October 1, 2010, we launched the new Training Management System (TMS). We have moved away from the single focus of preparing and funding a list of courses that are required for employees (formerly the *Individual Learning Plan [ILP]*) to a more comprehensive talent management system that begins with the preparation of an individual development plan (IDP). The TMS system offers an opportunity to take a full view of our employees' development needs and requires that employees and managers work closely together to accomplish learning goals.

We have prepared an informational pamphlet for you to review explaining what an IDP is and how important it is for you in planning your career path. The pamphlet can be viewed at: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/ER/JMDocs/JM20%20Training/IDP.pdf>. It provides you with information that you will need to begin the 2011 training year process and to complete all of the necessary steps to get optimal performance from TMS. It also explains the responsibilities of the employee and supervisor in completing the Individual Development Plan (IDP) and outlines a step-by-step process for preparing an IDP. Please contact the members of the HRDC staff with your questions on 202-260-8533.

-Connie Harshaw, Acting Director, JM-20

Training Calendar

11/1/2010 8:30 AM	Supervision II - HRDC (D. Alexander/M. Ginnerty)
11/11/2010 12:00 AM	Holiday - Veteran's day
11/15/2010 8:30 AM	JA Case Study - HRDC (B. Kennedy)
11/16/2010 1:00 PM	TeamMate 201 - HQ Rm W71-101 (Amanda Barton)
11/18/2010 12:00 PM	Brown Bag COP--Supervision (D. Alexander, M. Ginnerty)
11/25/2010 12:00 AM	Holiday - Thanksgiving Day
11/30/2010 1:00 PM	TeamMate Basic Supervision - HQ Rm W71-101 (Amanda Barton)
12/6/2010 8:30 AM	SUP II (D. Alexander, M. Ginnerty)
12/7/2010 12:00 PM	Brown Bag COP: TBD

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)



Bill Falter, Bob's identical twin (the tall one) with Paul Martin, NASA IG (far left), and audit team



Our beloved Bob Falter (PM, JA-10, DC)

THE ALTER-FALTER

We all know what a dedicated auditor Bob Falter is. But we were totally surprised at last week's CIGIE Awards Ceremony to find Bob working double-time as a NASA OIG auditor and receiving a team award for his work "in recognition of outstanding teamwork and exceptional performance in the audit examining NASA's evaluation of the \$75 billion contract for operation of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory!" We later discovered that Bob is not really two-timing us. In fact, it was his identical twin brother, Bill, who received the award! Bob's turn comes next Thursday and Friday, when he will receive the Secretary's Team Award for his work on the Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals Audit and the IG Award for Superior Achievement—the highest award granted by the IG.

Now that is some double teaming. Congratulations to Bill and Bob!

- Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, J-2, DC

HAPPY 4-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, CAL!

October 27, 2010, marked Cal Scovel's 4-year anniversary of being sworn in as "our IG." We all feel very blessed to be working for someone of your caliber, integrity, and humanity. Thanks for being our champion!

With sincere appreciation,

Your OIG family



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

NEXT TI EDITION

Next week, in honor of Veterans Day, *The Inspector* would like pay special tribute to the veterans who have served our country and continue to do so through their contributions here at OIG. If you are a veteran, please contact us at the e-mail address below so that we can express our thanks in next week's edition. Feel free to include any photos you would like to share.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Newsletter@oig.dot.gov
by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

[EDITORS' NOTE: The newsletter email account had issues with bouncing emails back to senders, but IT fixed the problem. A big thanks to the tech wizards at IT!]

THE INSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2010 ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SURVEY CLOSE-OUT

The 2010 OIG Annual Employee Survey was a great success! A total of 377 employees (86%) participated in the survey. This is our best response rate since the start of the Annual Employee Survey in 2007. Five of our organizations reached a response rate of 100%, and every organization had a response rate of over 60% (see chart below for final response rates). Further, every organization had at least eight respondents, which means that each organization will receive a report of their organization-specific strengths and challenges. This is an amazing response rate, and I want to thank everyone for helping us achieve this milestone!

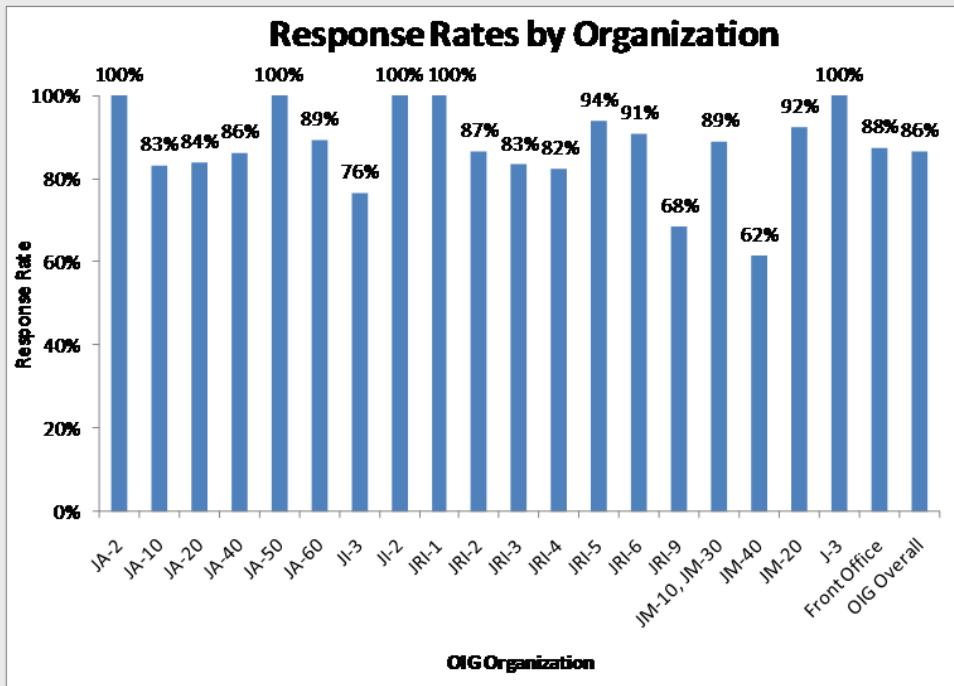
Our contractor, Federal Management Partners, will be analyzing the survey data over the next few months, and they plan to present us with the survey results in January. We are excited to learn the results of the survey and are committed to sharing those results with you as soon as possible. To that end,



we will be holding an all-hands meeting in January where we will highlight the main results of the survey including OIG's biggest strengths, challenges, and areas of improvement or decline. In addition, a comprehensive report will be made available for employees interested in reviewing the survey results in more detail. We will be using the findings of this year's survey to develop a plan for moving forward and improving our organization in the months and years to come.

Again, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. You all are the reason that this initiative was a success, and with your help we hope to continue making OIG a great place to work.

Sincerely,
Cal



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, 10/25	TUESDAY, 10/26	WEDNESDAY, 10/27	THURSDAY, 10/28	FRIDAY, 10/29
CAL — Visiting Seattle Office BRIAN — OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00)	CAL — Visiting Seattle Office BRIAN — EMT Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	CAL — Visiting San Francisco Office	CAL — Visiting Cerritos Office	ANN — CIGIE DIG Mtg. (10:00 a.m.)

NOTEWORTHY

CATCHING UP WITH CAL

The first ever “Catching up with Cal” was held over lunch last Wednesday, October 13th. Employees from field offices joined in via phone with Cal and employees at headquarters to discuss various topics, including the Deliverables Checklist, JA/JI Coordination, timing and relevance of audit reports, and Senator Grassley’s Report on the DoD OIG. Cal is looking forward to the opportunity to speak with staff one-on-one on their home turf during his and Susan Dailey’s trip to the West Coast field offices next week. Chuck Ward from Seattle mentioned that he would round up the salmon for Cal’s visit.



(b)(6).

WELCOME OUR NEW DEPUTY AIGI!

Congratulations to Bob Westbrooks, the new Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations. For the past year, Bob has been serving as the acting Assistant Inspector General for Special Investigations and Analysis (JI-3), where he and his team have reduced a significant backlog in aviation safety disclosure investigative referrals from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. Bob is an attorney, a certified public accountant, a certified fraud examiner, and a federal criminal investigator.

(b)(6)



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

NEW JA-10 AIG LEAVES HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO

In my quest to visit all JA-10 regional offices as a new AIG, I started with San Francisco. It is one of three regional offices in JA-10 (the other two are in Atlanta and Seattle). I arrived at the "City by the Bay" this past month and spent about 3 days with the staff there. What a great office! The facility is nice and clean and located just a few blocks from the historic ferry station on the bay near the Embarcadero. The staff are highly motivated, experienced, and very diverse.



The OIG presence in San Francisco comprises about half of the 17th floor of a leased office building, and just about every office/cubicle has a fabulous view of the city. This office is composed of 14 folks from JA-10 (led by Scott Macey and Barry DeWeese--recent winners of the OIG Manager of the Year Award), and 7 folks from JI, led by the veteran Special Agent-in-Charge (and private pilot, I might add) Hank Smedley.

There's an old Navy adage about measuring up a ship that has been assigned to a new sailor: "It doesn't take long to see if you're on a good ship or not." After my brief visit, I know that the DOT IG's San Francisco regional office is a very good ship!

-Jeff Guzzetti, AIG, JA-10

OIG AUDIT TEAMS HONORED AT ANNUAL CIGIE AWARDS

Congratulations to our Dulles Corridor Metro Project Safety Testing Team--Heather Albert, Tyler Apfel, Ann-Marie Joseph, Rod Perez, Frank Schutz, Anita Visser, Aron Wedekind, and Tom Yatsko (pictured to the right)--who were recognized by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) at its 13th Annual Awards ceremony on October 19, 2010. The team received a multiple disciplines award for outstanding collaboration between audit, engineer, and investigations



staff to ensure construction safety on the Dulles Corridor

Metrorail Project. Kudos also go out to Amanda Seese (pictured to the left), as a member of SIGTARP's Home Affordable Modification Program Audit Team, recognized for bringing necessary transparency to the Department of Treasury's implementation and oversight of this \$75 billion-dollar program.



Front row: Lou, Anita, Frank, Ann-Marie, Tyler and Heather; back row: Joe, Aron, Rod, Tom and Cal

-Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, J-2

NOTEWORTHY

OIG CFC KICKOFF!

(b)(6)

This year's CFC is off to great start! We had a great response at both the DOT and OIG kickoff events. The sound of clinking change in the Penny Wars bowls is unmistakable, and I definitely saw a few folks wandering around the office taking advantage of the opportunity to wear jeans on Wednesdays. There was also plenty of love shown for the various teams near and dear to OIGers' hearts for our brand new Jersey Friday last week.

As CFC forges ahead, we've got a line-up of special events to provide you with an opportunity to take a break from work for a half-hour or so, have a little fun, and make a donation to charity while you're at it. Here's a quick preview; I hope you're as excited as I am about these events:

- Miniature Golf
- Video Game
- The perennially popular Chili Cook-Off
- OIG Cookbook Publication and Sale
- Silent Auction

As these events roll around, we'll provide you with more details—both here in *The Inspector* and in our weekly CFC Event Roundup E-Mail. One in particular I'd like to highlight is the OIG Cookbook we plan to produce, because we can't do this without your support—and recipes! Please submit your original recipes (e-mail or hard copy) to either Ana Rover or Myra Clemens **no later than November 4th**.

(b)(6)

Also, you might have noticed at our kickoff event that we made a laptop available for people to log in to Employee Express, and we plan to make one available at each event. That's because we want to make it as easy as possible for you to make a donation—either a one-time or a recurring deduction from your paycheck.

But there's no need to wait for a special event to log on to Employee Express to make a donation to the charity you care about. If you haven't decided on a specific charity yet, you can search the online catalog. Search for a charity by name, type of work they do, keyword, or even geographic location. You can also filter the results by the percent each charity spends on overhead so you can make sure that the group you're donating to spends as much as possible on the programs you care about instead of administrative expenses. Of course, if you really prefer to give using a paper form, find a CFC keyworker. They can give you a form, and we've distributed copies of the paper catalogue of charities to all keyworkers and administrative assistants. If you use the paper catalogue, browse it at your leisure; we just ask that you return it when you finish so that others can use them, too.

No matter which method you choose, classic carbon-copy paper or modern electronic (green and efficient!), you'll be asked to fill in a bit of personal information; include your home address if you'd like to receive a letter confirming your donation. This can be used as documentation for tax purposes or just hung on your fridge. (Your donation to charity is just as worthy of precious fridge-front real estate as your toddler's latest crayon masterpiece!)

Finally, when you make a donation, please remember to fill in the OIG's organization code (**4179000**) where prompted so that we as an organization can count your gift towards our fundraising goal of **\$48,000**.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE WILL HOST FIRST EXTERNAL SPEAKER

The OIG Community of Practice is pleased to announce our first external speaker! (b)(6) (b)(6) will share his expertise in surface transportation authorization issues. The discussion will provide an overview of Federal surface transportation policy, recent developments, and future possibilities. Please join us on October 28, 2010, from 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the DOT Media Center. The event will be webcast, but we encourage those in headquarters to join us and provide our guest with an audience.

- Luke Brennan, Analyst, JA-40

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

Huge Penna. Affirmative Action Fraud Unfolds Over 15 Years

OCTOBER 12, 2010

(*philly.com* on a JRI-2 investigation)

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/homepage/20101012_Huge_Penna_affirmative_action_fraud_unfolds_over_15_years.html?page=1&c=y

It was one of the Nation's largest affirmative-action frauds - \$119 million spent on 336 bridge projects, from eastern Pennsylvania interstates to SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line.

The conspiracy unfolded over 15 years, unchecked by regulators, as a white-family-run concrete business in Schuylkill County used a Filipino man's minority status to win contract after contract.

Things began unraveling in 2007, as Federal agents pursued a former employee's tip. Soon co-conspirators began ratting one another out. By this summer, all defendants save one had pleaded guilty.

The case involves the confluence of a highly unusual set of facts and legal issues, the kind more often found on a law school exam than in a real courtroom: a messy family squabble, a massive fraud, and a conflict between constitutional rights.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General's Office, which investigated the case with the FBI and Labor Department, says the case is the largest DBE fraud ever perpetrated against the transportation agency.

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to the [NEW NEWSLETTER EMAIL:](#)
Newsletter@oig.dot.gov

by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CAL REFLECTS ON OIG'S FY 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Looking back on fiscal year 2010, we can be proud of all our notable achievements. As always, I view these through the framework of OIG's motto: "Mission first, people always."

Mission First

It has been another productive year for OIG. Our work continues to reflect our strong commitment to in-depth audits and investigations on key transportation issues to serve and inform the Secretary, congressional lawmakers, and the public. A preliminary look at our fiscal year 2010 data shows that we issued 113 reports with a total of 372 recommendations, including financial recommendations totaling over \$847.3 million. Our investigative work resulted in 93 indictments, 73 convictions, and a total of nearly \$80 million in fines, restitutions, and recoveries.

On the ARRA front, our Audit office initiated several reviews of DOT's oversight efforts. Investigations was proactive in its outreach to partners within the Department as well as state and local officials.

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(b)(6) the Senior JI "Recovery Guru," has been burning up the miles all over the country. We are the leading OIG in terms of number of people trained and addressed at conferences on the topic of ARRA. Additionally, we are among the leading OIGs in the number of ARRA investigative cases opened by our special agents and accepted by U.S. attorneys for prosecution.

People Always

Over the past year, we have made significant progress with regard to my expectations and accountability for senior leadership. We are continuing to emphasize leadership through supervisory training. First and second level supervisors have been trained on Supervisory 1 courses, and the first Supervisory 2 session kicked off last week.

You may remember a while back that I referred to this year as the "Year of the Electron." I wanted to assess the state of Information Technology (IT) within OIG, and we have pressed ahead in this area. The Electronic Work Paper review is done, and the team has given us a comprehensive and impressive report. JI's Alerts software has been improved. The front office is cur-

ently reviewing our contractor's final report on the IT assessment. A new CIO will be instrumental in implementing the findings from these reviews.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention *The Inspector*. The newsletter has been a tremendous bright spot since its inception, and I'm grateful to the staff for their creativity and dedication to presenting interesting and relevant information to OIG. What a wonderful legacy that Angela McCallister has left us.

Looking Forward

Looking forward to fiscal year 2011, I expect our work will continue to receive keen attention. The new Congress looks to us to provide undisputed facts and data. Major projects are in the pipeline and will be the basis for debate on key issues as they roll out in the next few months. We are looking forward to new challenges that 2011 will present. As always, I want to thank all our staff for your continued hard work and dedication.

Best Regards,

Cal

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, 10/11	TUESDAY, 10/12	WEDNESDAY, 10/13	THURSDAY, 10/14	FRIDAY, 10/15
	CAL —Executive Management Team Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CAL & BRIAN — CIGIE (10:00 p.m.) OIG CFC KICKOFF!!! (HQ, 2:30 p.m.)	Catching up with Cal (HQ, 12:00—1:00 p.m.)		

NOTEWORTHY

THE FY 2011 TOP MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES REPORT IS IN PROGRESS!

Key dates to keep in mind:

- October 15th - Draft due to OST
- November 8th – Final issued
- November 15th – Public release

For further information, contact **Michelle Hill or Cindy Allen** in JA-2.



CATCHING UP WITH CAL

OIG staff are invited to join Cal next Wednesday, October 13, from noon to 1:00 pm in room 71-101 for an informal chat to keep in touch with staff on issues and matters of importance to them. Cal plans to hold these informal chats quarterly. Field staff will be connected via a toll-free phone line. An e-mail will follow with specifics.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

LEADERSHIP BROWN BAG WITH THE DEPUTY IG

The first monthly Leadership Brown Bag, hosted by Ann, is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, from noon to 1:00 pm. The Leadership Brown Bag is an interim step to the development of a formal mentoring program for staff at all levels. When available, the results of our employee survey will inform us as to staff's interest in such a program. While the initial target of the monthly brown bags is GS-14s and above across OIG, Ann will likely hold some targeted to GS-13s and below, who are on the path to leadership positions. The focus of the initial meeting with GS- 14s and above is to brainstorm topics of interest going forward- it will also include a discussion of leadership traits. While Ann will be leading these brown bag discussions, other participants--both inside and outside of OIG--may be invited to share their insights. The brown bags will be available to field staff (GS-14s and above) via videoconference, podcast, and/or phone.



A THANK YOU TO THE IG FROM ILLINOIS DOT

Emailed to the IG on October 1, 2010:

Dear General,

Once again, the Illinois Department of Transportation has the honor of expressing our gratitude to you and your office. We have asked Michelle McVicker for her assistance in allowing your office to participate in a 2-hour fraud awareness seminar highlighting [REDACTED] (b)(6), [REDACTED] (b)(6). As you may know, your office took the lead role in this investigation and delivered a very outstanding result in the form of a conviction and a \$10 million restitution. We have gathered Jim Lewis,

the United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, the prosecutor, AUSA Patrick Hansen, Chris Pyle and [REDACTED] (b)(6) of the FBI to assist in this presentation. I am bringing this to your attention out of IDOT's absolute respect for your office and the employees therein. We have enjoyed immensely the satisfaction of working together to try to instill in the minds of our employees that accountability for one's actions is most important. We hope to bring this message home through this presentation. For your information, we will have the ability to web cast this 2-hour presentation on October 6th at 10 a.m. CST, and I will be happy to

send you a web link that morning, should you have the opportunity to view your Special Agent in Charge Michelle McVicker and [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] (b)(6) in action. At the recommendation of SAC McVicker, we are also sending this web link to Ohio DOT and Missouri DOT. In addition, New York, North Carolina, Florida, Texas, and the Illinois Tollway are also viewing.

We are honored to have the relationship that we have with you and your office.

Thank you,

Dan Kennelly

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OIG'S AUDIT DOCUMENTATION

On Thursday, September 30th, you could find Cal Scovel, Lou Dixon, and Susan Dailey at the EWP Task Force Results presentation where the findings and recommen-



Marshall Anderson, Analyst, JA-10, Atlanta, GA—one of the speakers at last Thursday's EWP presentation.

dations of their [final report](#) were presented.

Lou started off the presentation and introduced Anita Visser who provided background information about the EWP Task Force. Marshall Anderson went on to discuss the criteria for an EWP system (see chart below). He also discussed the many workarounds in TeamMate, including the search feature, tracking, hyperlinking, and the infamous jumping cursor (we all know about this one). The TeamMate software company does not have plans to change many of these areas, although alternatives do exist. Mar-

shall reviewed two other popular EWP systems, including EMS (used by GAO) and AutoAudit.

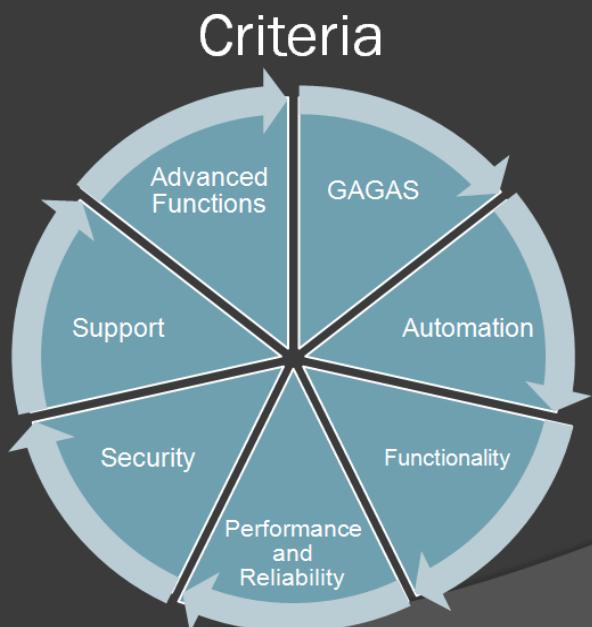
There are currently multiple efforts underway by management, and they are included in the management response attached to the report. Some of those efforts include stabilizing and upgrading TM to improve compatibility, considering our work in light of the IT Assessment to develop a strategy moving forward, and including specific questions regarding policy and TM satisfaction on the annual survey.

- Heather Voda, Analyst, JA-60, DC

EWP Task Force: Criteria and Recommendations

The task force initially developed 220 criteria items for the requirements of an EWP System and narrowed it down to 7 main items. They eventually concluded that TeamMate is not the "Best Fit" for DOT-OIG and recommended the following actions:

- Target TeamMate improvement efforts underway to the shortfalls we identified.
- Evaluate the feasibility of moving to an Enterprise Management System to provide the functionality and performance needed to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of our audit projects.
- Leverage best practices to expand and centralize DOT OIG's policies, procedures, tools, and guides to perform audit work.
- Track user satisfaction periodically on the performance of the audit management system and report back to users regarding efforts to improve it.



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

OIG Assesses FAA Ability To Hire 15,000 New Air Traffic Controllers by 2018

OCTOBER 4, 2010

(avstop.com on a JA-10/JA-60 audit)
http://avstop.comnews_october_2010/oig_assess_faa_ability_to_hire_15000_new_air_traffic_controllers_by_2018.htm

The Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General recently issued its report on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Air Traffic Controller Optimum Training Solution Program (ATCOTS). The ATCOTS program is a critical component of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) plan to hire and train nearly 15,000 new air traffic controllers through fiscal year (FY) 2018 to replace the large pool of air traffic controllers who were hired after the 1981 strike and are now retiring.

In February 2008, the FAA began soliciting offers for the ATCOTS contract to replace two separate contracts supporting the controller training program. On September 9, 2008, the FAA awarded the contract to Raytheon.

The performance based contract consists of a 5-year base period, worth \$437 million, and two option periods (a 3-year period and a 2-year period), worth \$422 million. The contract includes an award fee for Raytheon meeting acceptable levels of performance related to training outcomes and quality metrics and an incentive fee related to the cost of the services provided.

NEW PRODUCT TIMEFRAME: 1 MONTH

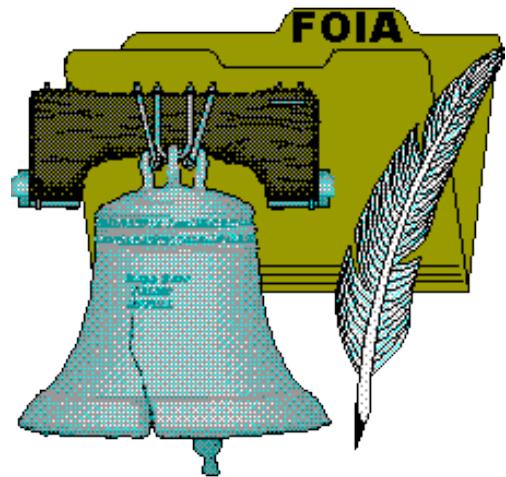
Who needs 10 months to get a product out the door when an OIG team just issued a response to a Congressional request in less than 5 weeks? The team, led by message master Dan Raville (JA-10), was given less than 30 days to examine the Department's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process and determine whether or to what extent political appointees are made aware of information requests and have a role in reviewing requests or making decisions. Okay, okay, so we admit the final product resulted in less than eight pages and was not conducted as a formal audit, but consider the breadth of work accomplished in such little time.

The team administered 11 surveys, conducted 7 in-depth interviews, performed analysis, coordinated with the OIG Hotline, developed message, indexed and (deep breath), had the product referenced--all between the ever-so-close dates of August 26 and September 24. The quick turnaround is a testament to the benefits of matrixing across OIG, as the team leveraged the FOIA expertise of Amy Berks (J-3), the investigative instincts of [redacted] (b)(6)

[redacted], and the audit support of Amanda Seese (JA-40). A special thanks to additional staff who filled critical roles in the time crunch, including Toayoa Aldridge (JA-50),

Susan Todd (JA-40) and Erik Phillips (JA-10). We think our requesters will be happy to know that we found information to be flowing freely across the Department. In addition, while we hope they're pleased with our punctuality, we're keeping our fingers crossed that the next request grants at least 40 days for response.

-Amanda Seese, Senior Analyst, JA-40, DC



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HRDC CORNER

As you know, eLMS has been replaced by TMS, the Training Management System effective October 1. This represents a huge change that affects all of us. You received your passwords on October 1 from the Department, but we are asking that you wait before entering any requested courses in your new Learning Plans. The Individual Development Plan (IDP) has now replaced the Individual Learning Plan (ILP), and the entire process is automated. We are still investigating steps to implement the new system within the OIG without im-

posing more work on you.

We are in the process of entering the core curricula for Audit, Investigations, and Management and plan to have this completed by October 15, 2010. We are also reviewing each individual's learning history to make sure that everything is included. After this is done, we will test the system by entering IDP and course information, using the employee training records in JA-60 to test the system and its capabilities. This will allow us an opportunity to develop instructions for the Training Coordinators and you for completing and reviewing your

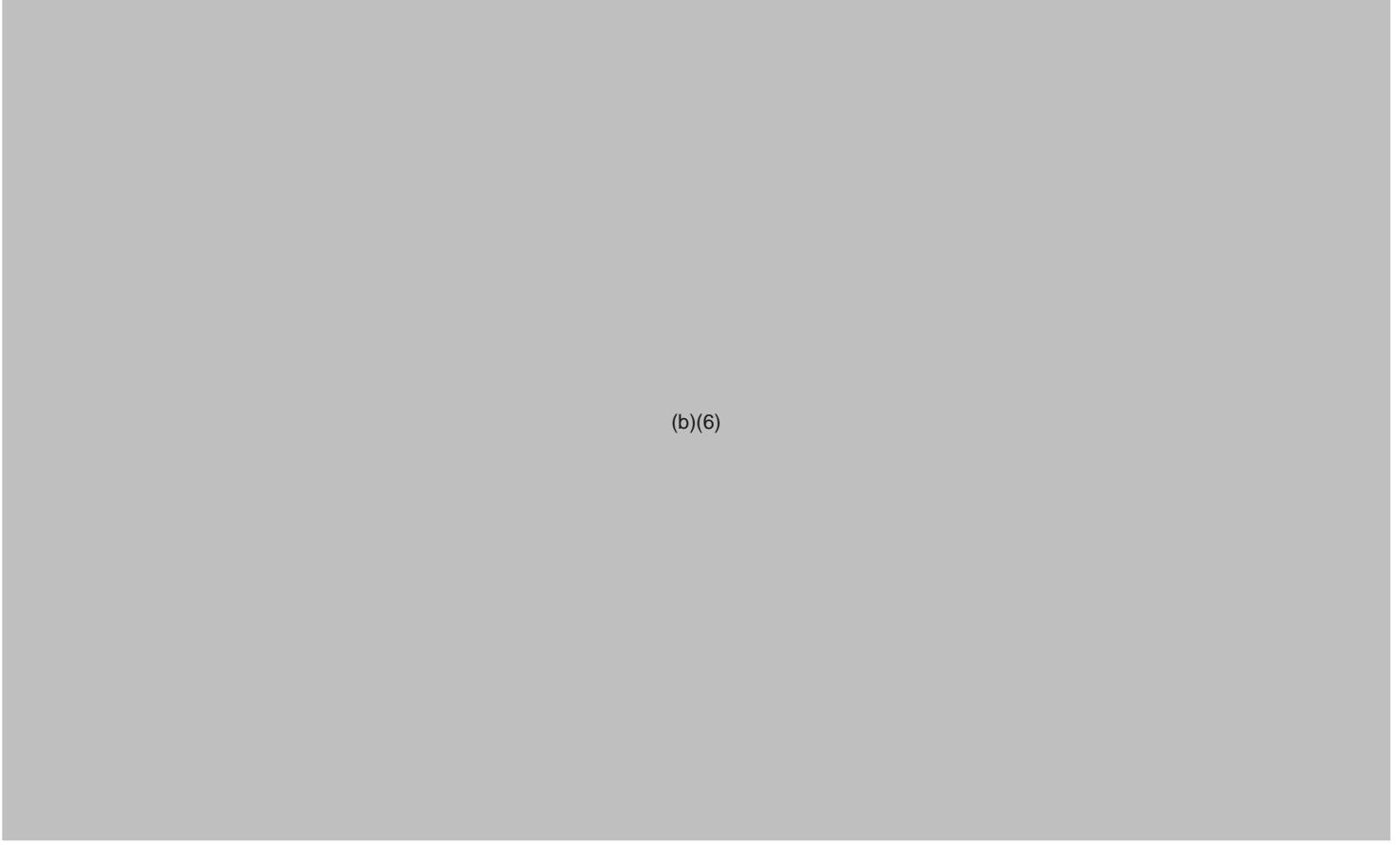
learning plans and history.

During the next 2 weeks, we will enter all of the data needed for the core curricula, complete testing by using the employees in JA-60, develop instructions/standard operating procedures, provide training on the new system, and bring the system up by the end of October. We ask for your patience and understanding as we complete the work needed in advance of opening the new system to you. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Reck, Joyce Mayeda, or your assigned Training Coordinator (see below).

OIG TRAINING COORDINATORS

Office	Coordinators	Office	Coordinators
J-1 and J-2	Washington, D.C. Yolanda Perry	JI-1 and JI-2 JI-2	
J-3	Washington, D.C. Eric Weems	JRI-1	
JA-1 and JA-2	Washington, D.C. Laverne Stubbs	JRI-2	
JA-10	Washington, D.C. Connie Wiley	JRI-2	
JA-10	Atlanta, GA Larretha Blackmon	JRI-3	
JA-10	San Francisco, CA Livingston Pati	JRI-4	
JA-10	Seattle, WA Livingston Pati	JRI-4	
JA-10	Washington, D.C. (5) Livingston Pati	JRI-5	
JA-20	Washington, D.C. Earnice Cox	JRI-6	
JA-20	Baltimore, MD Earnice Cox	JRI-9	
JA-20	Oklahoma City, OK Earnice Cox	JRI-9	
JA-40	Washington, D.C. William James	JM-10	Washington, D.C. Yolanda Perry
JA-40	Ft. Worth, TX LaRue Burks	JM-20	Washington, D.C. Yolanda Perry
JA-40	Cambridge, MA Emma Hernandez	JM-30	Washington, D.C. Yolanda Perry
JA-40	New York, NY Emma Hernandez	JM-40	Washington, D.C. Yolanda Perry
JA-50	Washington, D.C. Earlene Jenkins		
JA-60	Washington, D.C. Shannon Jarvis		

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CFC Key Workers, sporting their favorite jerseys, pose with Cal in the Front Office

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) KICKS OFF!

Next Tuesday at 2:30 pm OIG officially kicks off this year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) with a carnival theme, including popcorn and baked goods for sale and a clown! Please come support the OIG's CFC; buy some food to help fuel you through those last hours of the day; say hi to Cal, Ann, Lou, and Tim; and meet the OIG's 2010 CFC volunteers.

The CFC is the nation's leading workplace giving program. In the National Capital Area last year, 150,000 military, civilian, and postal workers contributed \$66.5 million to a wide variety of charities. With 36.3 percent of employees participating in

2009, DOT raised \$1.72 million last year - \$0.29 million more than the goal for the Department. This year, we'd like to do even better, and to help us out with that, we've assembled a great team of key workers (see table on next page).

We have big plans for this year; we'll be bringing back some of your favorite CFC events from past years - such as Jeans Wednesdays and the Penny Wars - as well as introducing a few new ones (Hello, Jersey Fridays!). In addition to the events, though, we'd like to encourage you to make a donation to your preferred charity.

Starting next week, if you choose to

donate, you can make a gift to your preferred charity. Contact your team's key worker for a pledge form and catalogue, but keep in mind that you can both search the catalogue and donate online. In fact, because it is greener - and saves administrative costs, which means more money for the charities - we strongly encourage you to log on to Employee Express to make your gift there. You can choose to make a one-time donation or a recurring donation that will be deducted from your paychecks, starting with the first pay period for next year (PP1 will begin on Sunday, December 19, 2010). Of course, our 2010

(Continued on page 8)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

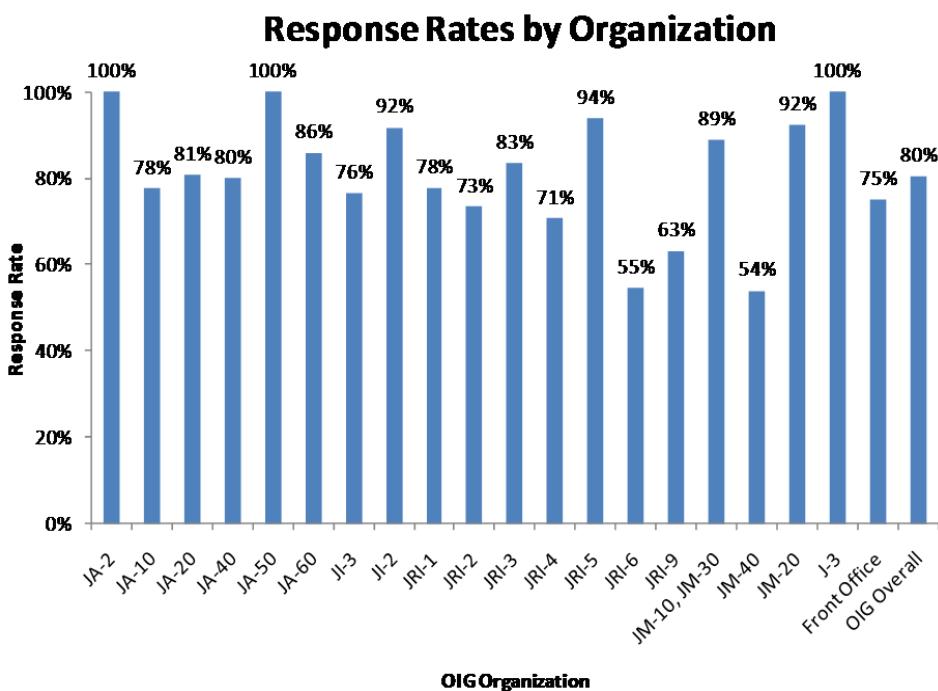
Campaign Keyworkers would be more than happy to help you with the process of using Employee Express if you have any questions. Finally, keep your eyes open for more information on CFC events - we plan to publish details here in *The Inspector* as well as in a weekly e-mail. We hope you enjoy the events we're planning for you this year - and thanks in advance for your pledges!

- Matthew Williams , Analyst,
JA-50, DC

CFC Key Workers			
2010 CFC Keyworkers	Unit	Extension	E-mail
Courtney Scott	J-3	x6-6843	courtney.scott@oig.dot.gov
Tasha Thomas	JA-10	x6-1685	amy.thomas@oig.dot.gov
Benjamin Huddle	JA-10	x6-0265	benjamin.huddle@oig.dot.gov
Ana Rover	JA-2	x6-2011	ana.rover@oig.dot.gov
Jenelle Morris	JA-20	x6-1489	jenelle.morris@oig.dot.gov
Peter Barber	JA-40	X6-5770	peter.barber@oig.dot.gov
Michael Day	JA-50	x6-2369	michael.day@oig.dot.gov
James Lonergan	JA-50	x6-2090	james.lonergan@oig.dot.gov
Matt Williams	JA-50	x6-9844	matt.williams@oig.dot.gov
Toaya Aldridge	JA-50	x6-2081	toaya.aldrige@oig.dot.gov
Earlene Jenkins	JA-50	x6-9970	earlene.jenkins@oig.dot.gov
Tashaun Ross	JA-60	205-7953	tashaun.ross@oig.dot.gov
Joseph O'Neill	JI-2	x6-1971	joseph.t.oneill@oig.dot.gov
Edith Makoge	JI-3	x6-2385	edith.a.makoge@oig.dot.gov
Myra Clemens	JM-20	x6-1440	myra.e.clemens@oig.dot.gov

Source: OIG Phonebook, interview with OIG official

FINAL WEEK OF THE 2010 OIG ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SURVEY!



We are in the final week of the DOT OIG Employee Survey! A total of 350 employees (80%) have participated in the survey to date. Thank you to those who have taken the time to offer their opinions and suggestions through the survey. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so, **please complete the survey by this Friday, October 8.** The survey will take less than 30 minutes to complete, is completely confidential, and will help us continue to make OIG a great place to work. If you have any questions or need help accessing the survey, please do not hesitate to contact

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END SHOT

FYI

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COMINGS & GOINGS

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to the [NEW NEWSLETTER EMAIL:
Newsletter@oig.dot.gov](mailto:NEW_NEWSLETTER_EMAIL@oig.dot.gov)

by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(b)(6)

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

- 1. See the attorney as part of the team, not an obstacle**
 - Less likely to waste time on a difficult legal hurdle
- 2. Some legal issues are less obvious than others**
- 3. Communicate sooner rather than later**
 - In seeking legal advice, people often provide only what they see as pertinent. But this may leave out something relevant—err on the side of too much information
- 4. Communicate more information rather than less**
 - Communicate between audit milestones
- 5. Keep lines of communication open**
 - Don't wait for a final checklist

CoP RECAP: WORKING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

This week Omer Poirier, OIG Chief Counsel, kicked off the Fall round of Community of Practice sessions. The presentation familiarized OIG with the people and roles of Legal Counsel. The primary roles of the General Counsel encompass ethics, FOIA, employment issues, and fiscal and appropriations issues. These roles cover areas such as making financial disclosures, using the "safe harbor" provision (i.e., if you provide full disclosure to Legal, and they're wrong, you're protected--aside from criminal

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, 10/4	TUESDAY, 10/5	WEDNESDAY, 10/6	THURSDAY, 10/7	FRIDAY, 10/8
BRIAN — OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	CAL —Executive Management Team Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)		CAL —RATB/CIGIE Working Group Mtg. (1:00 p.m.)	

NOTEWORTHY

WHY TALKING TO LEGAL IS WORTH YOUR TIME

- Help to avoid wasted effort
- Bolster our reputation for accuracy—one of our most valuable assets
- If we criticize DOT and there are legal issues, you can bet that their lawyers will be part of any counter-attack
- Don't underestimate the value of another perspective
- Better to have mistakes caught by people who are not doing your annual review
- Just because we raise an issue doesn't mean we are not on your side

(Continued from page 1)

charges), processing FOIA requests, advising HR on EEO and MSPB claims, and reviewing the use and purpose of appropriated funds.

Omer offered a variety of reasons why working with the Legal team is worthwhile, included in the side-bar to the left.

Omer also discussed the specific types of support Legal Counsel provides to JI, such as offering legal training (what they can and can't do!) and subpoena review.

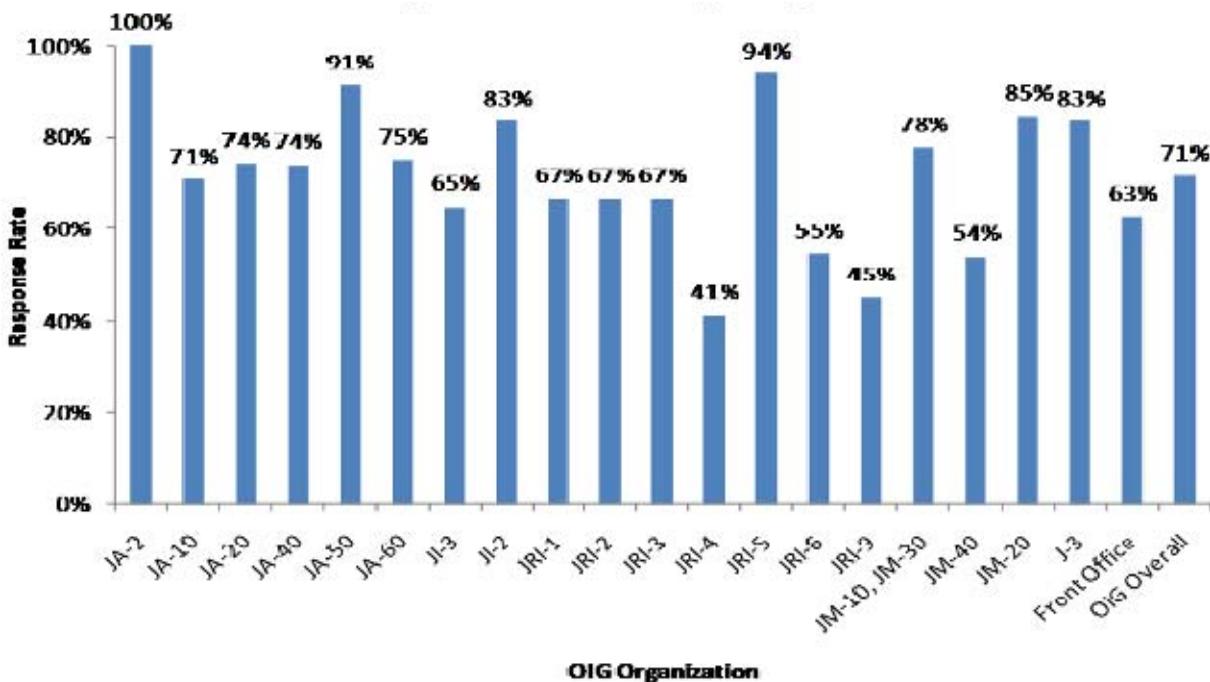
Legal Counsel is in the process of adding useful information to their Sharepoint page, and Omer closed the session by welcoming any feedback on the work they are doing.

The next Community of Practice event, scheduled for October 8th, will discuss Transportation Trends and Forthcoming Issues. Mark your calendars!

- Emily Norton, Analyst,
JA-40, DC

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG Survey Response Rates by Organization



2010 OIG EMPLOYEE SURVEY UPDATE

Thank you to all employees who have responded to the OIG survey over the past few weeks. A total of 312 employees (71%) have participated in the survey to date. This is a fantastic response rate, and we are hoping to get that number even closer to 100 percent by **extending the survey deadline through Friday, October 8**. If you have not already done so, please ensure your voice is heard by completing the survey. This anonymous survey will take less than 30 minutes to complete, and will provide OIG leadership with valuable information about what is working well at OIG and how to continue im-

proving our organization in the future. In addition to overall OIG results, the survey data will allow us to identify organization-specific strengths and challenges for any organization that has eight or more respondents.

Your opinion matters! Please help us continue to make OIG a great place to work. If you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact

(b)(6)

- Toby Burt, Special Assistant,
J-2, DC

HIGHEST RESPONSE RATES ACROSS OIG

TOP 5 OVERALL

JA-2	(100%)
JRI-5	(94%)
JA-50	(91%)
JM-20	(85%)
J-3 and JL-2	(83%)

TOP 3 in JA

JA-2	(100%)
JA-50	(91%)
JA-60	(75%)

TOP 3 in JI

JRI-5	(94%)
JL-2	(83%)
JRI-1, JRI-2, and JRI-3	(67%)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

Platinum Jet Charter Pilot Pleads Guilty to Illegal Flights Following Teterboro Airport Crash Scrutiny

SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

(nj.com on a JRI-2 investigation)

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/09/pilo_who_worked_for_jet_charte.html

The pilot of a now-grounded jet charter firm that came under sharp federal scrutiny following a spectacular 2005 crash at Teterboro Airport pleaded guilty today to making dozens of illegal flights, as part of what prosecutors charged was an "anything goes" scheme by the company to pump up profits.

Platinum came under investigation after a Challenger CL-600 twin-engine jet crashed at Teterboro on Feb. 2, 2005. Investigators found that the jet, chartered by a New York equity firm with eight passengers on board, was nose-heavy and unable to lift off at the speed it was traveling.

China Airlines Ltd. Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Air Cargo Shipments

SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

(washingtondc.fbi.gov on a JRI-3 investigation)

<http://washingtondc.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel10/wfo092710.htm>

China Airlines Ltd. has agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$40 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices in the air transportation industry, the Department of Justice announced today.

Today's charge is the result of a joint investigation into the air transportation industry being conducted by the Antitrust Division's National Criminal Enforcement Section, the FBI's Washington Field Office, the **Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General**, and the U.S. Postal Service's Office of Inspector General.

OIG INITIATES ALERTS PHASE II CONTRACT

On September 15, 2010, the long awaited contract for Phase II of ALERTS was executed. ALERTS is the Office of Investigations' electronic case management system, the rough equivalent to Audits' TeamMate. During our kick-off meeting with the contractor, MicroPact, we went over the strategy for developing and implementing the roughly 70 requirements in the contract. Micropact will develop, test, and implement specific requirements from our statement of work during two week periods of activity, called "Sprints." Sprint 1, which should be complete by September 30th, will include an upgrade to version 3 of Entellitrak, the core of ALERTS; transfer our current data structure (no case data is sent) to Micropact; and modify our case number (shorten the sequence number from 6 digits to 3). Some of the other changes that users will see as part of Phase II include the following:

- Making all signatures throughout ALERTS behave the same as the signatures in the Time Module (i.e., no password prompt).
- Removing the need for one Allegation Status to close an investigation.
- Enhancing the indices search to go beyond just contacts last name/business name field.
- Centralizing all contacts so that they can be shared throughout ALERTS.
- Developing an option that will auto-populate a user's timesheet based on the cases that the agent/investigator is assigned as the Primary Agent.
- Creating a new case type of "Hotline" that will allow for the development of separate business rules to handle Hotlines.
- Implementing additional changes to the time module so that the user input form more closely resembles the look of the "Labor Category View" report.
- Consolidating all the statistically significant actions that take place against our investigative targets in one place, "Target Disposition."
- Building out the Resources Tab with Regional Inventory, Purchase Card, and Training.
- Adding new reports/queries based on the changes above and updating our existing reports/queries so that they work with the changes we made to the system.

These are just a few of the changes that Phase II will bring to ALERTS. You can find a copy of the Phase II statement of work on [SharePoint](#).

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

MARYLAND'S HANDS-FREE DRIVING LAW EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1

The state is among about a dozen in the country that have banned the use of handheld phones while driving. Under Maryland's law, which passed earlier this year, drivers can initiate or end calls with handheld devices while driving but can't use their hands to hold the device while talking. The penalty is a secondary violation, meaning police can only issue a citation when pulling drivers over for a primary violation, such as speeding. Maryland drivers take note: A new era of driving while chatting on your cell phone begins Oct. 1. For more details, check out the article [here](#).

OIG SUGGESTION PROGRAM

Did you know that OIG has its very own suggestion program? The program gives employees the chance to submit ideas to improve OIG operations and workplace. The Program provides timely processing and responses; ensures fair evaluations of suggestions; and allows implementation of adopted suggestions in a timely manner. The OIG Suggestion Program is web-based and can be found on the IG's intranet portal. If you have an ideas or suggestions that will improve OIG operations, please submit through the OIG Suggestion Program [here](#). - Toby Burt, Special Assistant, J-2. DC



October Training Calendar

- 10/4/2010 8:30 AM EEO for managers in Cerritos and nearby offices (B. Alexander)
- 10/4/2010 1:00 PM EEO for staff in Cerritos and nearby offices (B. Alexander)
- 10/5/2010 8:30 AM EEO for managers in SF and nearby Field Offices (B. Alexander)
- 10/5/2010 1:00 PM EEO for staff in San Fran and nearby offices (B. Alexander)
- 10/7/2010 8:30 AM EEO training for Seattle and nearby office managers (B. Alexander)
- 10/7/2010 1:00 PM EEO training for Seattle and nearby office staff (B. Alexander)
- 10/11/2010 12:00 AM Holiday - Columbus Day
- 10/14/2010 8:30 AM EEO for managers in Chicago and nearby offices (B. Alexander)

HRDC Announcements

The TeamMate office has provided a schedule for all FY2011 TeamMate training classes to be held at Headquarters, Washington, DC. The schedule is available on the HRDC Training Calendar at <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/JM1/JM20T/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>. Registration for these classes will be completed using the new TMS program beginning October 1. The TeamMate 101 class will be offered as new staff is hired. New employees assigned to Audit will be contacted directly by the TeamMate office within days of reporting for duty. Courses will continue to be offered at our Field locations. We will work with the training coordinators to set up the courses in the field based on each office's request for specific TeamMate courses. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the TeamMate office at teammate@oig.dot.gov.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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END SHOT

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Christina Lee** (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov),
Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



PHOTO: CHRISTINA LEE

LOU LEADS HER FIRST JA ALL-HANDS IN DC

Last week, Principal AIG Lou Dixon kicked off her first JA All-Hands meeting by calling this the "year of accountability." Lou discussed highlights from the Managers Conference, such as the initiative to develop a 24-month plan to ensure we remain focused on core issues critical to the Department. She mentioned a renewed focus on being proactive rather than reactive and reminded everyone to DARE (Develop staff, Accountability, Read/Respect, Execute). Lou also discussed a few important new policy items, particularly new FOIA requirements that will make

work papers available on OIG's public website, as well as an Audit Checklist to ensure each step of the report issuance process has been met. Lou also emphasized the important role that every employee in JA has in carrying out our mission. In particular, Lou thanked the different committees and task forces--such as Community of Practice, the Electronic Working Paper Task Force, and *The Inspector*--for the important work they've done in promoting connectivity and learning at OIG.

- Emily Norton, Analyst, JA-40, DC

TIM HEADS JI SAC MEETING IN FT. WORTH

AIIG Tim Barry met with the JI SACs in Fort Worth last week for 2 days of discussion and planning. The agenda included a year-end review of the FY10 stats and focused on strategies to promote JI's work to internal stakeholders, the creation of National Projects, and ways to better communicate with DOT

regional stakeholders. Discussions included determining which areas of work have the greatest and least impact on the Department. Presenters included Ann Calvaresi Barr, the Deputy IG; (b)(6) (b)(6) ARRA coordinator; and Francine Benko, JI's new HR representative. Ann also met with local staff from JI and JA

in the Fort Worth office while she was there.

Acting AIIG, Bob Westbrooks, explained the processes that JI-3 must go through when conducting an Office of Special Counsel investigation. Bill Owens, the Acting SAC of National Projects and Operations, discussed changes to JI policies, updates to ALERTS, and upcoming QARs.

It was a productive meeting and included a tour of the new Fort Worth office space (b)(6)

, (b)(6)

JL and JA staff. The weather allowed those from the north to get a little replay of summer as the temperatures hovered in the 90s all week.

- Sharon Smith, Staff Assistant, JL-1, DC

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

PHOTO: SHARON SMITH

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, 9/27	TUESDAY, 9/28	WEDNESDAY, 9/29	THURSDAY, 9/30	FRIDAY, 10/1
BRIAN— OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	CAL—Executive Management Team Meeting (9:00 a.m.) “Working with Legal Counsel,” CoP featuring Omer Poirier (2:00p.m.)		CAL, ANN, BRIAN—CIGIE Meeting (10:00 a.m.)	

NOTEWORTHY



PHOTOS: HEATHER VODA

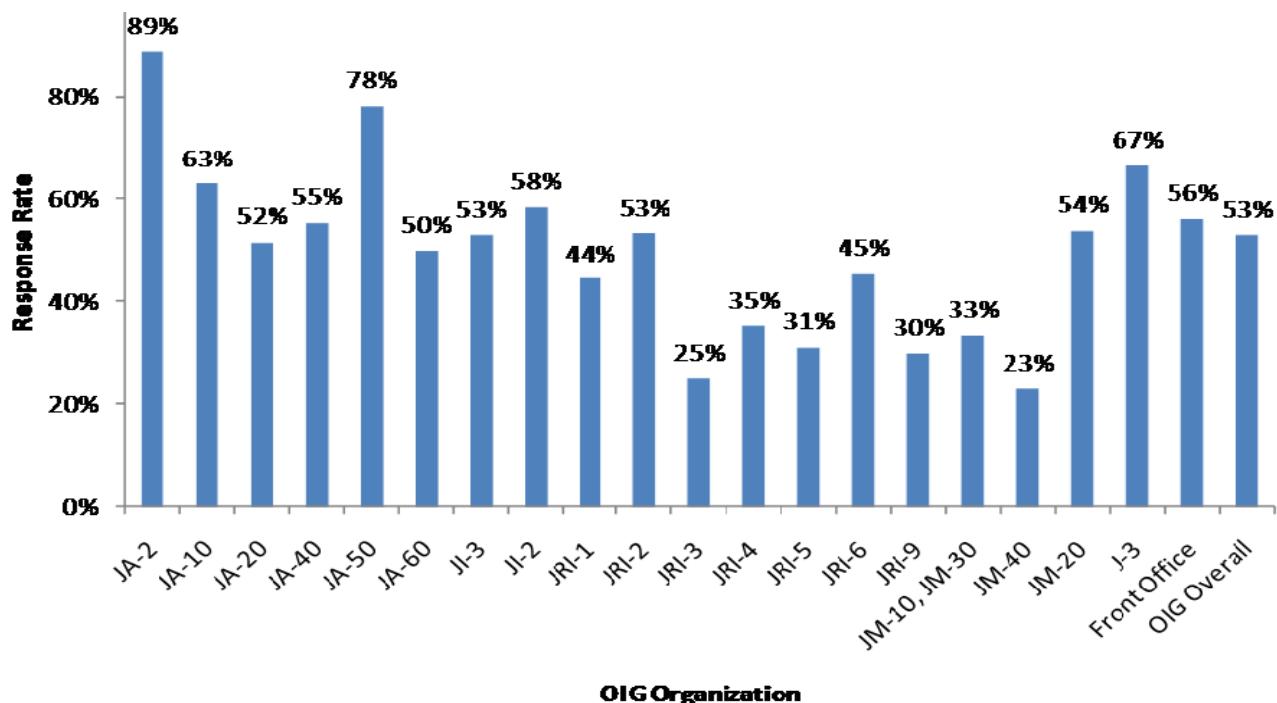
CAL AMBUSHES UNSUSPECTING STAFF WITH “GENTLE REMINDERS” TO FILL OUT OIG EMPLOYEE SURVEYS

Last Thursday morning at OIG Headquarters, Cal lay in wait by the elevators, holding a generous stack of OIG Employee Survey flyers. As unwary employees stepped out of the lifts, Cal detained them and asked, “Excuse me, have you filled out the OIG Employee Survey?” Responsible employees made known that they filled out the survey “the first day it came out.” Guilty parties admitted their failure and accepted flyers from Cal’s outreached hand. With this 8.5” by 11” reminder in tow, each scurried off to complete the survey...Did **you**?

- Christina Lee, Analyst, JA-60, DC

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG Survey Response Rates by Organization



2010 OIG EMPLOYEE SURVEY UPDATE

The 2010 OIG All Employee Survey has now been open for 2 weeks, and will remain open for 1 more week. A total of **231 employees (53%)** have participated in the survey to date. Thank you very much to all who have participated! If you have not completed the survey, please set aside some time to take the survey by **next Friday, October 1**. This anonymous survey takes less than 30 minutes to complete and will provide OIG leadership with information for improving the work environment at OIG. Particularly if you work in an organization

that has had a low response rate so far (see chart above), please complete the survey to ensure your organization's strengths and challenges are represented in the overall OIG results.

Your opinion matters! Please help us set the course for OIG improvement in the months and years to come. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Jessica Dziewczynski at jdziewczynski@fmpconsulting.com.

- Toby Burt, Special Assistant,
J-2, DC

HIGHEST RESPONSE RATES ACROSS OIG

TOP 5 OVERALL

1. **JA-2** (89%)
2. **JA-50** (78%)
3. **J-3** (67%)
4. **JA-10** (63%)
5. **JI-2** (58%)

TOP 3 JAs

1. **JA-2** (89%)
2. **JA-50** (78%)
3. **JA-10** (63%)

TOP 3 JIs

1. **JI-2** (58%)
2. **JI-3** (53%) - TIED
3. **JRI-2** (53%) - TIED

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

ARC Tunnel Project Hurt by Poor Planning

SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

(NorthJersey.com on a JA-40 audit)

http://www.northjersey.com/news/103260849_Tunnel_oversight_blocked.html

NJ Transit did not have a complete plan for "combating fraud, waste and abuse" or safeguards for keeping its Hudson River tunnel project from spilling over its \$8.7 billion budget, a Federal audit shows.

Auditors also took issue with the Federal Transit Administration's early handling of the "Access to the Region's Core" project. Even though NJ Transit did not complete a project management plan, master schedule, or financial plan, the FTA signed an agreement with the agency, allowing it to incur \$1.35 billion in costs toward tunnel construction, the audit said.

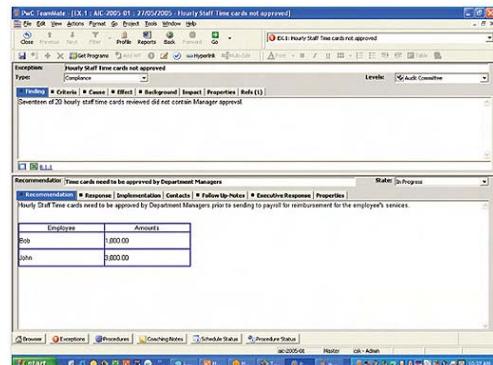
The audit, conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation's inspector general between January 2009 and March, examines FTA and NJ Transit documents related to cost, scheduling, financing, fraud and other issues. And it possibly sheds some light on Christie's decision to halt new work for 30 days.

It also reveals early friction between the FTA's Region 2 staff in New York, charged with overseeing the ARC project, and NJ Transit staffers. Transit agency officials complained the FTA was not providing enough guidance in completing the complex series of documents it needed to file to secure the \$3 billion.

ELECTRONIC WORK PAPER (EWP) TASK FORCE PRESENTS FINAL REPORT NEXT WEEK

On Thursday, September 30th at 1:00 PM, the EWP Task Force will present the findings and recommendations of their [final report](#).

The presentation will be available via webcast from the DOT Media Center, and HQ staff are invited to attend in person.



In response to user dissatisfaction with TeamMate voiced during the 2009 OIG Managers Conference, the PAIGAE established the Task Force --comprised of 16 volunteers from across the JAs, grades, and locations --to assess what users wanted from an audit management software and whether TeamMate, or some other audit management software, "best fits" those needs. Specifically, the team's work identified (1) users' perspectives on criteria needed for an "ideal" EWP system, (2) shortfalls with the current version of TeamMate along with gaps in functionality with future versions, (3) other OIGs' experiences with TeamMate, and (4) alternatives to TeamMate that meet industry standards and best practices.

The Task Force made four primary recommendations for management consideration:

1. Target TeamMate improvement efforts underway to the shortfalls we identified.
2. Evaluate the feasibility of moving to an Enterprise Management System to provide the functionality and performance needed to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of our audit projects.
3. Leverage best practices to expand and centralize DOT OIG's policies, procedures, tools and guides to perform audit work.
4. Track user satisfaction periodically on the performance of the audit management system and report back to users regarding efforts to improve it.

(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

The senior executive team provided a management response recognizing the task force's "Outstanding efforts in assessing our EWP software, system, and operations."

The senior executive team provided a management response recognizing the task force's "Outstanding efforts in assessing our EWP software, system, and operations." Furthermore, management concurred with the recommendations and the provided action plans for each are summarized below:

Recommendation 1: Senior management is working to stabilize TeamMate's operating environment to include upgrading to the most current version of TeamMate no later than December.

Recommendation 2: Senior management is planning to leverage the results of the IT assessment and any recommendations made regarding TeamMate.

Recommendation 3: Senior audit management evaluates audit policies periodically to ensure that policies are current, consistent and comprehensive.

Recommendation 4: A series of questions has been included in the 2010 OIG employee survey that will measure user satisfaction.

- Barry DeWeese, Program Director, JA-10, San Francisco, CA; and
Marshall Anderson, Analyst, JA-10, Atlanta, GA

FED FEEDS FAMILIES COLLECTS 644 LBS FOOD

The OIG Fed Feeds Families food drive has officially ended as of August 26, 2010. We collected a grand total of 644 pounds—all due to your hard work and perseverance. Thanks to all employees who participated in this food drive. A special thanks to following employees who comprised the OIG Fed Feeds Families Food Drive Committee: Amanda Barton, JA-2; Amy Berks, J-3; Toby Burt, JM-1; Deborah Bryant, JA-1; [REDACTED] (b)(6) JI-2 ; Barbara Green, JM-20; Shannon Jarvis, JA-60; Craig Owens, JA-10; [REDACTED] (b)(6) , JI-3.



Your individual participation and donations in the activities sponsored by OIG reflect your dedication to this worthy cause.

- Toby Burt, Special Assistant, J-2, DC

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

HAPPENINGS: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (HRDC)

As you know, the HRDC has gone through many changes the past few months, and many more are underway, all with one primary focus--to help you enhance your learning and development. Some of the changes planned for the near future include giving our facility a facelift, complete with changes in layout, paint, and new furniture.

Also, the newly constructed SharePoint Training Calendar is up and running. If you haven't done so already, check out our site on SharePoint. Just go to the OIG's intranet, and then click on training <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/JM1/JM20T/default.aspx>. If you want to know what's new, click on "announcements." For instance, check out the announcement regarding FREE FEMA classes. If you want information on upcoming classes, click on "calendar." You will see details such as when upcoming classes will be offered, where they will be offered, and instructor names, etc. If you go to "September," you will see all the courses we will offer including:

- ◆ EEO training for Cambridge and nearby staff on 9/20 (Cambridge)
- ◆ Revising Prose on 9/23 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Headquarters)
- ◆ Supervision II from 9/27 to 9/30 starting at 8:30 a.m. (HRDC)
- ◆ *If you are interested in any of these classes, please contact your Training Coordinator--especially if you need CPEs!!*

Speaking of Training Coordinators (TC), the HRDC staff met with one and all--TCs from headquarters and the field; TCs representing audit, investigations, and the rest of the staff--for a 2-day workshop. During our discussions, we realized how much the TCs do and brainstormed ways to more efficiently and consistently work together to better serve your needs. For instance, we formed a working group that will explore the best ways we can migrate from eLMS to TMS. We'll keep you posted on our efforts.

Of important note, we agreed on having a training theme each quarter. So, to kick off the new fiscal year in style, our theme for the first quarter will be "Mastering the *FUND*amentals." (You know the HRDC staff and Training TCs, we "work hard and play hard"). Okay, back to business. Our SharePoint calendar has the FUNDamental details with courses ranging from the basics in Auditing and Report Writing to Supervision.

Stay tuned for more developments. And, as always, we look forward to serving you throughout the year and welcome any comments or suggestions that you have for further improvement.



HRDC staff hosted two-day workshops for OIG Training Coordinators

To kick off the new fiscal year in style, our theme for the first quarter will be "**Mastering the *FUN*damentals.**"

HRDC Staff

Connie Harshaw, Training Administrator ; Becky Kennedy, HRDC Specialist; Yolanda Perry, HRDC Specialist; Sherry Reck, Program Management Specialist for field offices in the East; Joyce Mayeda, Program Management Specialist for field offices in the West

IN DEPTH

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(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Christina Lee** (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov),
Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Community of Practice (COP) Gears Back Up for Fall—Volunteers Needed!

Last fall, we launched the COP program to leverage knowledge from staff and outside experts and enhance communication across OIG. The first year's COPs provided insights into our investigative work, writing, data mining, congressional relations, and recovery related audits and investigation. The success of these sessions underscores management's commitment to this core activity to support our mission and increase communication.

After a summer break, several exciting COP sessions have been scheduled:

Late September Omer Poirier, OIG Chief Counsel

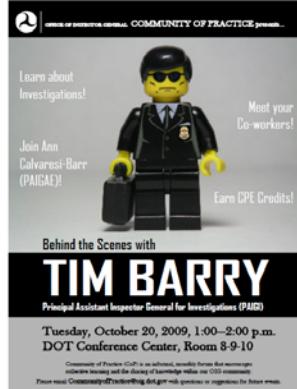
October 21 Dr. Jonathan Gifford, Director, Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics Program, George Mason University

November 8 Kate Siggerud, Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure, GAO

The COP program's success is due in large part to the great foundation established by Masha Pastuhov-Pastein (JA-60); Lillian Slodkowski and Chris Frank (JA-10); Mike Marshlik and Ingrid Harris (JA-20); Luke Brennan (JA-40); Leslie Mitchell (JA-50); Dave Lahey, Christina Lee, and Heather Voda (JA-60); and Scott Florsck (JM).

To further advance this program, we are seeking new volunteers from across the organization who would like to participate in our efforts next year. We work as a team, so the time commitment involved is not significant, but the impact is noteworthy across the OIG. For example, taking the lead for organizing a monthly COP—identifying a topic, contacting a speaker, and scheduling the session—would take about 2 to 3 hours of your time. If you are interested, please coordinate with your supervisor and contact Chris Frank, COP Chair, x6-4665 or Madeline Chulumovich, Chief of Staff, x6-6512.

Ann



Our very first CoP with Tim Barry.

A NOTE FROM THE IG

Congratulations to

our 2010 Student
Loan Repayment
Program recipi-
ents! The Federal
student loan re-
payment program



gives agencies an opportunity to provide recruitment and retention incentives to highly qualified em-
ployees.

The number of applicants for our 2010 open season was 50 percent higher than last year, and 19 GS-9 to GS-13 applicants from headquar-
ters and the field received loan re-
payments. Those rated
“outstanding” received \$10,000,
and those rated “highly successful”
generally received \$5,000. (Several
highly successful employees re-
ceived the amount owed on their
student loans, which was less than
\$5,000.)

Loan repayment awards for 2009
and 2010 total over \$189,000, and
we remain committed to using this
strategic tool to retain the best
qualified employees.

Congratulations again to this year's
recipients—it is well deserved.

Best, *Cal*

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 9/20	TUESDAY, 9/21	WEDNESDAY, 9/22	THURSDAY, 9/23	FRIDAY, 9/24
SPECIAL MEETINGS	BRIAN– OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	CAL, ANN, LOU, TIM, BRIAN, & SUSAN- IT Assessment Executive Briefing (11:00 a.m.)		REVISING PROSE CLASS (11:00 a.m.-1 p.m.) NATIONALS BASEBALL GAME! (Morale Committee event, 4:30 p.m.)	

← →

CAL– Out of Office

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

On Friday, Sep 17, JA-40 will discuss its charter bus rule work with Senate Appropriations majority; meanwhile, JA-50 has two separate briefings: one with Senate Budget minority regarding the group's Highway Trust Fund work, followed by one with majority and minority staff from the House Transportation & Infrastructure's rail subcommittee regarding JA-50's remaining Amtrak work from PRIIA, in addition to ongoing efforts with respect to the Federal Railroad Administration.

— Dave Wonnenberg, Congressional and Public Affairs Officer, J-3, DC

NOTEWORTHY

OIG MANAGEMENT TO HOST NEW LEADERSHIP BROWN BAGS

At the Manager's Conference in August, Cal moderated a leadership panel with Ann, Tim, Lou, Susan, and Brian fielding questions on what makes a successful leader. The event was such a success, staff suggested holding brown bag sessions on leadership and related topics.

Management not only embraced the idea but saw it as a perfect step in the process of toward developing a mentoring program. Information on the first session, to be led by Ann, will be coming soon.



NOTEWORTHY (Cont.)**STAFF STEP UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR OIG'S 15 FIRE WARDENS**

When I sent an email to HQ colleagues asking for volunteers to assist with fire warden duties, many of you came to the rescue! We actually had more volunteers than available positions! (It must be the hats.) The wardens--floor, sector, stairway and elevator--and missing person emergency reporters play a critical role in helping to control and expedite DOT building evacuations.

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A special thanks to all of you who responded to our request and to the following 15 volunteers: Chris Brothers, Amanda Barton, Raymond Denmark, Ann Wright, Constance Hardy, Kim Bolding, Joseph Hance, Susan Neill, Lorena Simpson, Rebecca Sorrels, Michael Massoudian, Ryan Sanders, and My Le.

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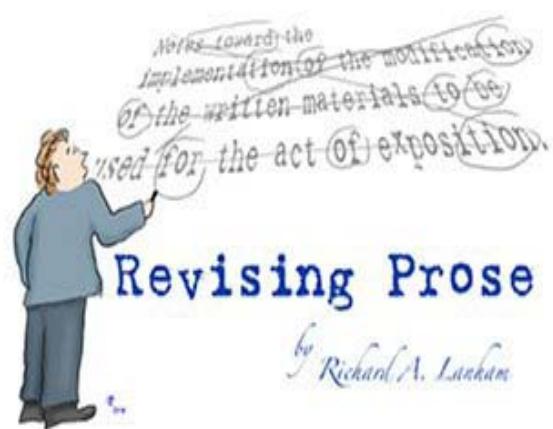
Ann

NEW COURSE HELPS GET THE “LARD” OUT OF WRITING

Karen Sloan and Susan Neill will pilot a new course on how to streamline your writing and make it more engaging, easier to read, and (often) to identify obscurities of meaning.

The course covers Richard Lanham's Paramedic Method—an approach he developed to help his UCLA students get bureaucratese out of their writing

This first session will be held Thursday, September 23, from 11:00 pm to 1:00 pm. (Participants are welcome to bring their lunch!) To sign up, access the eLMS website at <https://elms.dot.gov>. Login using your DOT issued eLMS Logon ID and password. If you have problems logging in, contact Karen Muller at 202-260-8550 or Karen.Muller@oig.dot.gov.



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

Man Admits Disadvantaged

Business Fraud

September 13, 2010

(*Wivb.com* on a JI Region 2 Investigation)

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/buffalo/Man-admits-disadvantaged-business-fraud>

U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul announced today that Oscar E. Rayford, 71, of Buffalo, New York, pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to a felony mail fraud charge in connection with a scheme to defraud the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Regarding Rayford, Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White, who handled the case, stated that between 2001 and 2007, Rayford made numerous fraudulent representations to the New York State Department of Transportation regarding his company, Rayford Enterprises, Inc. He claimed the company was a bona fide DBE that performed concrete work on five separate highway construction projects in Western New York. In truth, Rayford used Lafarge North America, a non-DBE manufacturer of ready-mix concrete, to perform all of the concrete work on the projects. While Rayford paid Lafarge for the work, his scheme permitted Rayford to keep a significant percentage of the federal dollars for himself. As part of the plea, Rayford agreed to forfeit \$1.8 million as fraudulent proceeds from the scheme.

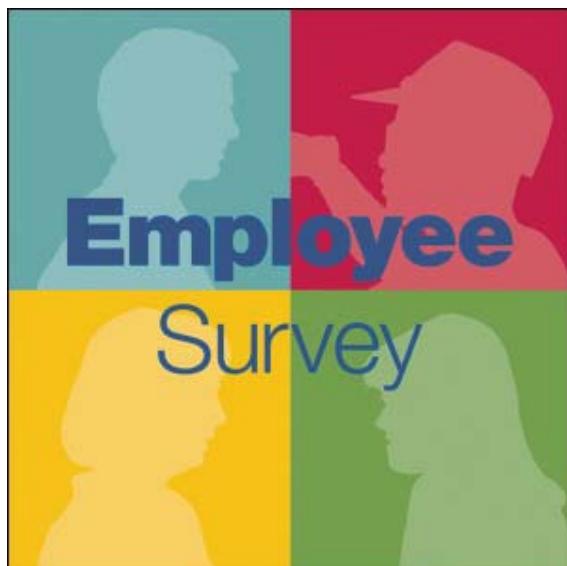
The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General, New York Office Region 2, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Ned E. Schwartz and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James H. Robertson.

MEET OUR NEW HONORS ATTORNEY AND LEGAL INTERN

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

***Have you completed the
OIG Employee Survey?***



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***Voice your opinion and help shape
OIG's future
Your input is anonymous and will help
us improve OIG's work environment***

***The OIG Employee Survey
September 13 - October 1, 2010***

Your opinion counts!

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END SHOT

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**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

, (b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

, (b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

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by COB Tuesdays to be published in that week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2010 Annual Employee Survey Coming Soon!

Next week you should receive an e-mail containing a link to the 2010 survey, and we hope you will use this opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on how OIG is doing. Listening to and investing in our people not only enhances our work environment but also better equips OIG to achieve its mission.

We have invested significant effort into revamping this year's survey to ensure it captures important aspects of your current work environment. To identify topics for this year's survey, OIG worked with Federal Management Partners, Inc.—a strategic consulting firm located in Alexandria, VA—to conduct employee focus groups and analyze historical survey data.

The OIG historical survey analysis revealed that support services and

technology resources are two areas that have traditionally been strengths for OIG. However, since 2007 there have been steady declines in these areas. To better understand the challenges in this area and the steps needed to improve OIG services, this year's survey will have several specific questions related to IT and other support services.

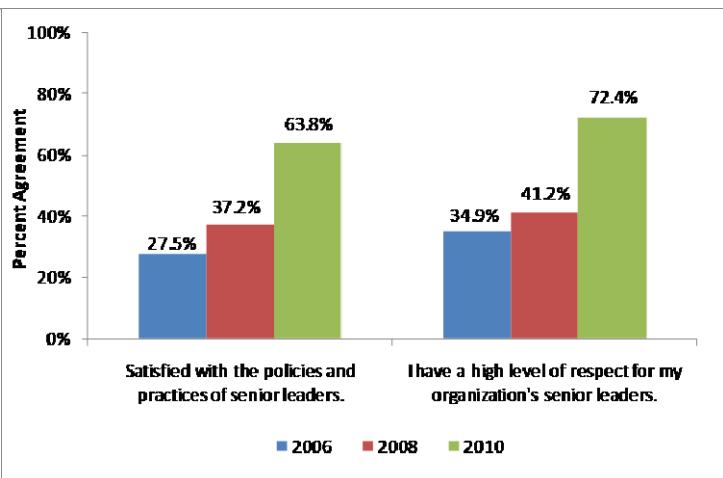
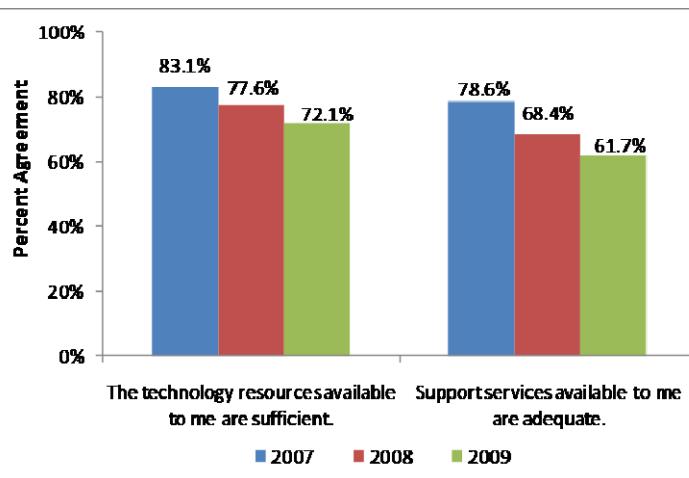
Each year OIG identifies areas for improvement based on the results of the annual employee survey. Results from the 2006 Federal Human Capital Survey, conducted by the Office of Personnel Management, indicated leadership was one of the biggest challenges, with a number of leadership items falling in the "bottom 10." OIG has engaged in several leadership development efforts and, as a result, has seen encouraging improvements in

the workforce's perception of OIG leaders. This year's survey includes several detailed questions to further explore OIG's leadership strengths and challenges and plan accordingly.

Your survey responses will continue to have a direct impact on where we focus our attention and resources as we go forward. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. We hope you will take this opportunity to voice your opinion and help shape OIG's future. Your opinion counts!



-Cal



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 9/6	TUESDAY, 9/7	WEDNESDAY, 9/8	THURSDAY, 9/9	FRIDAY, 9/10
SPECIAL MEETINGS	Honor Labor!  <p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CAL– Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Mtg. (1:00 p.m.)</p>				CAL– RATB Mtg. (1:30 p.m.)

NOTEWORTHY

JI on the ARRA Trail

On August 18, 2010, Special Agent-in-Charge Hank Smedley (b)(6), (b)(7)c

, (b)(6), (b)(7)c

(b)(6), (b)(7) visited two ongoing San Francisco Bay Area ARRA construction sites as part of the Region's continuing proactive outreach. One job, the Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore Project, will build a two-lane fourth tunnel north of the existing three Caldecott tunnels. This \$420 million project (\$197 million in ARRA funds) will take approximately 4 years to complete. The other construction job, the Doyle Drive Project, will re-

place the existing roadway south of the Golden Gate Bridge. This \$1.045 billion project (\$96 million in ARRA funds) is scheduled to be completed in 2014.

The photo to the left was taken in front of the west portal to the Caldecott Project. The drilled shaft concrete has been removed in the area of the tunnel. The contractor is installing steel dowels into the area of the tunnel to provide support during excavation. The electric tunnel drilling rig is used because of the restrictions on equipment allowed in the tunnel since it is classified as gassy with special conditions. Installation on the tunnel ventilation system has also started. In the photograph, from left to right, are Hank Sme

(b)(6)



This photo is of the tunnel road header, which will be used to bore the tunnel through the east end.

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Are We Related?

J-3 Adds New Tool to OIG's Website

J-3 is excited to introduce a new tool to the OIG public website. The new feature is aimed at providing another way to highlight the hard work of JA and JI by giving visitors to the site a better grasp on the whole body of work behind individual audit and investigative reports that might otherwise be overlooked.

This new feature allows us to easily interlink individual items on the website, whether they be audits, investigations, testimonies, or correspondence, etc. We designed this new feature to be able to:

1. Showcase OIG's history of reviews in recurring areas (e.g. cross-border trucking, Amtrak operational savings and financial performance, NextGen, aircraft repair stations, NHTSA/ODI);
2. Link audit announcements to their corresponding final reports;
3. Link investigative reports of a defendant's indictment to later reports of his/her conviction/plea, and sentencing; and
4. Link TMC and SAR reports to the underlying audits and investigations.

Testimony

Home / Testimony / CC-2010-066

FHWA Has Taken Actions But Could Do More to Strengthen Oversight of Bridge Safety and States' Use of Federal Bridge Funding

July 21, 2010
Project ID: CC-2010-066

[Download Full PDF Document](#)

[View Video](#)

Summary

On July 21, 2010, the Assistant Inspector General for Highway and Transit Audits testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit regarding Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) oversight of the Highway Bridge Program and the National Bridge Inspection Program. OIG issued three reports over the last 4 years on FHWA's bridge oversight. The Assistant Inspector General's statement focused on FHWA's efforts to: (1) implement a data-driven, risk-based approach to overseeing the Nation's bridges; (2) ensure that states comply with bridge inspection standards; and (3) strengthen its oversight of states' use of Federal bridge funding. The Assistant Inspector General recognized FHWA's progress in implementing a data-driven, risk-based approach to bridge oversight and its efforts to address OIG's related recommendations from prior reports; however, more needs to be done. Given the volume of needs of the Nation's nearly 600,000 bridges and the limited funding available to repair and replace bridges, FHWA must target its oversight efforts at higher priority bridge safety risks and strengthen its oversight of states' use of Federal bridge funding. In particular, more needs to be done to enable FHWA to evaluate the impact of the billions in Federal bridge money that have been allocated to states in recent years for improving the condition of deficient bridges.

Related Library Items

- [06.28.2010 ARRA Advisory: FHWA's Oversight of the Use of Value Engineering Studies on ARRA Highway and Bridge Projects](#)
- [01.14.2010 Final Report on FHWA Oversight of the Highway Bridge Program and National Bridge Inspection Program](#)
- [01.12.2009 National Bridge Inspection Program: Assessment of FHWA's Implementation of Data-Driven, Risk-Based Oversight](#)
- [08.03.2007 Inspector General's Response to Secretary Peters' Request for an Assessment of the National Bridge Inspection Program](#)
- [03.21.2006 Audit of Oversight of Load Ratings and Postings on Structurally Deficient Bridges on the National Highway System](#)

We Need Your Help!



WE WANT YOU!

To demonstrate the many uses of this new feature, we've already taken steps to identify and link nearly 200 related items on the website and plan to continue utilizing this feature for new items added to the site. But we can't do it alone and need your help and experience to identify older web items you may be more familiar with so that we can relate them and showcase your hard work.

Here's What You Can Do:

To suggest items you'd like to be related on the website, use the simple form we've made available [here on the J-3 SharePoint site](#) and send it to us at: Courtney.Scott@oig.dot.gov.

- Nathan Richmond, Director & Counsel for Congressional and External Affairs, J-3, DC

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

DOT Pays Out Unjustified Award Fees on Cost Plus Contracts, Says IG

August 29, 2010

(*Fierce Government* on a JA-60 audit report)
<http://www.fiercegovemmentit.com/story/dot-pays-out-unjustified-award-fees-cost-plus-contracts-says-ig/2010-08-29>

The Transportation Department pays incentive fees to contractors without demonstrating that they deserve them, says an inspector general report.

The report, dated August 25 and based on an investigation conducted between June 2007 and May 2010, examines 24 cost plus award fee contracts from seven Transportation administrations, including the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. The contracts have a potential maximum value of more than \$3 billion and about \$170 million in available award fees. Under cost plus award contracts, vendors receive a percentage of a pre-determined incentive fee based on performance--a "fee" in this case being what the private sector calls "profit."

While Transportation officials generally give contractors high ratings, paving the way for them to receive award fees dependent on performance, they generally do not demonstrate how contractors meet or exceed evaluation criteria, the report states. During one rating period, civil servants extended to contractors 91 percent of the \$16.5 million available award fees, but didn't adequately justify why they had done so in cases amounting to \$14 million of paid out award fees, the report states.

Extrapolating to all 41 cost plus award fee contracts Transportation officials had going as of Dec. 31, 2006, auditors assert that the department has paid approximately \$140.6 million in award fees without proper justification.

Audit Case Study Training Program

Back row from left - Kimberly Bolding (she's one of our observers - thanks Kim), James Ovelmen (JA-10), Peter Barber, Tashaun Ross (JA-60). Middle row from left - Emily Norton (JA-40), Meredith Howell(JA-60), Jamila Mammadova (JA-40), Deanne Titus (JA-60), Jenelle Morris (JA-20), Olivia Starr (JA-50), Becky Kennedy (JM-20). Bottom row from left - Aaron Malinoff (JA-60), Alfredo Atregeño (JA-10).

This past week the new OIG recruits all came to the 3rd Street office in Washington, DC, for the new hire audit case study training program. The Navy SEALs might have "hell week" but we have Becky Kennedy. During the course of the week, we became intimately familiar with the professional standards of GAGAS audits and the OIG process. Even Jeffrey Guzzetti (the new AIG in JA-10) was required to read the entire OPM Chapter 2005 out loud to the class. On Monday we started with a project proposal and by Friday we had produced a final draft complete with recommendations. Who says the audit process can't be done in 10 months? Becky drilled into us day in and day out the four elements of a finding, and reminded us to always put on our "auditing hats" when identifying the various forms of audit evidence.

Throughout the week we had Andrea Nossaman (JA-10) and Dan Raville (JA-10) to give us instruction on effective writing techniques. We also had a peer-to-peer panel, Daniel Ben-Zadok (JA-40) and Heather Voda (JA-60) to help us learn the proverbial ropes and discuss the vagaries of auditing life. By the end of the week we were lucky enough to have a leadership panel with Ann Calvaresi-Barr, Tim Barry, and Susan Dailey. We were able to get a taste of what drives our leadership and our audit process. Arguably we went into last week as OIG rookies and came out of 3rd Street as OIG government auditors armed with pocket sized Yellow Books.

-Peter Barber, Analyst, JA-40, DC



OIG IN THE NEWS

Updated Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

Earlier this month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) updated its 2010 Atlantic hurricane region pre-season outlook issued in May (the region includes the North Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico). The updated outlook calls for a 90 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 10 percent chance of a near-normal season, and no expectation the season will be below normal. In short, the atmospheric and oceanic conditions now in place are very conducive to hurricane formation and are expected to persist throughout the peak months (August-October) of the season.

Through July we've only seen two tropical storms and one hurricane—more are coming! NOAA currently predicts significant activity for the remainder of the season, with an additional 12-17 named storms, of which 7-12 are expected to become hurricanes with 4-6 reaching major hurricane status. From past experience we know hurricane disasters can occur whether the season is active or relatively quiet. It only takes one hurricane (or tropical storm) to cause a disaster! Given the current outlook, it is even more imperative that we all ensure we have effective hurricane preparedness plans in place (both at work and home). The OIG's Continuity of Operations (COOP) Working Group encourages you to visit our emergency preparedness and COOP Web page on the Intranet for more information.

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Rail Oversight Falls to Safety Agency, Forcing High-Speed Changes

August 27, 2010

(The New York Times on a JA-50 audit report.)

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/08/27/27greenwire-rail-oversight-falls-to-safety-agency-forcing-18733.html>

The nation's high-speed rail push put the Federal Railroad Administration on a new track, with some questioning whether the agency is up for the journey.

FRA was primarily a safety watchdog before the Passenger Rail Improvement and Investment Act (PRIIA) was passed in 2008. Since then, it has been accused of being understaffed, underprepared and ill-equipped to manage the funding for the rail project.

A November 2009 report by the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General said the agency "may not be prepared to ensure the long-term success of the new high-speed rail program" and even those within the agency would admit that the new responsibilities were overwhelming.

Twenty months after the PRIIA handed the new authority to FRA, that assessment is still true, said Mitch Behm, assistant inspector general for rail, maritime and economic analysis at DOT.

FRA "likes to compare what they're doing to doing surgery at the same time as the diagnosis," Behm said. "They're still in triage mode when there are so many things that have to be addressed all at the same time."

FRA Administrator Joe Szabo, however, says his staff has stepped things up despite being swamped with new responsibilities and a short time frame. "I believe the agency has adapted and continues to adapt extremely well," Szabo said. "There's no question that this is a significant addition to our core mission. ... It's been a matter of building up internally."

Double Play in JA (60)

Last week JA-60 issued two final audit reports on DOT's acquisitions. These reports have already garnered media attention in government contracting and management circles and illustrate the importance of contracting to the effective overall management of Government programs.

Improvements in Cost-Plus Award-Fee Processes Are Needed To Ensure Millions Paid in Fees Are Justified

On August 25, we issued our report on the DOT's use of cost-plus-award-fee (CPAF) contracts to OST and FAA, with separate recommendations to each. Concerns about CPAF contracts throughout the Government prompted us to examine how DOT manages CPAF contracts. In our review we (1) assessed award-fee ratings and payments made by Operating Administrations based on documentation used to support them, (2) evaluated Operating Administrations' award-fee guidance, payment structure, and evaluation criteria, and (3) identified challenges in DOT's management of CPAF contracts.

Our report identifies problems Operating Administrations have experienced in designing, administering, and justifying CPAF contracts. Overall, we found that (1) performance evaluation plans did not include measurable criteria to adequately evaluate contractor performance, (2) descriptions defining adjectival ratings were vague and/or inconsistent and did not clearly define the basis for rating performance, (3) performance monitors did provide adequate support to justify contractor ratings, (4) payment structures allow for award-fee payments for average or below-average performance, and (5) contracting officials did not justify the cost effectiveness of selecting a CPAF contract. In a consolidated response from OST, FAA concurred with our recommendations targeted for FAA. OST concurred with two of our recommendations for OST and partially concurred with the other two.



Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Lacks Core Elements for a Successful Acquisition Function



On August 24, we issued our report on FMCSA's acquisition function. The audit was requested by FMCSA's former Administrator, and our objective was to determine whether FMCSA's contract award and administration practices comply with applicable laws and regulations. We found that FMCSA did not have adequate contract pre-award processes in place, leaving it vulnerable to using ineffective business arrangements and ultimately hindering its ability to maximize competition. We also found that FMCSA lacked effective administration

and oversight of its contracts to ensure the Agency's needs were met in the most efficient and economical manner. FMCSA's acquisition framework lacked organizational alignment and leadership, policies and processes, acquisition data, and human capital—all of which are critical components required to operate effectively. Throughout our audit, FMCSA officials cited actions they undertook to improve their procurement practices and stated that additional enhancements are underway. We made a number of recommendations to improve FMCSA's acquisition practices, which should enable FMCSA to better position itself to fulfill the Agency's mission. FMCSA concurred with all of our recommendations.

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END SHOT

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**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Happy Labor Day Weekend!

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



MEET JEFF GUZZETTI: JA-10'S NEW AIG

Hello everyone! I was asked to introduce myself in this week's *Inspector*, so here goes.

First of all, it is an honor to have been selected as the DOT's Assistant Inspector General for Aviation and Special Program Audits, and it is a privilege to lead the great folks in JA-10 along with Matt Hampton. Since I checked aboard earlier this month, everyone has been very kind and helpful. Thank you! It didn't take me long to pick up on the fact that the OIG is chock-full of very smart, professional, dedicated people. I've worked in several other federal agencies, and my sense is that the culture of this agency is tops. "Mission first, people always" sums it up for me.

As you have probably heard, I came over from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), where I was responsible for the investigation and report production for about 1,600 general aviation accidents that occur each year across the nation.

I am finding many similarities between my current and former employer. For example, the NTSB has about the same number of employees as the OIG, exudes the same professionalism and dedication, and strives to put out concise, readable, relevant reports with well-supported recommendations. And both agencies share the challenges with how to best train its employees, and how best to house its data and reports

in a user-friendly software (NTSB is challenged with a program called ADAMS, while OIG struggles with Teammate).

You may think that aircraft accident investigation is a precise science, and it is. But what impresses me is that the OIG has even more robust methodologies and written procedures to guide its work. I'm in awe of the concepts behind the Yellow Book and the OPM, and those who uphold those time-honored principles and procedures in the day-to-day audit work of the OIG.

I am obviously a bit self-conscious about never having performed a "GAGAS" audit, but I am confident that my 24 years of experience as a (b)(6) systems engineer, and senior manager of aviation accident investigations will guide me in leading JA-10. An accident investigation, after all, is akin to a performance audit...both involve collecting "evidence," conducting "interviews," initiating "analysis," supporting "recommendations," and issuing objective reports in a timely fashion.

Prior to my 8 years of management experience with the NTSB, I was a (b)(6) (b)(6) in two field offices (DC and Seattle) and an aerospace engineering specialist on general aviation and air carrier accidents. My most memorable experiences involved investigating the JFK Jr. crash in 1999 and the Alaska Airlines Flight 261 accident the following year.

Prior to the NTSB, I worked for the FAA, the Naval Air Systems Command, and

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 8/30	TUESDAY, 8/31	WEDNESDAY, 9/1	THURSDAY, 9/2	FRIDAY, 9/3
SPECIAL MEETINGS	BRIAN– OSTGA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	ANN– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)	CAL– Annual Leave		

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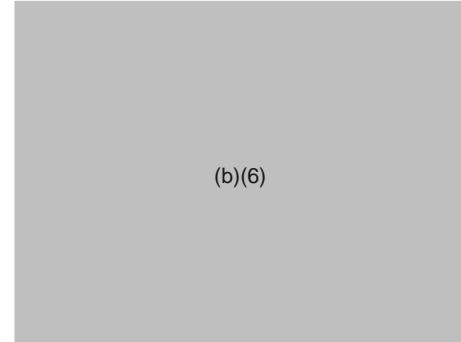
CAL– Annual Leave

Congress in Recess

(Continued from page 1)

the Cessna Aircraft Company in [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted] and engineering positions. I love all aspects of aviation...been in love ever since I was a kid growing up in the shadow of the Apollo program. I hold a commercial pilot's license with multiengine, seaplane, and glider ratings, but only fly for pleasure. I eat, breathe, and sleep aviation.

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

The IG has stated that a priority for this agency is transportation safety. This is also a priority for the DOT Secretary, and, of course, a priority of my former employer. The way I see it, we are in the business of helping to save lives, and I'm looking forward to working with

all of you in that very noble profession. And if we can save the taxpayer a few bucks by recommending better ways for the DOT to do business, well, that's even better!

My honeymoon period with the OIG is rapidly concluding, and it's time to start drinking from the preverbal fire hose. I know my way around the seventh floor now, and I'm champing at the bit to visit the JA-10 regional offices. I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

Jeff

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

 Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Transportation | Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General

AUDITS INVESTIGATIONS TESTIMONY CORRESPONDENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS RECOVERY ABOUT US

OIG History Home / About Us / OIG History

History of Federal Offices of Inspector General

On October 12, 1978, the Inspector General (IG) Act established twelve Federal Offices of Inspector General (OIGs), including the Department of Transportation OIG. The Act passed the House of Representatives in 1977 and was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on October 12, 1978. The IG Act established the OIGs to be established, one in 1978 and another the following year. President Jimmy Carter signed the IG Act into law and described the new statute as "perhaps the most important new tools in the fight against waste and corruption in government." The IGs were created to serve as independent monitors, to audit any individual or the public interest.

1981 Executive Order 12261, signed by President Ronald Reagan on March 21, established the President's Ombudsman (PO) Office, which became the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The PO's responsibilities were to receive complaints from the public and to investigate them. The OIG was amended to create 39 additional OIGs at Designated Federal Entities (DFEs). Most of the DFEs are relatively small agencies, boards, or commissions. These OIGs have essentially the same powers as the OIGs at the DOT, but they are not subject to the same level of oversight. However, the DFE OIGs are appointed to, and can be removed by, the head of their affiliated agency.

In order to improve the federal government's financial management, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Act of 1990, which established the Office of the Comptroller of the Government (OCIO).

1992 Executive Order 12835, signed by President George H.W. Bush on May 11, established the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency (ECIE), the first OIG community and consolidated the POE.

1995 The IG Community issued the first *Journal of Public Inquiry*, a semiannual publication providing a forum to share professional ideas, insights, and practices. Over the years, the journal has undergone many changes over the years.

1996 Executive Order 12906, signed by President Bill Clinton on December 1, established the Office of Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR). SIGIR was responsible for investigating allegations of wrongdoing by individual OIGs.

2001 In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the OIG came together to contribute to efforts to address the protection of the Nation's physical and information technology infrastructures.

2002 To enhance the federal government's risk management, Congress passed the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FARMP), which requires OIGs to conduct an annual evaluation of the information security programs and practices of their affiliated agencies. Also in 2002, Congress passed the Intelligence Authorization Act, which gave OIGs the authority to grant access to certain OIG criminal investigators.

2003 That same year, Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which gave OIGs the authority to conduct investigations and provide recommendations to assist other OIGs to qualify for Sarbanes-Oxley compliance.

History of Federal OIGs

We introduced a new page to the OIG web site (<http://www.oig.dot.gov/oig-history>), which presents a timeline/history of the federal OIGs from 1978 until now, highlighting key legislative changes, expansions of authority, and general milestones in the development of the current federal OIG community.

Two Congressional Correspondence on ARRA Issued

We just issued congressional correspondence on two separate requests. The first was to the Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and dealt with DOT's policies and guidance related to ARRA signage (letter posted [here](#)). The second was to the Chairman of the same committee identifying the top three OIG open recommendations, which, if implemented, would result in the greatest cost savings (letter posted [here](#); see page 7 in this issue for more information).

NOTEWORTHY

Pandemic Flu Update

Last week, Secretary General Margaret Chan of the World Health Organization announced the end of the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic and her organization's move to the post-pandemic period. Based on knowledge about past pandemics, however, the H1N1 (2009) virus has not entirely gone away and is expected to continue to circulate as a seasonal virus for some years to come. In short, while the level of concern is now greatly diminished, vigilance remains important as people are and will continue to contract flu, including H1N1 and other viruses such as H3N2 viruses recently seen in Iowa.

Last winter, the H3N2 viruses were largely crowded out by the pandemic H1N1 virus in the United States. Of note, flu experts say that flu seasons in which H3N2 viruses predominate tend to be more severe than those in which seasonal H1N1 and many other viruses are dominant, so this year's

flu season may be worse than last year's.

Vaccination is the most important defense for mitigating the adverse effects caused by influenza viruses, especially for high-risk individuals, which include young children, pregnant women, and people with underlying respiratory or other chronic conditions, such as asthma and diabetes.

Many OIG employees were vaccinated against the flu last year—your fellow employees and family members thank you.

Flu activity occurs year-round, with the traditional flu months having the highest activity being November to March. The OIG's Continuity of Operations (COOP) Working Group encourages everyone to take this year's vaccine when it becomes available. Vaccination simply is the best protection against getting the flu (hand washing is the next best thing). Visit the OIG emergency preparedness and COOP Web page on the Intranet for more information.



OIG IN THE NEWS

'Cash for Clunkers' Car Dealers Investigated

AUGUST 23, 2010

(*USA Today* on OIG review of "Cash for Clunkers" fraud)

http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2010-08-22-clunkers_N.htm

The government is investigating at least 20 car dealerships it claims violated the rules of last year's cash-for-clunkers program. Government auditors say up to \$94 million in rebates may be ineligible because they lack documentation.

One year after the \$3 billion car-buying frenzy, NHTSA has reached an enforcement phase. Nine dealers have paid a total of \$71,500 in fines.

NHTSA spokeswoman Karen Aldana said there's no evidence of widespread fraud and noted that the violations are a small fraction of the 18,915 dealers who participated. The program allowed 678,418 new car buyers to get rebates up to \$4,500 for trading in older, less fuel-efficient models.

But there have been problems: Trade-ins supposed to be destroyed may have been illegally shipped overseas. **GARY MIDDLETON**, a program manager for DOT OIG, told a fraud awareness conference last month that his office received information that about two dozen cars were exported. **DAVID WONNENBERG**, a spokesman for the office, clarified: "At this point, it's allegations."

Paperwork hassles caused problems from the beginning as demand overwhelmed the claims process. The NHTSA assumed it would get about 3,000 requests a day. In the first 10 days, it got more than seven times that many. The OIG looked at a sample of those claims and concluded that 3.3% of them — totaling almost \$94 million in rebates — were missing key paperwork.

OIG IN THE NEWS

Workers Arrested for Producing Phony Commercial Licenses

AUGUST 19, 2010

(ABC Action News on a JRI-2, King of Prussia investigation)

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/crime&id=7619476>

Federal officials say the suspects have been producing hundreds of phony commercial Pennsylvania drivers' licenses for the past three years.

According to the feds, workers at the International Transportation Academy conspired in helping people to lie and cheat in order to legally obtain a Penn-DOT Commercial Drivers License (CDL), something required to legally operate certain kinds of heavy trucks and buses.

10 people have been arrested, 9 in Philadelphia and Bucks County and one in New York.

First, ITA allegedly falsified residency documents, and then: "Helping them cheat their way through the commercial drivers license computer portion of the test by giving them an interpreter, who would actually give them all the answers to the test," Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Morgan-Kelly said...

According to court papers, staffers "assisted the applicants in cheating on the written test by providing the correct answers to guarantee, on behalf of ITA, that applicants passed the CDL written test." Adding, certain defendants "assisted over 300 out of state applicants in cheating."

The larger concern is there may be hundreds of commercial drivers on busy highways who are not qualified.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

JA-10 (Atlanta) Audit Team Meets with FAA, Air Carriers, and Other Wildlife in Alaska

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As part of JA-10 Atlanta's *Pilot Training at Regional Airlines* audit project, two team members (Senior Analysts Stefanie McCans and Travis Wiley) traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, in July for a week of interviews, data gathering, and a few close encounters with the local wildlife. At a time when temperatures in Atlanta were topping 95°, the weather in Anchorage was a balmy 63° - a welcome respite from the heat, even if it did come with a few clouds, storms, and sprinkles as well as daylight that lasted until almost 11pm.

Wiley and McCans visited the newly-formed Denali CMO, which manages the 6 major Alaska-based air carrier certificates. Some of these are Part 121 cargo-only carriers, and some are Part 121/135 operators that fly both scheduled commercial flights and on-demand revenue flights to the far-flung reaches of our nation's largest state. We learned that while scheduling our visit during the summer months was the only reasonable course of action to ensure the temperature and conditions were tolerable for us, it also put us there right in the middle of peak



(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)



(Continued from page 4)

Salmon fishing and Moose hunting seasons - meaning many people were out of the office, pursuing said wildlife.

The team also visited two of the Part 121/135 air carriers to learn more about their pilot training programs and FAA oversight in such a unique flying and operating environment. One of the air carriers that we visited transported the *Deadliest Catch* ship's crew from Anchorage out to the remote seaport of Dutch Harbor located about half-way out the Aleutian island chain. Flying into and out of this airport is especially tricky, as both ends of the runway drop off into open water. (No really - check it out on YouTube....just not on the OIG network.)



(b)(6)

OIG IN THE NEWS

DOT Asked Contractors to Post Signs 'Solely Used to Publicize' Stimulus Law

AUGUST 20, 2010

(CNSNews.com on an OIG Review of ARRA signs)

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/71375>

The U.S. Department of Transportation imposed strict guidelines for the placement, size, and visibility of signs promoting the \$862 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), popularly known as the economic stimulus bill, according to a review by DOT's inspector general released on Thursday.

Some Republican congressman say the signs amount to taxpayer-funded propaganda for the stimulus package.

Two DOT agencies--transit and rail--initially required that stimulus-funded projects post ARRA signs, but now the DOT "strongly encourages" the use of such signs, the IG review says. The IG review came in response to questions by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), the ranking Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, about the cost and policies regarding the Recovery Act signs.

Guidelines on the signs from six different DOT agencies focus heavily on publicity.

Most of the guidelines call for "economic recovery signs [to] be placed where they can be easily identified with the corresponding projects," while the Federal Aviation Administration says "the signs should be solely used to publicize ARRA funding of an airport project," according to the IG report.

(Continued on page 6)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Airlines And Regional Air Carriers To Be Audited By OIG For Safety

AUGUST 20, 2010

(*Aviation Online Magazine* on a planned audit on FAA's code share agreements)

[http://avstop.com/news_august_2010/
air-
lines_andRegional_air_carriers_to_be_audited_by_oig_for_safety.htm](http://avstop.com/news_august_2010/air-lines_andRegional_air_carriers_to_be_audited_by_oig_for_safety.htm)

The OIG plans to audit domestic code share agreements between mainline and regional air carriers. These agreements allow mainline and regional carriers to coordinate their flight schedules so that the regional carriers marketed under the name of the mainline carrier can provide passengers with connections from cities that cannot support major airline jet service to larger hub cities served by major air carriers.

As code share agreements become a more integral part of the aviation system, the FAA and the DOT have made it a top priority to ensure the safety of passengers who depend on those flights.

OIG will be conducting this audit at the request of the Chairmen of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Subcommittee on Aviation. The audit objectives will be (1) examine DOT and FAA legal authority to review agreements between mainline air carriers and their regional partners, (2) assess policies and procedures between mainline air carriers and their regional partners to ensure one level of safety, and (3) determine whether passengers have adequate information to make informed decisions when purchasing an airline ticket

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-Stefanie McCans, Senior Analyst, JA-10, Atlanta

(b)(6)

HOT TOPICS IN ETHICS

@OIG.DOT.GOV

OIG's Financial Disclosure System Wins Approval from OGE

The OIG Office of Legal Counsel often has a ring-side seat assisting OIG audit teams. Recently, Seth Kaufman and Fritz Switzerland were on the flip side as the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) conducted its "program review" of the Department of Transportation's financial disclosure system.

The scope of OGE's review included public and confidential financial disclosure reports filed in 2009 and associated policies and procedures. With respect to OIG, the review was limited to confidential financial disclosure systems because public financial disclosure reports (filed by OIG senior executives) are reviewed by the DOT Office of General Counsel.

OIG performed very well. Patricia Zemple, an Associate Director in OGE's Program Review Division, reported that OIG's confidential financial disclosure program is "well-managed." She found that reports were "generally filed, reviewed, and certified in a timely manner" and that it "appeared that all reports were analyzed thoroughly for real or apparent conflicts as evidenced by annotations or other documentation" (i.e., web research on investments).

OGE also identified two "model practices" in OIG's program: Inspector General Cal Scovel's support for the ethics program and a detailed 2009 analysis of positions in JA which file confidential financial disclosures.

OGE also identified two "model practices" in OIG's program: Inspector General Cal Scovel's support for the ethics program and a detailed 2009 analysis of positions in JA that file confidential financial disclosures. Model practices help agencies exceed mere compliance with ethics rules and regulations and increase the transparency, efficiency, accuracy, accountability, and consistency of their ethics programs.

As with any audit, OGE found some areas that needed improvement. OGE recommended certain modifications to our existing written procedures. In addition, OGE noted that some new entrant financial disclosure reports filed in 2009 were late and not all financial disclosures were date-stamped when received by ethics officials. OGE did not make formal recommendations on these findings because ethics officials assured OGE that corrective action would be taken.

Even before OGE came out with its reports, the ethics program had improved the timeliness of new entrant reports and date-stamping of reports filed in 2010. OIG ethics officials have worked very closely with Acting Director of Human Resources Connie Harshaw and her dedicated staff to improve information sharing about new entrants. As both old and new employees can attest, the ethics team is persistent when it comes to getting their financial disclosure on time.

- Omer Poirier, Chief Counsel, J-3, DC

Letter to Chairman Towns on OIG's Top Three Open Audit Recommendations Rendering the Greatest Cost Savings to the Federal Budget

On August 23, we responded to Chairman Towns', House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, request to provide information on the top three open audit recommendations that, if implemented, would produce the greatest cost savings to the federal budget. Additionally, the Chairman requested our assessment of the progress in implementing these recommendations and a description of any administrative or legislative action needed to bring about these savings.

The three open recommendations we identified are (1) the Department should monitor its field offices' quarterly inactive project reviews, particularly on stagnant projects, to ensure that inactive obligations are liquidated in a timely manner throughout the year (totaling \$800 million); (2) the FAA should direct airport sponsors to develop and implement plans to recover FAA's share from the disposition of 3,608 unneeded noise land acres (estimated at \$160.6 million); and (3) the Research and Innovative Technologies Administration should coordinate with FHWA to identify and review old Intelligent Transportation Systems contracts and agreements and de-obligate nearly \$20 million in unneeded funds.

(click [here](#) to read the full text of the letter on the web)



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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Fed Feeds Families Food Drive Ends August 27th

We are fast approaching the end of the Fed Feeds Families Food Drive. The Departmental last pick-up will be August 27th.

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The OIG Fed Feeds Families Committee is sponsoring Bingo on Thursday August 26, 2010, Elevator Odd Conf. Rm. (W71-101) from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Donate: For every 1 pound of food or \$2.00 donation you receive a BINGO card. All funds collected will go to the purchase of donations for the Capitol Area Food Bank.

Prizes: Every game will have prizes for the winner of a yummy snack (chips/cookies/candy). And every participant will be entered to win a \$10 Starbucks card - one awarded each Thursday. (Prizes are donated.) Please come and support this cause.

A special thanks to the OIG staff and friends who volunteered at the Capital Area Food Bank on Saturday August 14 packing food for distribution to local food pantries. OIGers who participated were Amy Berks, Toby Burt, Nick Coates, Emily Norton, Omer Poirier, Deanne Titus, Brian Uryga, and Sean Woods.

The Fed Feeds Families is also in need of school supplies. Let's make August the best month yet for food donations and school supplies.

-Toby Burt, Special Assistant, JM-1, DC and
Amy Berks, Senior Counsel, J-3, DC

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END SHOT

, (b)(6)

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**DID YOU
KNOW?**

OIG laptops have SD card readers built into them. Look in the front of the laptop, near the center. There should be a slit with a piece of plastic in it. Push the plastic in, and it should pop right out. Now it's ready to be inserted with an SD card. (Thanks to Scott Florcsk for the tip!)

**COMINGS & GOINGS**

There are no comings or goings this week!

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to [Christina Lee](mailto:Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov) (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov),
[Dan Raville](mailto:Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov) (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or [Karen Sloan](mailto:Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2010 AUDIT MANAGERS' MEETING, CHARLOTTE, NC

Congratulations to Lou Dixon and our JA managers for last week's highly successful meeting. I was pleased to spend several days with the group. Special thanks to Ann, Tim, Brian, and Susan for their outstanding presentations in the panel discussion on leadership that I moderated on Tuesday.

I appreciated the chance to speak to all our audit leaders and share my assessment that OIG now stands at a turning point. OIG's data in the recent Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey show that our human capital efforts ("People Always") over the last three years have gained traction and approval with many of our staff, and we now have the opportunity and responsibility to translate those accomplishments into mission gains ("Mission First"). I have



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challenged the AIGs to engage in an intensive planning effort over the next 120 days. We will obtain input from stakeholders to use in compiling a comprehensive list of issues and projects of key interest to decision makers; prioritize that list, and recognize the need for flexibility to accommodate unanticipated events (e.g., falling bridges); and determine resources to be matched to our work--with a 24-month time horizon. A focus will be to support the Department's top priority of transportation safety, and the "Safety Catalog"

created over the last year will be our springboard for this aspect of our planning.

My final take-away from this Managers' Meeting was that spirits and camaraderie were high, and we found many ways to enjoy the attractions of Charlotte and each other's company. Photographic evidence supporting this finding appears in this issue!

Best Regards,

Cal

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 8/23	TUESDAY, 8/24	WEDNESDAY, 8/25	THURSDAY, 8/26	FRIDAY, 8/27
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>ANN– Annual Leave</p> <p>TIM– Annual Leave</p> <p>BRIAN– OSTGA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)</p> <p>EEO Training (DC) — 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN– Annual Leave</p> <p>EEO Training (DC) — 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.</p>		JA All -Hands Webcast (1:00 p.m.)	

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)



Leadership Panel: Cal, Ann, Lou, and Tim. Not pictured: Brian Dettelbach and Susan Dailey.

MANAGERS' MEETING: Year of Leadership and Accountability

Leadership and accountability were the focus of the 2010 Managers' Meeting, held in Charlotte, NC. On the first morning, Cal reminded managers that while much has been accomplished in the past 3 years, progress must continue.

A panel of senior managers kicked off discussions on leadership by identifying key attributes and tips of effective leaders. Key attributes included competence, sensitivity, commitment, confidence, patience, and charisma. The value of regular, honest communication was underscored by several speakers on the panel. The managers were advised to empower staff to do their jobs but hold them accountable for their actions. Managers should model behavior that they want to see.

Two training sessions focused on trust and leading across the genera-

tions. Becky Kennedy focused on how trust is comprised of competence and character. Debra Alexander presented a picture of the current work environment with four generations working together.

Audit managers from across OIG gave briefings on all of last year's initiatives. Chris Brothers and Travis Wiley reported on the results of the Safety Catalog Initiative. Anita Visser and Marshall Anderson presented the EWP Task Force Results. Masha Pastuhov-Pastein updated the managers on the Community of Practice work group. Dave Pouliott reported on the Mentoring/Recruitment changes from last year. Tony Wysocki gave details on the JA/JI Coordinator work group.

Other speakers covered a variety of

(Continued on page 4)



Cal's Opening Remarks



Becky Kennedy, HR Specialist, Employee Development and Career Intern Program Manager, JM-20, DC

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)



Terry Letko, Acting AIG for JA-60, and Masha Pastuhov-Pastein, Project Manager, JA-60, DC



George Banks, Project Manager, JA-20, Baltimore



Lou "D-A-R-E"s managers to be accountable.



B.J. Leary, Project Manager, JA-10, Atlanta

(Continued from page 3)

timely topics. Omer Poirier spoke on new J-3 procedures for working with the audit teams, while Amy Berks covered the new FOIA requirements for workpapers. Len Meade and Allen Reid reviewed the results of the past peer review and the recent QARs. Madeline Chulumovich and John Long provided updates on ARRA.

Friday morning allowed each JA to begin creating their plans for the next 6 to 24 months. Each JA presented their plans to the group. The plans showed the desire for more matrixing and more cross-cutting work.

Lou Dixon wrapped up the week by presenting her vision for the audit division. She focused on setting stan-



Len Meade, Director, Quality Assurance Reviews and Internal Affairs, J-2, DC

dards, holding staff accountable, and leading by example. She gave the managers a D-A-R-E for the year: "D" for development, look outside the traditional courses; "A" for articulate accountability, let staff know what they're being held accountable for; "R" for read—read the Operating Procedure Manual, read the weekly clips, and read the reports and findings in an independent and objective manner; and "E" for execute the OIG process, set milestones for staff, and hold staff accountable to those milestones.

While a lot of work was accomplished during the week, managers had fun in the evenings, bowling, dining out, and some even rode a mechanical bull.

- Amanda Barton, Project Manager, J-2, DC



Jeff Guzzetti, Assistant IG for Aviation and Special Program Audits, JA-10, DC



Amy Berks, Senior Counsel, J-3, DC and Omer Poirier, Chief Counsel, J-3, DC

MANAGERS' MEETING: Talkin' bout Our Generations

OIG IN THE NEWS

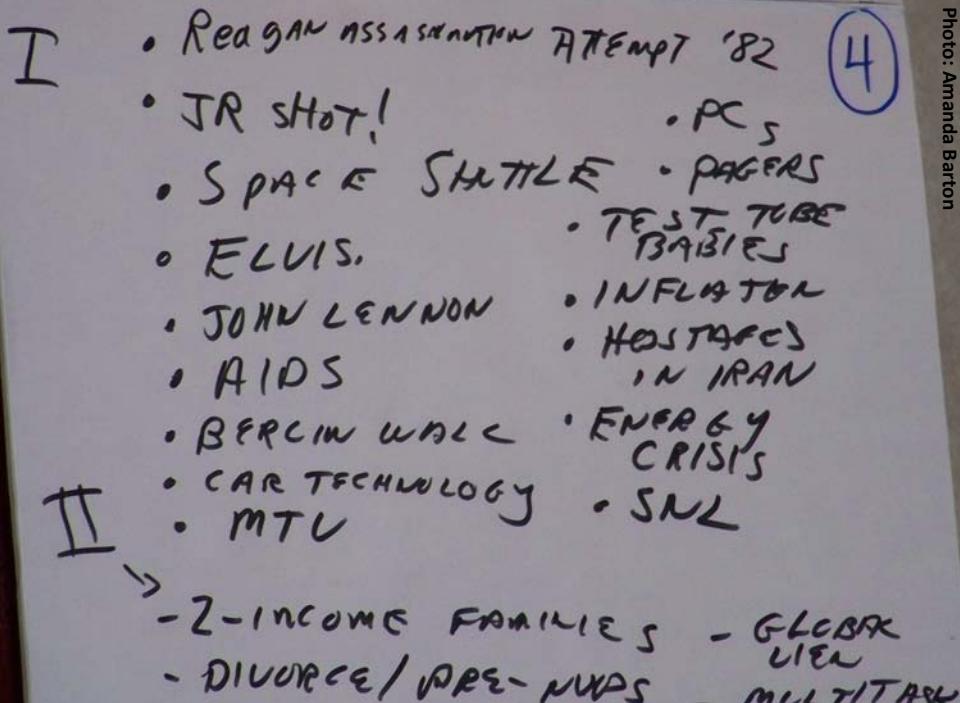


Photo: Amanda Barton

OIG managers received some insightful training at the manager's conference last week: "Leading Across Generations," taught by Debra Alexander, who is currently working with OIG's Training Center.

OIG's workforce spans four generations, often coined as Traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Gen X, and Gen Y/Millennials.

The class started with some questions that not only aged a few of us in the room (not me, of course) but made us realize just how much has changed in the work place. To give you an idea of what we were contemplating, ask yourself these questions: What generation are you?

What generational challenges have you experienced? What has changed since you started working? Quite a few of us remembered not having cell phones or a laptop to do work wherever you are—not to mention being wireless. Mind boggling.

Some of the things I walked away with from this training were to accept that not everyone walks, talks, and thinks alike. Be aware and strive to understand and accept generational differences. Although targeted for managers—many of whom are from the dark ages of technology and accustomed to processes—generational insight can help all of us better understand where we're coming from.

- Ann Wright, Project Manager, JA-60, DC

Schuylkill County Business Owner Pleads Guilty to \$136 Million Government Fraud

August 17, 2010

(*The Morning Call* on an OIG investigation)
<http://www.mcall.com/news/breaking/mc-government-fraud-guilty-plea-20100817,0,3022846.story>

A Schuylkill County business man pleaded guilty Monday to diverting \$136 million in federal contracts meant for minority-owned businesses to his own companies over 15 years, making it the largest fraud case in the history of the federal government's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, federal authorities said.

Ernest G. Fink Jr., 64, of Orwigsburg, pleaded guilty to wire and mail fraud charges Monday in federal court in Harrisburg. He faces up to five years in prison, \$250,000 in fines and must pay restitution, authorities said.

Fink was co-owner of concrete bridge beam manufacturer Schuylkill County Products Inc. and its subsidiary CDS Engineers Inc. until the Cressona companies were sold in April 2009 to Northeast Prestressed Products.

Fink and his business partner, Joseph W. Nagle of Deerfield Beach, Fla., were indicted in November 2009 on 32 counts of fraud, conspiracy and related charges for allegedly diverting funds to their engineering and concrete beam manufacturing businesses between 1993 and 2008 by using a West Haven, Conn., business owned by Romeo P. Cruz as a front.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI, the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General's Office, the U.S. Department of Labor Inspector General's Office, and the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Services.

OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA Computers Still Vulnerable to Cyber Attack

August 12, 2010

(Associated Press on an OIG review of FAA's cyber security in air traffic control facilities.)

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/
ap/article/
=ALeqM5jfl_HAJ5_Z1iyVn8lbo1YB0iiHD
QD9HI34SG0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/?=ALeqM5jfl_HAJ5_Z1iyVn8lbo1YB0iiHDQD9HI34SG0)

Federal Aviation Administration computer systems remain vulnerable to cyber attacks despite improvements at a number of key radar facilities in the past year, according to a new government review.

The Department of Transportation's Inspector General said while the FAA has taken steps to install more sophisticated systems to detect cyber intrusions in some air traffic control facilities, most sites have not been upgraded. And there is no timetable yet to complete the project, the IG said.

FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency is working on a timetable and will notify the IG with that information soon. The FAA also said that upgrades to critical air traffic control systems have taken precedence over the intrusion detection improvements at a number of facilities.

Without the detection abilities, the FAA cannot effectively monitor air traffic control for possible cyber attacks or take action to stop them, the inspector general said in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The findings echo broad U.S. government worries about gaps in critical U.S. computer systems and networks that leave them vulnerable to cyber attacks by criminals, terrorists or nation states.

MANAGERS' MEETING: Behind the Scenes, Part II

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Up Front and Personal: Controllers in Training



Photo: Chicago Tribune



I recently had the opportunity to travel with an audit team to Chicago and participate in interviews of facility managers and controllers. It was encouraging to see that with all of the concerns we report with FAA--which it is our job to find--that there are so many competent professionals out there in our nation's aviation workforce. One thing that really stood out for me was how dedicated the veteran controllers are to passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation.

We toured the new Chicago O'Hare air traffic control tower, which handles flights for one of the busiest airports in the world! In one of the rooms below the tower, we were able to view a training session with a new controller on a simulator. This is one of the most critical learning phases that all new controllers must pass during their 3 years of training.

Did you know that one simulator takes up an entire room? I didn't before this trip. But it's not exactly a video game for controllers with a couple of joysticks and some buttons. There are three wall-sized screens that project an exact replica of the runways and taxiways at O'Hare airport. The room is equipped with a full panel of controls and tracking systems used in the actual control tower. The simulator generates scenarios and problems that the trainees have to solve in real time, as they practice on-the-spot analysis and communication with pilots. Imagine the veteran controller as the most intensely paranoid back-seat driver you've ever met. "Why are doing that when you've got all this space over here? They are too close. What should

(Continued on page 8)

GREETINGS FROM THE HR DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Staff in the HR Development Center have been busy welcoming new staff members: Connie Harshaw, Acting Director, Joyce Mayeda (on detail from San Francisco), Yolanda Perry (new hire), and three Special Government Experts--Ben Alexander, Debra Alexander, and Michele Ginnerty. Please stop by and say hello!

The staff updated the training calendar located on OIG's very own intranet, which identifies key information on courses the staff will offer. If you go to the calendar and double-click on a particular course, you can get specific, detailed information such as course time, location, and instructor.

During the next few months, Ben Alexander will offer several mandatory EEO sessions in Washington DC as well as in several field locations. Check out the training calendar for a snap shot picture of all the sessions. By now, all staff should have signed up for one of these sessions by registering in eLMS.

Next week, we will offer new hire case study training for the new career interns within auditing that joined OIG within the past few months. This new course will allow staff to walk through each phase and decision point of a real OIG project. We will also offer the course again in September for other interested staff. Stay tuned for the specific date or go to the Training Calendar on the intranet.

As always, the HR Development Center looks to meet your training needs. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us.

- Becky Kennedy, HR Specialist,
Employee Development and Career
Intern Program Manager, JM-20, DC

(Continued from page 7)

you do? Yes, but now you've created another problem over here." Geez...and I thought my mother was bad. She's got nothing on these guys! But seriously, the intensity of that session was great to see, and it was wonderful to watch the controller-in-training learn and adjust so quickly.

So, when our flight home (from O'Hare to Reagan) got delayed a few hours later, I remembered those controllers up in the tower who had made it through hundreds of hours on that simulator--and had probably gone on to train countless others-- and thought, "No worries. I guess those guys know what they're doing."

- Andrea Nossaman, Writer-Editor, JA-10, DC

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Christina Lee** (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov),
Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



"I am honored and excited to assume this expanded role."

MEET OUR NEW CHIEF OF STAFF

Last week, Cal announced that Madeline Chulumovich (Ka-lum-o-vich) will be taking on a new role as Chief of Staff (C/S). As C/S, Madeline will be working closely with Cal and me to facilitate communication among key stakeholders, maintain attention on priority matters, and meet the myriad of demands created by our various new initiatives. In addition to helping Cal and me keep OIG's day-to-day business running smoothly, Madeline will be working with other OIG managers and staff to maintain momentum on cross-cutting projects, such as the Community of Practice program, an all-OIG mentoring program, *The Inspector* newsletter, and our semi-annual reports.

As Cal noted in his e-mail, Madeline brings a wealth of experience both inside our organization and from the broader accountability

community. Anyone who has worked with Madeline is well aware that she is uniquely suited to the C/S position, given her 7 years' experience working in key leadership positions across OIG and her similar role at NASA OIG.

"With my recovery related work tapering off, I am honored and excited to assume this expanded role and look forward to continued work at the direction of the front office—and with all of you as I assist in achieving a renewed mission/vision and related initiatives," Madeline said. "Thank you all in advance for your support and assistance."

I welcome Madeline to this important role as we all work together on the wide range of projects and priorities we set out for our office. Congratulations Madeline!

Ann Calvaresi-Barr

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 8/16	TUESDAY, 8/17	WEDNESDAY, 8/18	THURSDAY, 8/19	FRIDAY, 8/20
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL– CIGIE Mtg. (10:00 a.m.)</p>	BRIAN– Annual Leave			CAL– Tour of Mount Weather– Emergency Operations Center (9:00 a.m.)

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

House and Senate Appropriations Bills Recognize the Value of OIG's Work

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees recently acted upon their distinct versions of the bills from which we obtain our annual funding. While not yet law, these bills provide us a good indication of the funding we will receive, along with mandates and directives each Chamber expects us to answer.

Summaries of both bills can be found [here on J3's Sharepoint page](#) (titled: "FY2011 House Appr Summary Final" and "FY2011 Senate Appr Summary final"). You will find links to the bills and reports as well.

Because of all your hard work, both Committees in their respective reports accompanying the bills included positive language about OIG:

From the [House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation/Housing and Urban Development report](#):

"The Committee continues to value the work of the OIG in its oversight of departmental programs and activities and is committed to providing the Inspector General with the resources necessary to ensure that the office continues to complete its mission at the highest level."

From the [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation/Housing and Urban Development report](#):

"The Committee relies on the Inspector General and his staff to provide objective analysis of the Department's programs. These programs will continue to

grow increasingly complex...The OIG must have the ability to monitor all of these Department programs and initiatives at the Department, to respond to congressional requests, and to initiate audits as necessary."

It remains unclear at this point whether Congress will enact its appropriations bills individually, or whether they will do as in recent memory and roll them up into an omnibus. Stay tuned.

Should you have any questions about the bills or the appropriations process, please feel free to contact me or Nathan Richmond.

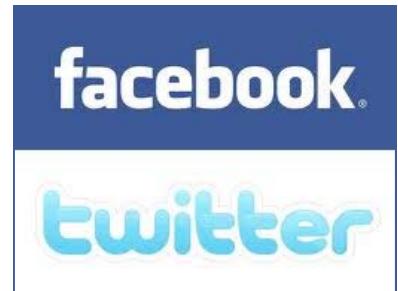
- Dave Wonnenberg, Congressional and Public Affairs Officer, J

-3, DC

HOT TOPICS IN ETHICS

New Guidance on Use of Social Media Websites and the Hatch Act

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has published new guidelines in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQ) on how the Hatch Act applies to Federal employees' use of online social media websites such as Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter. As you may know, the Hatch Act restricts your political activity in support of or in opposition to a partisan political candidate, party, or group. While members of the Senior Executive Service are considered "further restricted employees" and, consequently, are subject to further restrictions, general schedule (GS) employees should bear in mind the following guidance from OSC as to what "political activity" means in the context of social media.



You are subject to the Hatch Act at *all* times, even if you use an alias when posting online. During official hours and using government resources, you are not allowed to engage in political activity in support of or in opposition to a partisan political candidate, party, or group. When off duty and not using government resources:

YOU CAN...

- ◆ Write a blog in support of a partisan candidate, party, or group, as long as you do not bolster your argument by invoking your status as a Federal employee when doing so.
- ◆ List both your job and your political affiliation as part of your online personal information. OSC deems this to be a simple description of fact, not "political activity".
- ◆ "Follow" or "like" partisan candidates.

YOU CANNOT...

- ◆ Send messages that specifically target coworkers that relate to partisan political candidates, parties, or groups.
- ◆ Solicit or accept donations on behalf of a political candidate, group, or party.
- ◆ OSC also considers linking to a web page that accepts donations to be soliciting donations.
- ◆ If others post such materials on your Facebook wall or Twitter feed, you are not required to remove that material. However, you may not personally encourage others to donate.

If you have any questions regarding the Hatch Act and social media, you can view the [FAQ prepared by OSC](#) or view [Hatch Act materials](#) on the intranet . For advice on specific matters relating to ethics or the Hatch Act, contact your ethics officials, Seth Kaufman and Fritz Swizzlesticks.

-Brian Guayante, Summer Undergraduate Intern, J-3, DC*

* The author is a summer undergraduate intern with J-3. He is a senior at the University of California, Riverside, where he will graduate with a degree in Political Science in June 2011.

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NATIONAL FRAUD AWARENESS CONFERENCE

This years National Fraud Awareness Conference on Transportation held in Washington, DC July 26th-29th was a huge success. Speakers included The Honorable John D. Porcari—Deputy Secretary for DOT, The Honorable James L. Oberstar, U.S. House of Representatives, Helen Lew, the first IG for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), representatives from state DOT's including VDOT, DDOT, DelDOT, MDOT, NCDOT, and some of OIG's very own including [REDACTED] (b)(6) -

(b)(6) Tim Barry—PAIGI, [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED], and Cal, our IG. There were fantastic speakers, great conversation, and delicious food. A special thanks to the sponsors (shown above, and [REDACTED] (b)(6) not shown here) who made this years' conference a big success!

-Heather Voda Analyst, JA-60, DC

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 8/9	TUESDAY, 8/10	WEDNESDAY, 8/11	THURSDAY, 8/12	FRIDAY, 8/13
SPECIAL MEETINGS			Audit Managers Conference		

Audit Managers Conference

House and Senate on Recess

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

BILL H.R. 5900— SHORT TERM EXTENSION OF FAA AUTHORIZATION

The H.R. 5900 Bill has cleared the House and Senate and was signed into the law by the President on Sunday August 1st. The bill is not just another extension of the FAA authorization, but now includes FAA safety provisions on pilot training and fatigue and other aviation issues brought to light in the aftermath of last year's Colgan crash.

[Bill H.R. 5900 CQ.com Article](#)



NOTEWORTHY

SUPERVISOR 1 TRAINING

The first phase of our OIG Introduction to Supervision course wrapped up in June out in San Francisco. More than 98% of our current supervisors successfully completed the courses held in Washington, Atlanta and San Francisco. We launched our exciting new "hub" concept, which was designed to give our employees in the field better access to training. We have established two hubs, one in Atlanta for our east coast field employees, and one in San Francisco for those employees out west. We are anxious to get feedback on this new concept and if positive, we will use it again for many of the training courses planned. Stay tuned, Sup II is scheduled for launch at the end of September and will run through the first and second quarters of the next fiscal year.

-Connie Harshaw, JM-20, DC



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

National Fraud Awareness Conference (Cont.)

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At the conference

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



JOE COMÉ SPEAKS OUT

Congratulations to Joe Comé, Assistant Inspector General for Highway and Transit Audits, for delivering his first testimony to Congress. On July 21, Joe testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit regarding FHWA's Oversight of the Highway Bridge Program and the National Bridge Inspection Program. Joe's testimony gave us the opportunity to update Con-

gress on our audit work since Cal was the witness in two testimonies after the collapse of the Interstate 35W Bridge. These took place in September 2007 before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. For Joe's testimony, both Rep. DeFazio (OR), chairman of the subcommittee, and Rep. Oberstar (MN), chairman of the full committee, were

present and posed questions to Joe and the other witnesses. Along with Ranking Member Duncan (TN), 12 other members representing numerous states across the country asked questions. Joe was quick on his feet and agile in fielding questions that covered many different areas of bridge safety.

-Eric Mader
Program Director, JA-40, DC

USE OUR NEW VIDEO LINK FEATURE TO CHECK OUT JOE IN ACTION!

You can view Joe's entire hearing via the *video link feature*, the newest feature on our OIG website: <http://www.oig.dot.gov/library-item/5364>. Future hearings will be added to the website, if video links are available.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 8/2	TUESDAY, 8/3	WEDNESDAY, 8/4	THURSDAY, 8/5	FRIDAY, 8/6
SPECIAL MEETINGS	SES Retreat (8 a.m.—5 p.m.)			CAL, ANN, LOU, TIM, BRIAN —Meeting with NTSB Chairman and Staff (12:30 p.m.)	ANN—Deputy IG Group Meeting (10 a.m.)

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

ACCOLADES FROM THE APPROPRIATORS!

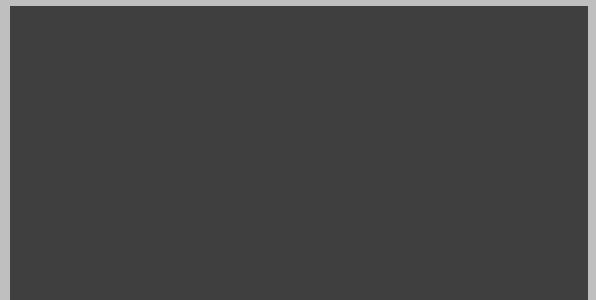
The House Appropriations Committee passed its version of our bill recently. In it, they included some very favorable language about OIG. A significant step for our JM folks is the inclusion of a provision that enables us to receive our funding directly, and not have to seek payment from the modes we audit/investigate. The Committee recognized all of the hard work our OIG team puts in -- including the following statements in their Committee Report ([which can be found on our Sharepoint page](#) along with [the bill text](#)):

- ◆ "The Committee recommendation provides \$86,406,000 for activities of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), an increase of \$11,292,000 above fiscal year 2010 and \$6,634,000 above the budget request..."
- ◆ "*New or expanded programs*—In addition to the mandatory cost increases...the Committee recommendation includes \$2,202,000, as requested, for the OIG to expand existing programs or embark on new initiatives. Included within this amount is \$1,525,000 to fund the salaries, benefits, and operating costs associated with 8 additional FTE. The Committee continues to value the work of the OIG in its oversight of departmental programs and activities and is committed to providing the Inspector General with the resources necessary to ensure that the office continues to complete its mission at the highest level..."
- ◆ "The Committee recommends fully funding the OIG through a direct appropriation, rather than relying on transfers and offsetting collections. The Committee believes that this provides greater transparency with regard to the actual funding level of the office and eliminates the need for the OIG to rely on receiving funding from the agencies it is auditing."

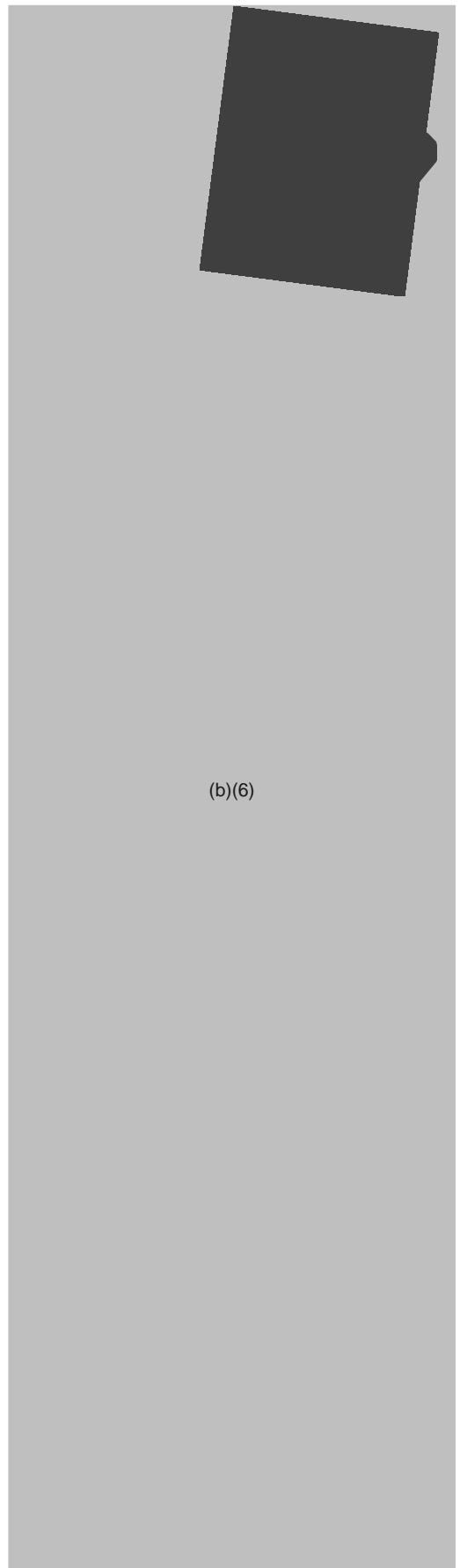
- David Wonnenberg, Congressional and Public Affairs Officer, J-3, DC

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NOTEWORTHY



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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA Didn't Oversee Northwest Airlines as it Should Have, Report Says

July 23, 2010

(*The Dallas Morning News* on an OIG review of FAA's compliance with airworthiness directives)

<http://aviationblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2010/07/faa-didnt-oversee-northwest-ai.html>

In 2008, a Federal Aviation Administration inspector alleged that the FAA wasn't overseeing Northwest Airlines properly, and wasn't making Northwest comply with airworthiness directives.

The OSC in 2008 referred the complaint from inspector Mark Lund to the U.S. Department of Transportation, which assigned the case to its Office of Inspector General.

This was all happening around the time the FAA was under intense scrutiny because of various whistleblower complaints involving other carriers, including Southwest Airlines and American Airlines.

Under fire, the FAA ordered a national "special emphasis review" to check carriers for compliance with airworthiness directives and the FAA's oversight of the process.

The OIG probe found that during that 2008 review, the FAA office in Minnesota found 14 "instances of non-compliance" at Northwest, the letter to Obama stated:

OIG noted that this number, which was one of the highest of all airlines reviewed, was significantly higher than the eight items of non-compliance identified by NWA CMO [chief maintenance office] over the previous four years.

OIG found that NWA CMO's inability to identify these weaknesses during a safety attribute inspection conducted just one month prior to the national special emphasis review "indicates serious deficiencies in FAA's regular oversight."

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week!

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Christina Lee (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov), Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or Karen Sloan (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

JULY 22, 2010

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 7/26	TUESDAY, 7/27	WEDNESDAY, 7/28	THURSDAY, 7/29	FRIDAY, 7/30
SPECIAL MEETINGS	BRIAN – OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	CAL – Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) CAL – Speech– National Fraud Awareness Conference (10:45 a.m.) CAL, ANN, LOU & TIM – S2 Briefing on OIG’s OST-M Efforts (3:45 p.m.) BRIAN – EMT Congressional (10:00 a.m.)			CAL – S2 Updates (10:00 a.m.)

← National Fraud Awareness Conference. →

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

Testimony on FHWA Oversight

On July 21, Joe Comé, Assistant Inspector General for Highway and Transit Audits, testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit regarding FHWA's oversight of the Highway Bridge Program and the National Bridge Inspection Program.

NOTEWORTHY

National Fraud Awareness Conference To Be Held Next Week

OIG, along with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and several state DOT agencies are co-sponsoring the Sixth Biennial National Fraud Awareness Conference on Transportation Infrastructure Programs scheduled for July 26-29, 2010 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia. The primary conference goals are to sharpen awareness of fraud schemes; share best investigative, audit, and oversight practices; and strengthen work relationships for the expected 350-400 attendees. Among these attendees will be attorneys, auditors, engineers, contract and procurement officers, investigators, and law enforcement personnel from all levels of government. In addition, the conference will be open to transportation industry representatives and the media. Deputy Secretary John Porcari will deliver the Keynote address and will be introduced by Cal.



The conference is a unique opportunity to educate federal, state, and local employees as well as the private sector on prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse and how to protect the taxpayers investments. The agenda will cover issues related to stewardship and oversight challenges of AARA projects, disadvantage business enterprise and other fraudulent schemes, audit practices, essentials on how to avoid while ensuring the safety of Infrastructure projects, as well as contract, grant and anti-trust fraud.

Where's All The Food Going? Volunteer and Find Out!



The Capital Area Food Bank (CAF) is the recipient of the food donations from the Feds Feed Families campaign in the DC area - but that's just a starting point. The CAFB then sorts and packages that food for distribution to over 700 partner agencies in DC, Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The partner agencies either use the food to prepare meals that are served to the hungry or provide the food directly to area families.

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Feds Feed Families has a goal of collecting and donating 1.2 million pounds of food. That seems enormous until you realize that CAFB distributes 1.9 million pounds of food each month -- approximately 23 million pounds of food each year. In addition to food drives, the CAFB receives food from producers, retailers, growers, and others.

Unfortunately, the need for this service is equally large. In the Washington Metro Area, more than 633,000 residents are at risk of or experiencing hunger; 200,000 are children. And the numbers continue to go up as a recent study found that an estimated 88,400 people receive emergency food assistance each week from a food pantry, soup kitchen, or other agency served by the Capital Area Food Bank – 19,000 more than four years ago.

Remember to bring in your contribution for the OIG collection bins. Then get hands-on and come see for yourself the size of the operation at CAFB. **Volunteer with other OIG employees, family and friends at the CAFB Warehouse in Northeast DC on Saturday, August 14 from 1-4.** Email Amy Berks to sign up for this volunteer event and for more information. Each OIG employee can sign up with one guest; children must be 12 or older.

- Amy Berks, Associate Council, J-3, Washington, DC

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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OIG IN THE NEWS**Front Office****FAA Criticized for IT Security**

June 28, 2010

(*Government Information Security* on a JA-20 audit report)

[http://www.govinfosecurity.com/
articles.php?art_id=2698](http://www.govinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=2698)

The Federal Aviation Administration is inadequately securing medical and personal information on the more than 3 million airmen who it certifies as being fit to operate an aircraft, according to a new government [report](#).

The Office of the Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Transportation said its findings mean that airmen's information is "vulnerable to unauthorized access and use and potential falsification of medical certificates that could lead to unfit airmen being medically certified to fly."

NYC Flight Options Rise as Longest JFK Runway Reopens

June 29, 2010

(*Bloomberg Business Week* on a JA-10 audit report)

[http://www.businessweek.com/
news/2010-06-29/nyc-flight-options-rise-
as-longest-jfk-runway-reopens.html](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-29/nyc-flight-options-rise-as-longest-jfk-runway-reopens.html)

New Yorkers will have more flight choices and fewer delays as the longest runway at John F. Kennedy International Airport reopens this week after a four-month closure for a \$348 million repaving and updating.

Carriers including JetBlue Airways Corp. and Delta Air Lines Inc. will restore normal schedules on runway 13R-31L on July 1, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said today. Located on the airport's bay side, the runway measures 14,572 feet (4.44 kilometers), making it the second-longest commercial landing strip in the U.S. after one in Denver.

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OIG IN THE NEWS (cont.)

Louisiana CDL Third-Party Examiner Sentenced

June 28, 2010

(Commercial Carrier Journal on an OIG JI investigation)

<http://www.ccdigital.com/louisiana-cdl-third-party-examiner-sentenced/>

(b)(6)

Harold G. Stewart was sentenced June 17 in U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge, La., to serve five years probation and 25 hours of community service, was assessed a \$500 fine and was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$7,316.03 to the State of Louisiana's Department of Public Safety for expenses the State incurred to recall and retest the drivers who obtained commercial driver's licenses through Stewart.

END SHOT

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The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General said the investigation began following a LADPS-OMV compliance review wherein it was discovered that Stewart tested a large number of CDL candidates with no failure ratings, which was a fraud indicator.

Concern Over Near-Collisions

July 20, 2010

(The Washington Post on an OIG JI investigation)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/19/AR2010071905314.html>**COMINGS & GOINGS**

(b)(6)

All three of the near-collisions are being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board as it shoulders greater responsibility for scrutiny of the crowded skies and the air traffic controllers who manage them.

"Recent Department of Transportation Inspector General investigations have documented repeated failures to report incidents, misclassification of incidents, and other circumstances which lead the NTSB, as an independent agency, to seek additional means of monitoring the performance of the ATC system."

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Christina Lee (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov), Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or Karen Sloan (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(b)(6)

Ann with Supervisory 1 Training Students

GEORGIA ON HER MIND....

On June 7th, Ann-Calvaresi-Barr arrived in Atlanta, Georgia to continue her tour of the OIG regional offices. During her visit, she conducted staff meetings with JA and JI, attended Supervisory Training [REDACTED] (b)(6). Although her schedule was demanding, she also made time to meet with the Atlanta staff in one-on-one sessions. Everyone was pleased that Ann was able to finally visit our fair city.

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

We enjoyed playing host to Ann as well as our colleagues from Cambridge, Chicago, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and D.C.--who were also here for the supervisory training. It was great to meet fellow OIGers from around the country and be able to put faces to names....not to mention, share a great meal. By the end of the week, Ann had experienced the true meaning of "southern hospitality"! We hoped she enjoyed her visit down south as much as we enjoyed having her.

Y'all come back now, ya hear?

-Sara Gragg & Tariesha Snell, Analysts, JA-10, Atlanta

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 6/28	TUESDAY, 6/29	WEDNESDAY, 6/30	THURSDAY, 7/1	FRIDAY, 7/2
SPECIAL MEETINGS	ANN & SUSAN – Mtg. with OMB, Office of E-Gov & IT (10:00 p.m.) BRIAN – OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Meeting (4:00 p.m.)	CAL – Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) BRIAN – EMT Congressional Mtg. (10:30 p.m.)	CAL, ANN, BRIAN, TIM, SUSAN & LOU – Meet and Greet with Career Interns (9:00 a.m.)	CAL – S2 Updates (11:00 a.m.) ANN – JM-10 overview Mtg. (2:00 p.m.) CAL – RATB/CIGIE Working Group (1:00 p.m.)	

HOT TOPICS IN ETHICS

The [New Employee Handbook](#) now includes various ethics materials that seasoned Feds might also find helpful. In addition to the Standards of Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, employees will find a memo from Brian Dettelbach outlining the Agency's ethics program. For the politically active, there is an overview of the Hatch Act, which governs Executive Branch employees' participation in partisan politics. Fortunately, the 2009 Confidential Financial Disclosures (OGE 450) have been completed, but you will find a list of positions that require a financial disclosure, tips for filling out your 450, and the form itself. We will be working on additional steps to make more ethics-related material available to employees, so please stay tuned.

-Fritz Snickelfritz, Associate Counsel, J-3



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New Employee Handbook


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OIG New Employee Handbook

General Information

- GI-1: [New Employee Checklist](#)
- GI-2: [About the Office of Inspector General](#)
- GI-3: [OIG Organization Chart](#)
- GI-4: [Area Map \(HQ Specific\)](#)
- GI-5: [Metro System Map \(HQ Specific\)](#)
- GI-6: [DOT Fitness \(HQ Specific\)](#)
- GI-7: [Safety Orientation for New Building \(HQ Specific\)](#)

The New Employee Handbook is now available on Sharepoint.

NOTEWORTHY

DOT OIG Hosts Brown Bag on FOIA for the Council of Counsels to the Inspector General

The Council of Counsels to the Inspector General (CCIG) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Overview Brown Bag Lunch was held at OIG headquarters on June 14th for summer law interns from the IG community. The event was hosted by the DOT OIG.

The *CCIG* is an informal group of Federal *Inspector General* Attorneys



who meet periodically, and otherwise communicate, to share information and discuss common OIG legal issues. These gatherings are a great opportunity for the OIG community to meet and share thoughts. Members of the CCIG Legal Intern Planning Committee organize several events for the Summer Legal Intern Program which gives OIG interns from throughout the Federal Government a forum to meet and an opportunity to learn more about the OIG community and working in the public sector.

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The brown bag gathering opened with our Inspector General Scovel giving a warm welcome to the group and speaking about FOIA as related to the significant progress we have made in handling FOIA requests. The speakers at this event were Kenneth D. Chason, Counsel to the Inspector General, National Science Foundation, and Jennifer Ashworth Kendrick, Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security. They provided an excellent overview of FOIA and issues that students might encounter while working in this area of law during their summer internships.

Approximately 30 people attended the brown bag lunch. J-3 was well represented in the crowd by AIG Brian Dettelbach and the four DOT summer law interns (Dennis Cheng, Roger Ling, Kate Macinnis and Aaron Schnur.) It was my pleasure to organize this event for the CCIG Legal Intern Planning Committee and see it through to fruition.

-Barbara A. Hines, Attorney Advisor, J-3

OIG IN THE NEWS

FAA's Aviation Revamp Puts Tax Dollars at Risk, U.S. Says

JUNE 21, 2010

(Bloomberg on an OIG NextGen audit report)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-21/faa-s-40-billion-aviation-revamp-puts-taxpayer-dollars-at-risk-u-s-says.html>

A \$40 billion overhaul of the U.S. aviation control network may put tax dollars at risk as regulators have so far failed to set realistic goals and coordinate with other agencies, a government [report](#) said.

FAA hasn't estimated costs or set a schedule for most events in an upgrade called NextGen, the Transportation Department's Inspector General said in a report. The agency made just 11 of 51 key decisions scheduled for the year ended Sept. 30 on matters such as costs for technology to track the weather, according to the report.

FAA Not Ready For Air Traffic Upgrade

JUNE 21, 2010

(Information Week on an OIG NextGen audit report)

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/enterprise-apps/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=225700820&subSection=News>

FAA needs to do more planning in order to ensure that NextGen, its long-term air traffic control system upgrade, is successful, the FAA's inspector general said in a new report.

The report, requested by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, says that the FAA needs to take a number of steps before it moves from a planning to an implementation phase of its two-decade, multi-billion dollar project.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Overview of OIG's IT Steering Committee



The purpose of the IT Steering Committee (ITSC) is to provide a voice for the OIG community and give feedback to DOT/OIG Chief Information Officer (CIO) and senior management on IT initiatives, ensure alignment of IT with business objectives and help define the future roadmap for our department. The ITSC is part of the DOT/OIG overall strategic goal to promote organizational and workforce excellence by contributing to the enhancement of DOT/OIG business processes to improve our operations in order to deliver quality planning and operations.

The ITSC is led by the Chief Information Officer and made up of representatives of the OIG community and the Information Technology (IT) office.

ITSC members are responsible for:

- ◆ Voicing opinions on project priorities
- ◆ Defining project success measures
- ◆ Assessing IT initiatives for strategic fit and alignment with business objectives
- ◆ Performing portfolio reviews for ongoing strategic relevance

ITSC IT office members are responsible for:

- ◆ Providing technology guidelines
- ◆ Monitoring relevance of latest developments in IT from a business perspective
- ◆ Advising on the selection of technology within Enterprise Architecture standards

We are launching our communication and outreach effort. You can access our intranet website which contains Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), IT initiatives, activities, explanations of policies and procedures in order to keep the entire organization abreast of the efforts to improve our IT infrastructure and work environment at <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/itsc> (under "Committees" on the Intranet top menu bar). In addition to the official launch of the website, there will be upcoming brown bag sessions on IT initiatives that affect our daily work life here at DOT/OIG.

Report: NextGen "May Not Deliver"

June 22, 2010

(AV Web on an OIG NextGen audit report)

[http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/
news/](http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/)

[ReportNextGenMayNotDeliver_202762-1.html](#)

The FAA is falling short in developing the NextGen airspace system, according to a report ([PDF](#)) released last week by the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General. Unless the FAA can do a better job of maximizing resources and controlling costs, "NextGen may not deliver the expected long-term benefits and ultimately puts billions of taxpayer dollars at risk," the report says. "FAA has not yet acquired the necessary skill sets and expertise to successfully implement NextGen."

END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Watchdog: FAA's NextGen at Risk

JUNE 22, 2010

(*Air Transport Intelligence News* on an OIG NextGen audit report)

[http://www.flightglobal.com/
articles/2010/06/22/343553/
watchdog-faas-nextgen-at-risk.html](http://www.flightglobal.com/articles/2010/06/22/343553/watchdog-faas-nextgen-at-risk.html)

The DOT OIG has issued a report critical of the FAA's performance in launching the next generation air transportation system (NextGen). "Not taking timely action on these issues now could delay FAA's plans to transition to NextGen," writes **Lou Dixon, DOT's principal assistant inspector general (IG)** in the 16 June report.

FAA through NextGen is planning to create an air traffic system by 2025 that can handle three times more traffic and at the same time reduce its operating costs.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Christina Lee** (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov), **Dan Raville** (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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MISSION POSSIBLE— REGION 3 JI-2 INSERVICE TRAINING

On June 9th and 10th Agents from Region 3, and the National Investigative Programs and Operations Division (JI-2) participated in a regional in-service held in the Washington, D.C. area. As part of their mandatory training requirements, OIG Special Agents must periodically attend legal refresher training, defensive tactics and arrest techniques, and judgment shooting courses. Instructors for the training come from in-house, such as Nick Coats from J-3; an outside organization such as from HHS-OIG for our defensive tactics and arrest techniques training; or a combination such as from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and from our own staff, (b)(6) for judgment shooting.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 7/5	TUESDAY, 7/6	WEDNESDAY, 7/7	THURSDAY, 7/8	FRIDAY, 7/9
SPECIAL MEETINGS	 Observed Holiday for 4th of July!	CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)		Farewell Reception for Margaret Uckert & Velma Crawford (noon)	CAL– RATB Mtg. (1:00 p.m.)
CONGRESSIONAL			← → ANN– Annual Leave	← → BRIAN– Annual Leave	

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

FEDS Feed Families

DOT along with OIG have kicked off the Fed Feeds Families Food Drive. Feds Feed Families is a government-wide effort led by the [Office of Personnel Management \(OPM\)](#).

Food banks across the National Capital Region and around the country are facing severe shortages of nonperishable items, just as summer leaves more children without school nutrition programs. Federal employees nationwide are stepping up to meet this challenge by gathering 1,200,000 pounds of nonperishable food for families in need.



OIG kicked off its drive with a continental breakfast. Breakfast foods were the theme for the month of June. Participants were provided breakfast in return for donated food items. This kick off was very successful. We have filled one box with donated items and working on a second. Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause. OIG has established a Fed Feed Families Committee as previously communicated by AIG Susan Dailey. Committee members are:

Amanda Barton, JA-2

Amy Berks, J-3

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Toby Burt, JM-1

Deborah Bryant, JA-40

Eileen Vidal-Codispot, JI-2

Barbara Green, JM-20

Shannon Jarvis, JA-60

Craig Owens, JA-10

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Additionally, Mamadouhi Amitra has volunteered to serve as coordinator of this effort for JA-10 in San Francisco. A special thanks to all the volunteers who agreed to help with these efforts.

This initiative is scheduled for June, July, and August. Boxes are placed at the elevators at Headquarters to collect nonperishable donations. Field offices are encouraged to identify local food banks for their office donations. Please review the attached most wanted list for ideas on items to donate.

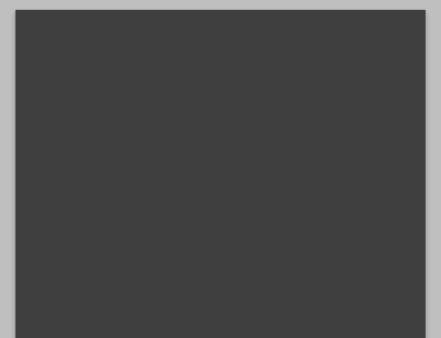
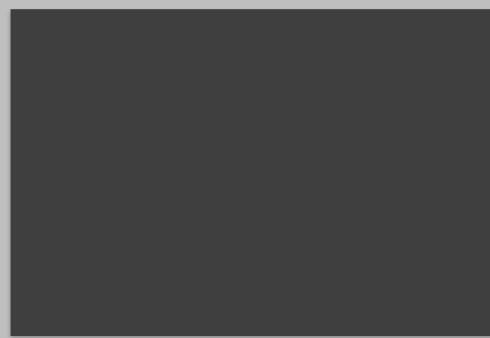
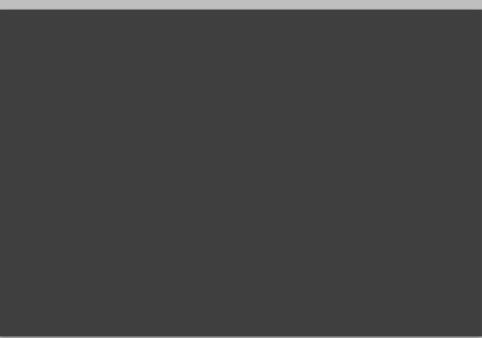
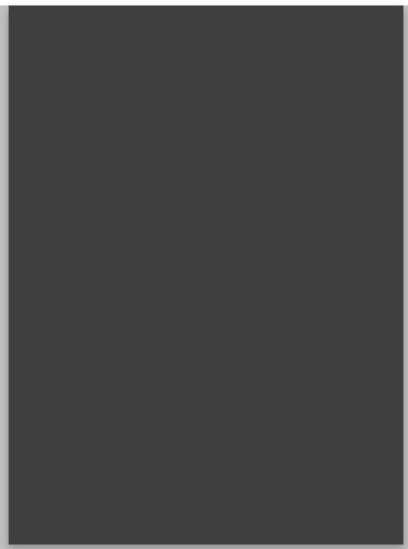


2010 Most Wanted List.pdf

The OIG Committee will be establishing a Food theme for the month July and will be communicating it to you shortly. We are hoping for even greater success in July. Thanks again to all who are participating to make OIG the most successful of all the modes in the Fed Feed Families Food Drive.

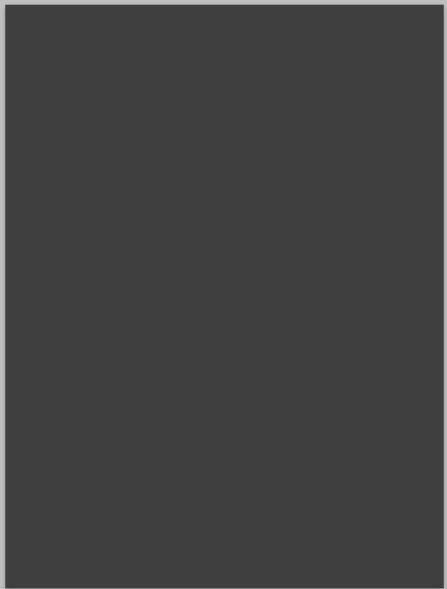
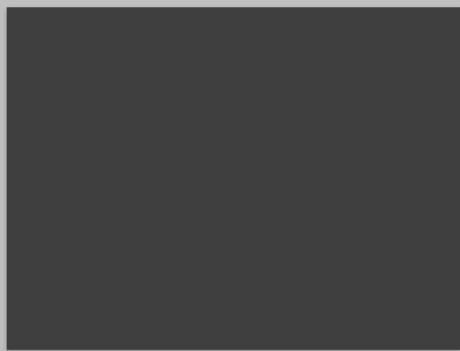
NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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DOT Inspector General Cites Causes For FAA Outage In 2009

June 23, 2010

(*Aviation Online Magazine* on an OIG audit of an FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure outage)

http://avstop.com/news_june_2010/dot_inspector_general_sites_causes_for_faa_outage_in_2009.htm

Department of Transportation (DOT) issued their review of an FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure (FTI) outage that occurred on November 19, 2009, delaying thousands of travelers and grounding hundreds of flights nationwide. The review was requested by the Chairmen of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Subcommittee on Aviation.

IG Review Faults FAA NextGen Efforts

JUNE 23, 2010

(*Aviation Week* on an OIG NextGen analysis)

<http://www.aviationnow.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/avd/2010/06/23/06.xml&headline=IG%20Review%20Faults%20FAA%20NextGen%20Efforts&channel=comm>

The FAA must do more to include and coordinate the work of other agencies on the NextGen initiative, and also review industry involvement, according to a new government report.

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The U.S. Transportation Department's Inspector General (IG) conducted a sweeping analysis of the NextGen program at the request of Congress. In general, the IG says, "A number of critical actions are still needed to move NextGen from planning to implementation," and "not taking timely action on these issues could delay FAA's plans to transition to NextGen."

COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week!

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to Christina Lee (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov), Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or Karen Sloan (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Ann with John Sysak, Project Manager, JA-20, Baltimore, MD.

ANN ROCKS ARRA AT THE MIDATLANTIC INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM by Christina Lee

Last Thursday, our DIG, Ann Calvaresi-Barr, was the keynote speaker at the Mid Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forum Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. According to John Sysak from our JA-20 Baltimore office, who attended the conference, Ann wowed the Federal, state, and local participants with a presentation on our ARRA work. The presentation, "Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the Department of Transportation," was developed with the help of Madeline Chulumovich, Special Assistant for ARRA, and a "green" video team comprised of Karen Sloan, Scott Florcik, and Heather Voda.

After a brief introduction on DOT OIG's mission, our recent audit and investigation work, and ARRA funding for DOT, Ann cued up the video, noting that "ARRA is an extraordinary response to a

crisis unlike any since the Great Depression...some may even call it a *revolution*." The 3-minute video, "[Rock ARRA](#)," showed images of collapsed bridges, snarled traffic, overturned trucks, and other transportation woes set to Woody Guthrie's American folk anthem "This Land is Your Land," followed by ARRA construction signs and projects set to the Beatles' "Revolution." The video ended with short ARRA-related clips from Cal's testimony on Suspension and Debarment and Ann's testimony on High Speed Rail.

Following the video, Ann's presentation showcased our ARRA work, covering topics such Recovery Act challenges; OIG's three-phase, risk-based oversight strategy; and government-wide OIG Recovery Act initiatives. Ann took great pride in discussing our many ARRA

achievements, including the number of ARRA-related cases that have been accepted for prosecution—making us the lead OIG in combating fraud and abuse.

Participant interest in our work was clear, as Ann's 75-minute time slot ran over to 90 minutes. "DOT OIG is really recognized in the community for the scope of the work we cover and our terrific results," Ann said. According to Ann, forum participants were particularly interested in our advisories, reporting structures and processes, and our fraud outreach and networking strategies. "In fact, DHS, Treasury, and GSA IGs have requested to meet with us to share some of our ideas and best practices," Ann said. "It is an honor to represent our stellar organization and demonstrate the difference our collaborative efforts are making."

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 6/14	TUESDAY, 6/15	WEDNESDAY, 6/16	THURSDAY, 6/17	FRIDAY, 6/18
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>CAL – Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan Mtg. (10:00 a.m.)</p> <p>TIM – JRI-3 Office Visit (1:00 p.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN – OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Meeting (4:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>CAL– Updates with S2 (8:00 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL & BRIAN– CIGIE Mtg. (10:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>SUSAN– Monthly AMC/WCF Meeting (2:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>CAL & LOU– JA-50 Strategic Planning Session Panel (9:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>CAL– Out of Office</p> <p>TIM– Out of Office</p>

← → **ANN**– TDY- San Francisco

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****NEW** EMPLOYEE PROFILES**

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NOTEWORTHY

JA-10's Atlanta Heads to AZ and TX for Audit on Pilot Training Programs

The JA-10 Atlanta Pilot Training Audit Team (including Marshall Jackson, Curt Boettcher, Stefanie McCans, Travis Wiley, Marshall Anderson) spent 11 days in Phoenix, AZ and Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX in May, visiting four air carriers and their respective FAA district offices.

In these two cities, the team met with operations inspectors and training department personnel from Mesa Airlines, Freedom Airlines, American Eagle, and Southwest Airlines, and their respective Certificate Management Offices.



Captain McCans and First Officer Anderson in the cockpit of a B-737 simula-

grams and FAA oversight at these airlines, the team had the opportunity to try out a Full Flight Simulator at Southwest Airlines. All four team members got the chance to fly as either Captain or First Officer, practice a taxi and take-off, cruise, and attempt a successful landing. The pilots-in-training even got to test their skills dealing with abnormal flight environments - recovering from a full stall with stick shaker, and attempting a CAT III landing with zero visibility using only the "Heads-Up" device and instrumentation.

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- Stefanie McCans, Analyst, JA-10, Atlanta, GA

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Federal Railroad Administrator Employee Arrested for Theft of Government Property

On June 1st Contonja Saunders, a Financial Management Specialist formerly of RITA, currently with FRA, was arrested for theft of government property.

Ms. Saunders allegedly stole five U.S. Government cell phones and distributed them for her personal use and the use of her family members. Ms. Saunders abused her financial management position by making herself the Verizon Designated Account Representative without authorization and then entered DOT computer accounting systems to approve DOT payments on the Verizon account to which the stolen phones were registered. To avoid detection Ms. Saunders changed the Verizon billing address from DOT to her home address and enlisted the aid of a DOT intern to field Verizon account notifications when she transferred to a new position.

Ms. Saunders was released on her own reconnaissance, with the condition she remain in the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia area. An intern involved in the scheme was released from Federal Service.

The total dollar loss to the U.S. Government as a result of Ms. Saunders' theft exceeds \$30,000. This case was worked by the Special Investigations Unit (JI-3), Washington DC.



TRAINING UPDATES

Training at 3rd Street Location (DC)

Data Collection Techniques

June 21-24

Excel 2007

Introduction– June 29th

Intermediate– June 30th

Advanced– July 1st

Developing and Presenting Audit Findings

July 19-20

Interviewing Techniques

July 21-23

August 23-25

Audit Evidence and Documentation

August 26-27

OIG Training Calendar Now on Sharepoint Site

Please check out the link for the Training Calendar on the OIG Sharepoint Intranet Site (<http://portal.oig.dot.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>) to see what other courses are available. The training calendar is located under the Spotlight Section (right side of the page).

Supervisor I

Supervisor I will be held in San Francisco June 15-17

Report Writing Seminar

Report Writing Seminar will be held June 10th and 17th at Headquarters.

Contact [Margaret Uckert](#) with any questions at [202-260-8544](#).

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You are in our thoughts...

Angela McCallister, our TI Editor-in-Chief, apparently suffered a stroke last Friday night or early Saturday morning. She was found unconscious by a family member on Sunday and was taken immediately to a hospital near her home in Maryland. Shortly thereafter she was medevac'd to Georgetown University Hospital. Her parents and son have arrived from Alabama and other family members from the DC area are also present. Several colleagues from JA-10 have visited her at the hospital, where she remains on life support in the Intensive Care Unit.

Chris Lopez from our JA-20 Baltimore office was recently trapped in a horrible fire, which totally destroyed her apartment. She was rushed to hospitals and stayed in a critical condition for several days due to smoke inhalation. Coworkers report that is she is now doing very well. However, with her apartment (including critical documents) totally destroyed, Chris will have to go through a lot of red tape with the apartment building management, insurance companies, and police. If you'd like to make a contribution, please give your donation to Ingrid Harris (Baltimore) and Earnice Cox (HQ).

Please keep Angela and Chris in your thoughts and prayers.

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

OIG IN THE NEWS

Repair Station Owner Sentenced 12 Months And A Day

MAY 27, 2010

(*Aviation Online Magazine* on an investigation by the JRI-4 Miami, FL office)

http://avstop.com/news_may_2010/faa_repair_station_owner_sentenced_12_months_and_a_day.htm

Miami Federal Aviation Administration repair station owner was sentenced May 24 to prison for committing fraud, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Willie McCain, 52, was sentenced before U.S. District Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley to one year and one day in prison followed by two years of supervised release on four counts of fraud involving aircraft parts.

Mississippi State Troopers Indicted Over Fraudulent CDLs

JUNE 3, 2010

(*Commercial Carrier Journal* on an investigation by the JRI-4 Atlanta, GA office)

<http://www.ccjdigital.com/mississippi-state-troopers-indicted-over-fraudulent-cdls/>

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph L. Rigby, Capt. (Ret.) Johnny D. Rawls, Lt. James C. Smith and Master Sgt. Darrell D. Walker, all of whom were troopers assigned to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Driver Services, were indicted May 18 in U.S. District Court in Jackson, Miss., on multiple counts of making false statements related to commercial driver's licenses. If convicted, the troopers are each subject to fines and a maximum of five years imprisonment.

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Christina Lee** (Christina.Lee@oig.dot.gov), **Dan Raville** (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be published in this week's issue.

MAY 27, 2010

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 5/31	TUESDAY, 6/1	WEDNESDAY, 6/2	THURSDAY, 6/3	FRIDAY, 6/4
SPECIAL MEETINGS	 Memorial Day!	CAL – Updates with S2 (8:00 a.m.) CAL – Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) BRIAN – EMT Mtg. (10:30 a.m.)	CoP Event – CARS Audit , DOT Conference Room 4, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (<i>See page 6 for details</i>)	TIM – Office Visit to JRI-1 CAL – Out of Office	TIM – Annual Leave
CONGRESSIONAL			ANN – Mid Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit SUSAN – Annual Leave		

NOTEWORTHY

NTSB Safety Forum on Professionalism in Aviation

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) held a 3-day safety forum on Professionalism in Aviation (May 18-May 20, 2010) at the NTSB Conference Center in Washington, DC. I attended the forum on May 20, 2010, when the last two panels of the forum were presented: (1) Ensuring Excellence Through Data and Information Sharing and (2) The Role of the Regulator in Ensuring Professionalism in Aviation.

The safety forum addressed methods for ensuring excellence in pilot and air traffic controller performance. It raised awareness of professionalism for aviation safety and stimulated excellent discussions on best practices across the industry on areas that still need improvements. Panelists were questioned by a technical panel composed of NTSB staff from the Offices of Aviation Safety and Research and Engineering, and the NTSB Board Members. My audit team, currently conducting a review of FAA Regulations and Airline Policies Regarding Crew Rest Requirements and Fatigue Issues, was particularly interested in two panelists: Captain Don Gunther, Staff Vice President Safety, Continental Airlines and John Duncan, Air Transportation Division Manager, Flight Standards Service, FAA.

The first panel discussed the importance of data aggregation and sharing among pilots and controllers through voluntary disclosure systems, such as Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) and Flight Operational Quality Assurance (FOQA). The second panel focused on identifying actions taken by the agency to ensure professionalism in aviation, such as FAA's Call to Action plan for aviation safety after the Colgan Air crash last year. The focus of the FAA's Call to Action was on pilot fatigue, training, mentoring, and professionalism. The purpose was to encourage airlines to revise fatigue policies and training and adopt voluntary disclosure systems. Captain Gunther talked about how voluntary disclosure programs are implemented at the carrier side, while John Duncan explained the FAA's role in overseeing these programs.

The NTSB Chairman, Deborah Hersman, closed the forum with a story about being given a piece of candy with a note inside that said: "Attitudes are contagious. As yours is one worth catching."

- Doneliya Deneva, Analyst, JA-10, Washington, DC

NOTEWORTHY

(b)(6)

OIG Flies the COOP!

Last week, selected OIG staff flew the Headquarters coop in Washington, DC—figuratively speaking—and deployed to participate in a national level continuity of operations (COOP) exercise at Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in Virginia and Pennsylvania. No, I'm not talking about a cage for housing poultry, although some

of the participants may have felt like a caged bird given the confined areas they had to work in (smile).

While I am not at liberty to share specific details of the exercise scenario our compatriots faced I can confirm they had the opportunity to demonstrate OIG's ability to perform its essential functions from alternate facilities either as a result of, or in preparation for, a catastrophic emergency, including both a natural disaster and a terrorism incident. The exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise many of our continuity plans, policies, and procedures—something I'm happy to report was successfully accomplished.

Susan Dailey, Assistant Inspector General for Administration; **James Heminger**; and **Amy Berks** deployed to our EOC in [REDACTED] (b)(6), and I went to the [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6). Alongside personnel from DOT's Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response (S-60) and others, we participated in activities at the EOCs that focused on the effectiveness and adequacy of our continuity plans in terms of alert and notification, deployment to alternate facilities, succession and delegations of authority, management of vital records, and communications, reconstitution, and family preparedness planning.

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(Continued on page 4)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

Special thanks to [REDACTED] (b)(6) and the entire [REDACTED] (b)(6) who provided top-notch assistance to those deployed for the exercise, as well as [REDACTED] (b)(6) who oversaw the test of our telephone "calling tree" process. In addition, thanks to the other members of our COOP Working Group, not previously mentioned—[REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

without whose efforts OIG participation in this exercise would not have been as successful.



Susan Dailey and Jim Heminger at KOP

As Secretary LaHood stated near the end of the exercise during a telephone conference to all Heads of Operating Administrations, including **Inspector General Scovel**, "... this kind of preparation is absolutely critical!"

Be sure to periodically visit OIG's Emergency Preparedness and Continuity of Operations Web site on the Intranet, especially if you have not recently done so. The page contains a lot of important and interesting information, including what we as OIG employees should know in case of an emergency COOP situation, as well as a new S-60 presentation on family preparedness, which addresses critical issues you should talk to family members about so they too are prepared.

We don't know when or where, but What if ... Will happen!

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(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(b)(6)

TRAINING UPDATES**Numerous training courses scheduled for June**

The Human Resources Development Center has added **Report Writing Seminars on June 10th and 17th**. There will also be training on "**Data Collections Techniques**" from June 21-24.

OIG Training Calendar available on Sharepoint site

Please check out the link for the Training Calendar on the OIG Sharepoint Intranet Site (<http://portal.oig.dot.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>) to see what other courses are available. The training calendar is located under the Spotlight Section (right side of the page).

Supervision I and Report Writing Seminar going on the road

Supervision I and Report Writing Seminar will be going available in **Atlanta, San Francisco and New York**.

Federal Security and Privacy Awareness Training (SAT) for 2010—eLMS

Have you completed your **Federal Security and Privacy Awareness training**?

Due date: July 15



Jay Borwankar and Mitch Behm pose in front of their poster presenting the surface transportation team's ongoing work.

Mitch Behm and Jay Borwankar Attend TRB's Fourth International Conference

AIG for Rail, Maritime, and Economic Analysis, Mitch Behm and Jay Borwankar traveled to New Orleans from May 19-21 to attend and speak at TRB's Fourth International Conference on Financing Surface Transportation in the United States. The conference anchored several thought provoking discussions regarding the need for continued investment in the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure, the funding demands that this will place on the next surface transportation reauthorization and the role of alternative funding mechanisms, such as Public Private Partnerships, I-Banks or Infrastructure Banks, etc. in maintaining and enhancing existing infrastructure.

The conference also provided Mitch and Jay an opportunity to present a poster that highlighted some of the surface transportation financing team's ongoing work related to the solvency concerns confronting the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and their evalua-

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 5)

tion of the Department's policies and procedures to monitor and manage the HTF's cash balance and communicate with Congress and States regarding future cash shortfalls confronting the HTF. The OIG's poster was very well received by conference attendees and provided the perfect platform to interact and share ideas with other transportation colleagues that included state, local, and federal policy makers; academicians; students; and transportation professionals from across the country and countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, India, and China.

If the conference itself did not provide incentive enough to head down to New Orleans; a trip to the Big Easy definitely did not call for much arm twisting. While there, Mitch and Jay could not pass up the opportunity to sample the local Cajun/Creole cuisine, the sights and sounds from nearby French Quarters and even a mardi-gras themed parade-complete with a marching band, costumed musicians and lots and lots of beads-courtesy of the conference organizers.

- Jay Borwankar, Financial Analyst, JA-50, Washington, DC

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov),
Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

OIG IN THE NEWS

Norfolk pilot gets probation for lying about citizenship

MAY 22, 2010

(*The Virginian-Pilot* on an investigation by the JRI-3 Portsmouth, VA office)

<http://hamptonroads.com/2010/05/norfolk-pilot-gets-probation-lying-about-citizenship>

A flight instructor was sentenced Friday to probation after pleading guilty to a charge of lying about his citizenship on airman applications as well as on a Norfolk Airport Authority security clearance form.

Peter Surina, 29, of Ocean View still could be deported for having committed a felony involving lying. He has immigration hearings pending.

Surina apologized for what he called his "mistake" and noted that he will have to endure "great losses" beyond his federal conviction, including the possibility of deportation and losing his family.

Surina was operating a flight school at the Norfolk airport in January when he was arrested by a special agent with the U.S. Department of Transportation's inspector general's office.

Surina subsequently admitted that between 2005 and 2008 he falsified 17 airman certificates that were needed for him to maintain his pilot's license.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Photo: Federal Executive Institute

A NOTE FROM THE IG

As some of you may know, Omer Poirier, our own Chief Counsel, went to the Federal



Executive Institute recently to attend the prestigious Leadership for a Democratic Society program. I'm glad to hear he spent an enjoyable, though rigorous, month in Charlottesville.

Our Associate Counsels, Seth Kaufman and Fritz Swartzlander, also proudly represented OIG at the 17th National Government Ethics Conference this month. I'd like to thank Omer, Seth, and Fritz for sharing their experiences in this week's issue.

As noted in last week's *TI* (my shorthand for *The Inspector*), I spoke at the 18th Biennial Forum of Government Auditor's in San Antonio yesterday. More on that to come.

Cal

CHIEF COUNCIL OMER POIRIER BUILDS BRIDGES AT THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE INSTITUTE

I just spent 4 weeks in the Leadership for A Democratic Society program at the Federal Executive Institute (FEI) in Charlottesville, Virginia. FEI was founded by President Johnson in 1968 in an old hotel where the cast of *Giant* (good movie - Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean) stayed while they were filming the Charlottesville scenes. It is a pleasant facility with a library (full of leadership books), a dining room (with menus that contain a depressing amount of dietary information), a small lounge area and a gym. For many years, they apparently kept televisions out of the guest rooms, but a few years ago they gave in.

The Leadership Program is offered to SES and GS-15s. There were 73 people from a variety of different agencies and parts of the country. There was also someone from Australia and two people from Northern Ireland. They divided the class into 8 Leadership Development Teams. You do a lot of small group activities with the LDT, so you get to know the people in the small group pretty well. For example, we had to design a website that showed what we were like, give a ten minute presentation on who we were and how we got to be that way, and work with another group to build a bridge (the other group was blindfolded and had the boards so we had to give them directions).

We were also asked to get people back at our work places to complete 360 surveys (thank you to the people who completed 360 surveys for me on short notice). We also took a new and improved type II Myers Briggs test (they divide each of the four characteristics into subcategories). There was also an emphasis on health issues.

(Continued on page 2)

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 5/24	TUESDAY, 5/25	WEDNESDAY, 5/26	THURSDAY, 5/27	FRIDAY, 5/28
SPECIAL MEETINGS	BRIAN— OST/OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)	ANN—Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.) BRIAN —Executive Management Team (EMT) Congressional Mtg. (10:30 a.m.)	ANN & SUSAN— JM-10 Meet and Greet (3:00 p.m.)	ALL HANDS WEBCAST with SUSAN (2:00 p.m.)	
CONGRESSIONAL			CAL – Out of Office		

ALL HANDS WEBCAST MAY 27, 2010 2:00 p.m.

Susan Dailey the Assistant Inspector General for Administration (AIGM) will be conducting an All Hands webcast on May 27, 2010, at 2:00 P.M. The webcast will provide a brief introduction and highlight some key JM initiatives. The JM Office Directors will discuss upcoming and forward looking initiatives in their respective areas.

In preparation for the all hands, we are requesting that you forward any questions you would like addressed in advance. Please submit your questions to me by close of business, Friday, May 21, 2010. We are requesting that you provide your name along with your question.

Instructions for accessing the webcast will be distributed on the morning of the 27th.

- Toby Burt, Special Assistant, J-2, DC

(“Building Bridges” continued from page 1)

They had us fill out a health questionnaire and did health testing: blood pressure, blood work, body fat (aaargh). Interestingly, we were the first class not to include a smoker.

During the first week, we basically had class from 8 to 12, lunch and time to do reading assignments from 12 to 2:30, class from 2:30 to 5, and class from 7 to 9. We had full days of classes on that Saturday and Sunday, so by Friday of the second week everyone was getting a little worn out. Fortunately, at that point they eased up on us a little.

One distinction they repeatedly drew was between leading and managing. Getting projects completed and dealing with direct reports constitutes “managing,” so we didn’t learn about that (although they acknowledged that part could be important). A basic principle of the program was tying leadership in modern society to Constitutional principles, so we heard a lot about the Constitution.

I took a class on polarity management (the idea that some problems are actually balancing two poles--both of which have benefits--like centralization and decentralization, leading organizational change, and positive psychology...the last one isn’t quite as pop psychology as it sounds). We also had Executive Forums, which were informal informational sessions held by the program participants. These covered topics like the process for becoming an SES, Social Networking, and speed reading.

I did a talk on my experience with being on Who Wants to be a Millionaire in 2000. A bit more on the lighter side than becoming an SES, but it went over pretty well.

A highlight of the program was just getting to know the other participants in the program. They were generally a pretty highly motivated group, and it was interesting to see their different perspectives and insight on public service.

- Omer Poirier, Chief Counsel, J-3, DC

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Seth Kaufman and Fritz Swartzborough Attend 17th National Government Ethics Conference in Chicago

From May 12th to May 14th, Fritz Swartzbaugh (Associate Counsel, J-3, DC) and I represented OIG at the 17th National Government Ethics Conference in Chicago, IL. The National Government Ethics Conference, sponsored by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), brings together ethics officials from across the Federal government, as well as state and foreign ethics leaders. Over 600 ethics officials from across the Federal government, including approximately 10 DOT ethics officials, attended this conference.

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The Conference is a great opportunity to meet ethics officials from other agencies and OGE staff. We also had the opportunity to share thoughts with other DOT ethics officials between and after breakout sessions. Among other topics, we attended sessions about the implications of social media websites such as Facebook on government ethics, and innovative approaches to training and outreach.

Highlights of the conference included an informative presentation with Norm Eisen, Special Counsel to the President for Ethics and Government Reform, and an entertaining performance by the famed Chicago improv comedy group Second City. On the final night of the conference, DOT General Counsel Robert Rivkin, who participated in a panel on engaging senior officials in agency ethics programs, and the Director of OGE Robert Cusick joined a DOT group for dinner.

Fritz and I look forward to utilizing the lessons learned and good practices in order to create a more robust ethics program here at OIG and across DOT. We are looking forward to communicating with OIG employees about ethics and the ethics program on a recurring basis through *The Inspector*. We welcome your thoughts about what ethics information you want to be shared and about the ethics program in general.

[Editor's Note: Try out the new "Let's Get Ethical!" crossword puzzle on page 6!]

- Seth Kaufman, Associate Counsel, J-3, DC

JRI-6 Moves into Their New Space at Fort Worth Office

With JRI-6 Investigations in Fort Worth, Texas moving into their side of the newly renovated office, the entire office has been completed with the exception of minor work on-going in JI special space. This space project was done in 2 steps - JA side first followed by JI side, in order to provide work space for employees to be able to keep working with a minimum of disruption during this renovation process.

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JM-10 is pleased that everyone in Fort Worth has been complimentary and pleased with their new modern space. We thank you for your patience and cooperation in working with us during this renovation. A special thanks to our JM-10 expert, Dottie Bowie for beautifully managing this renovation!

-Jackie Weber, Director of Administrative and Procurement Services,
JM-10, DC

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(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

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TRAINING UPDATES

Numerous training courses scheduled for June

The Human Resources Development Center (HRDC, formerly the Training Office) has scheduled a busy month of training for June, including a course on "[Data Collections Techniques](#)" from June 21-24.

OIG Training Calendar available on Sharepoint site

Please check out the link for the Training Calendar on the OIG Sharepoint Intranet Site (<http://portal.oig.dot.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>) to see what other courses are available. The training calendar is located under the Spotlight Section (right side of the page).

Supervision I and Report Writing Seminar going on the road

Supervision I and Report Writing Seminar will be going available in [Atlanta, San Francisco and New York](#).



Guess Who's First?

Did you know that OIG is the first DOT office/mode to use Drupal, a new Content Management System (CMS)? When OIG released the new internet site, it also incorporated Drupal, which allows users to publish, manage, and organize website content. Since the release of the new internet site, JM-40 has met with OST and RITA to discuss the implementation and deployment, best practices, and our user experience with using Drupal. Next up, Amtrak OIG. [Editors' Note: Who says OIG isn't cutting edge?]

-Karen Hayden, Information Technology Specialist, JM-40, DC

Federal Security and Privacy Awareness Training (SAT) for 2010—eLMS

Have you completed your [Federal Security and Privacy Awareness training](#)?

Due date: July 15

TRAINING UPDATES (cont.)

New "Tools of the Trade" sessions to supplement Supervisory training

To supplement the Supervisory training, the HRDC will be sponsoring "Tools of the Trade" sessions. These sessions will be audio conferences or webinars.

We will also be purchasing CDs, so we can schedule sessions with the field offices.

The first two "Tools of the Trade" sessions are scheduled at Headquarters on the following dates:

- ◆ **June 9 - When a Case Goes Before the EEOC: Advice from an Administrative Judge**
- ◆ **June 16 - When Misconduct or Poor Performance Go Too Far: The Steps to Removing a Federal Employee**

Training questions? Contact Margaret Uckert at:
Margaret.E.Uckert@oig.dot.gov

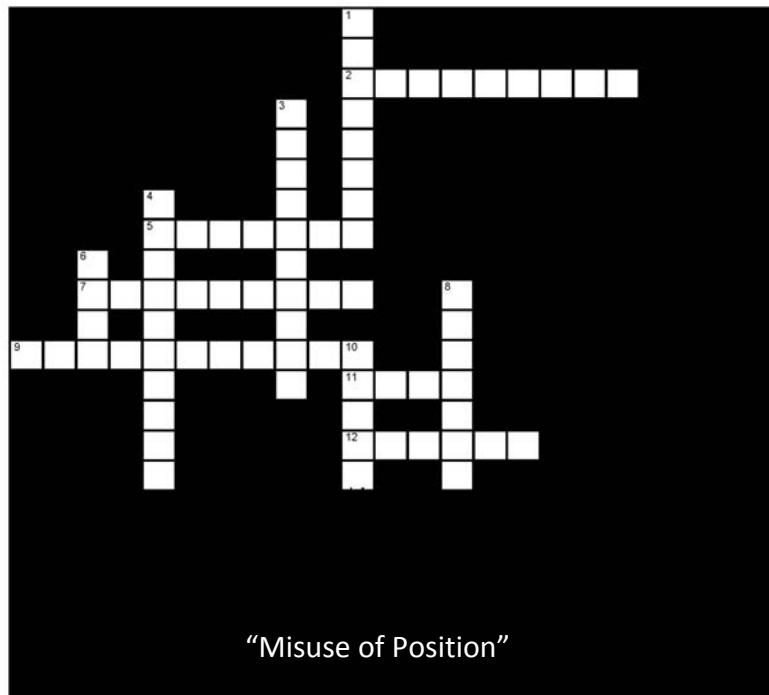
eLMS issues? Contact Karen Muller at:
202-260-8550 or
Karen.Muller@oig.dot.gov.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

More Charges Filed in Iowa Ready-Mix Concrete Price Fixing Conspiracy

On May 6, 2010, Kent R. Stewart, President of Great Lakes Concrete, was charged in U.S. District Court, Sioux City, Iowa, with violating the Sherman Antitrust Act. It is alleged that Stewart, conspired with others from January 2008 until August 2009, to fix prices of ready-mix concrete sold to various companies in Iowa. Also, as part of the same investigation, on May 4th, Steven K. VandeBrake, a former Sales Manager for GCC Alliance Concrete, Inc. and President of Alliance Concrete, Inc., pled guilty in U.S. District Court in Sioux City to Antitrust violations for his role in ready-mix price fixing conspiracies. VandeBrake admitted that he participated in conspiracies and held conversations with co-conspirators from three different ready-mix companies to set pricing for ready-mix concrete sold to Iowa companies from January 2008 until August 2009.

LET'S GET ETHICAL...ETHICAL! CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

2. You can't use _____ information to further your own private interest or that of another
5. Generally, you can't use your government title or position to _____ any product, enterprise, or service
7. Generally, you can't use your position, title, or _____ associated with your public office to imply that your agency

Down

1. You are to protect and _____ government property
3. Your _____ can't ask you to shop for his wife's birthday present during duty hours
4. Recommending your neighbor for a federal job on agency _____ is ok if you have personal knowledge of his abilities or character
6. You can't use your public office for private _____
8. Don't use your public office to _____ yourself or others
10. You learn on the job that Company X found the cure for a major disease. You may not buy _____ in Company X before your agency announces the company found the cure

Answers appear on the last page.

OIG IN THE NEWS**LET'S GET ETHICAL..ETHICAL! CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

For a detailed explanation of the answers, please visit:

http://www.usoge.gov/training/puzzle_files/misuse_07/misuse_answers_prnt.pdf

ACROSS

- 2. NONPUBLIC
- 5. ENDORSE
- 7. AUTHORITY
- 9. CONTRACTORS
- 11. TIME
- 12. COPIER

DOWN

- 1. CONSERVE
- 3. SUPERVISOR
- 4. LETTERHEAD
- 6. GAIN
- 8. BENEFIT
- 10. STOCK

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END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings and goings this week!

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov),
Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

Reliance on Oil Sands**Grows Despite Risks**

MAY 19, 2010

(*The Ledger* on JA-10's report on PHMSA's Special Permits and Approvals Program)
<http://www.theledger.com/article/20100519/ZNY01/5193012/1001/BUSINESS?p=all&tc=pgall>

Oil sands are now getting more scrutiny as the Obama administration reviews a Canadian company's request to build a new 2,000-mile underground pipeline that would run from Alberta to the Texas Gulf Coast...In making the decision, due this fall, federal officials are weighing the environmental concerns against the need to secure a reliable supply of oil to help satisfy the nation's insatiable thirst...

PHMSA, which oversees oil pipelines, gave such waivers to TransCanada for the first two Keystone pipelines. TransCanada says the thinner pipes have been allowed in Canada for decades and pose no extra risk.

But Cesar de Leon, a former deputy administrator of the pipeline and safety administration who is now an independent pipeline safety engineer, said the thinner standard is appropriate only if pipelines are being aggressively monitored for deterioration. Although the safety administration required such monitoring in the Keystone permits, it "didn't have the people to monitor compliance," he said.

In a report in March on the agency's broader permitting practices, DOT OIG found that, in many cases, the agency had failed to check the safety records of permit applicants and had not checked to verify that permit terms were being followed.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

A NOTE FROM THE DIG

Ch-ch-ch-changes...

"Ah, changes are taking the pace I'm going through!" Let me first say that I'm honored to serve as OIG's Deputy and to assist Cal in furthering his rock-solid organizational, operational, and human capital vision. As I see it, every action I take should further promote a supportive work environment--one that manages for results, develops a highly effective workforce, empowers employees, encourages open and constructive communications, and advances a merit-based performance system that is grounded in trust, respect, and the highest ethical standards. To achieve our goals, however, I will need each of you to work with me and my first-line partners--Lou, Tim, Brian, and Susan.

I have lots of ideas on how to keep lines of communication open, make our operations more seamless, and give even greater visibility to our work. I have already begun reaching out across the organization and have appreciated the candid and constructive input on key policy and operational matters and the sub-

stance of our work. Over the past couple weeks, I checked out JA-60's new space and visited JI's computer crimes unit. And just yesterday, I was at the training center observing segments of the Supervisory I training course to see first-hand the content covered, the quality of instruction and tools, gauge the response of the participants, and receive feedback on the course or related issues that arise as a result of the dialogue. I've also had productive and insightful meetings with several J3 and JM component teams. I now look forward to my visits with all of JI to learn more about our impressive and impactful investigations work and to explore opportunities to further evolve our role to achieve even greater impact, awareness, and responsiveness to a broader internal and external client base. Cal and I are working on our schedule to complete field office visits over the next few months, including visits to those audit offices I didn't reach as PAIGAE. I am so very excited by the tremendous coordination on several recent audits and investigations--

coordination that is paying dividends on our ARRA work, and oversight roles of NHTSA, FTA, and FHWA.

Despite all the recent changes we've gone through--and the many successes we've achieved--there is so much more we can be doing. And I want your thoughts on how to get there as well as your feedback along the way. To develop the new skills needed to be an effective Deputy, I need to rely on you--those who have years of experience and knowledge of our organization and those who bring new or fresh ideas and practices from other organizations. I'm confident that together we can make DOT-OIG the most desired accountability organization to work for, hands down.

Early thoughts on my new role? I'm really DIG-ging it!



Ann Calvaresi-Barr

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 5/17	TUESDAY, 5/18	WEDNESDAY, 5/19	THURSDAY, 5/20	FRIDAY, 5/21
SPECIAL MEETINGS	BRIAN – OST/OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.) SUSAN – COOP Exercise KOP visit (8:30 a.m.) BRIAN – CIGIE Commit- tee Mtg. (9:30 a.m.) BRIAN – Executive Man- agement Team (EMT) Congressional Mtg. (10:30 a.m.)	CAL – 18th Biennial Forum of Government Auditors, San Antonio, TX	ANN – JM-30 Team Meet & Greet (9:00 a.m.)		
CONGRESSIONAL	<p style="text-align: center;">← TIM – Annual Leave →</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">← LOU – NextGen Ahead Conference →</p>		

NOTEWORTHY

The IG to Speak at the 18th Biennial Forum of Government Auditors in San Antonio, Texas



Texas
The Lone Star State



Cal Scovel III
Inspector General at DOT OIG



J. Christopher Mihm
Managing Director of
Strategic Issues at GAO

The Inspector General and J. Christopher Mihm, Managing Director of Strategic Issues at GAO, will serve as panelists for the session, "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Federal Auditing Approaches and Results," at the 18th Biennial Forum of Government Auditors. The event, held next Wednesday, May 19, in San Antonio, TX. The 50-minute session will be moderated by Rick Skinner, IG of the Department of Homeland Security.

- Creatherina, Analysts, JA-60

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

JA-10 Operations Team Visits Atlanta



Peachtree Airport Tower Controllers View

Several members of the JA-10 operations team spent the week of May 4th conducting site visits in Atlanta. We visited the regional office, the Atlanta Air Traffic Control En Route Center, the Atlanta Terminal Radar Approach Control, Peachtree Airport and finally Atlanta-Hartsfield Jackson Airport, the busiest airport in the country.

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Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson Tower

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To summarize the trip, we had some very productive conversations with the controllers union and Federal Aviation Administration's managers, and some of us had fun exploring the city. I was happy finishing the day with a nice long run and watching a ballgame, but some of the team members energetically took advantage of the opportunity to see Atlanta.

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OIG IN THE NEWS

Pilots Say Fatigue a Growing Issue

MAY 5, 2010

(CBS 13 on JA-10 testimony on Pilot Fatigue)

<http://cbs13.com/local/pilot.fatigue.reports.2.1677978.html>

"You trust that when you board an airplane, the pilots and crew are well rested and ready to fly. But reports have surfaced showing pilots fall asleep at the controls, and pilot fatigue happens more often than you might think...The Department of Transportation's inspector general told Congress, the FAA has delayed issuing new rulemakings on crew rest, leaving pilots frustrated."

Ex-WV DOH Employee Pleads to Extortion

APRIL 30, 2010

(WHSV 3 on investigation by JRI-3, DC Office)

<http://www.whsv.com/westvirginiaap/headlines/92513984.html>

"A former state Division of Highways employee has pleaded guilty to extorting money from a contractor working on a Logan County road project. Fifty-two-year-old Chapmanville resident Gwen Conley entered the plea to a charge of interference with commerce by extortion at a hearing Thursday in Charleston. Prosecutors say Conley was inspecting a project on Route 10 in Man when he threatened to impede work done by a contractor unless he was paid off in 2008."

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

A Guide to JI: What's the Role of JI-3?

Part III of III (Employee Integrity Investigations)

This is the final installment of a three-part series about the Special Investigations and Analysis Group (JI-3), which is the OIG's primary focal point for receiving complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in the use of DOT resources and investigating allegations involving whistleblower disclosures and integrity-related misconduct by departmental employees. JI-3 is comprised of two units, the Complaint Analysis Center and Special Investigations. The Special Investigations and Analysis division is overseen by Robert Westbrooks, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Special Investigations and Analysis. Ron Engler and Heather Albert serve as Directors for Special Investigations. The Special Investigations unit focus on two priority areas, Whistleblower Disclosures and Employee Integrity Investigations. In this final installment of the series we will describe Special Investigations' Employee Integrity investigations.



The Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch ([5 C.F.R. 2635](#)) state that Federal workers have a responsibility to the United States Government and its citizens to place loyalty to the Constitution, laws, and ethical principles

Federal workers have a responsibility to the United States Government and its citizens to place loyalty to the Constitution, laws, and ethical principles above private gain.

above private gain. Among other things, employees are prohibited from holding financial interests that conflict with their job duties, engaging in financial transactions using nonpublic Government information, or accepting gifts from those regulated by their agency. Further, Federal employees must act impartially; protect and conserve Federal property; refrain from engaging in outside activities, including seeking employment that conflict with official Government duties; and disclose fraud, waste, and abuse to appropriate authorities.

Investigations of employee integrity issues involve a wide range of violations such as time and attendance fraud, travel voucher fraud, misuse of government purchase or travel cards, conflicts of interest, ethics violations, and other prohibited personnel actions. Depending on the nature and severity of the misconduct, an employee found to have engaged in prohibited activity may receive administrative sanctions, such as termination, suspension, or reprimand. Appropriate cases also may be referred to the Department of Justice for possible civil or criminal prosecution.

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Three Sentenced to Imprisonment for Fraud in Fatal Truck Accident

MAY 10, 2010

(*Commercial Carrier Journal* on investigation by JRI-2, King of Prussia Office)

<http://www.ccjdigital.com/three-sentenced-to-imprisonment-for-fraud-in-fatal-truck-accident/>

"Victor Kalinitichll, Valerjis Belovs and Joseph Jadczak Jr. were sentenced April 26 in Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in Norristown, PA., on charges related to an accident in which one person died and five others were seriously injured when a commercial vehicle operated by Belovs drove into stopped traffic.

DOT OIG said an investigation determined that the crash on U.S. 76 in Philadelphia was a result of the fact that the tractor-trailer's brakes were extremely dangerous. Both the driver of the tractor-trailer, Belovs, and its owner, Kalinitichll, admitted they were aware of the dangerous brake condition and took no steps to fix the problem.

According to DOT-OIG, the investigation further determined that despite the condition of the brakes, the commercial vehicle displayed a valid inspection sticker provided by Jadczak, the owner of Pratts Auto Service in Philadelphia. Jadczak admitted that he had not inspected the truck and permitted Kalinitichll to operate the vehicle with the dangerous brake condition."

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COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov), **Dan Raville** (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be published within 2 weeks.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

INSPECTOR GENERAL & DOT OIG RECOGNIZED IN INTERNATIONAL FAN MAIL

A NOTE FROM THE IG

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I sometimes receive communications from the public, commenting on our work. The note on the left is one example that came to us all the way from Belgium!

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(b)(6) makes a point of recognizing the outstanding achievements of our office and sends best wishes to all our staff.

This unexpected (but welcome) note was addressed not only to me—but to all of us. Please take a moment today to reflect on the achievements that you all have contributed to our mission.

Keep up the good work!

Cal



OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 5/10	TUESDAY, 5/11	WEDNESDAY, 5/12	THURSDAY, 5/13	FRIDAY, 5/14
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>CAL– Updates with S2 (8:00 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– OST/OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– CIGIE Leg Committee Mtg. (9:30 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL– SUP 1 Training Speech (1:45 p.m.)</p>	<p>LOU– Program Management Review, Kabul Afghanistan Improvements (8:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>CAL & ANN– Meet & Greet w/ Ryan Lynch, FTA Special Asst. (2:00 p.m.)</p>	
CONGRESSIONAL					

NOTEWORTHY

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Tim Barry and Nick Coates Share Their Experiences at the JRI-9 In Service Training Conference

TIM BARRY, PAIGI: Last week I traveled to Walnut Creek, CA which is a quiet, suburban city right outside of San Francisco, to visit with JRI-9 staff during their in service training conference. They had put together a terrific agenda filled with useful information and engaging speakers, including SSA's from DHS-OIG and a Tech Agent from the FBI.

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JRI-9 Team

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I was scheduled to speak on day two, at 1:00 p.m. Early that morning, I was asked if I would like to join JRI-9 staff in their annual Physical Efficient Battery (PEB) assessment training, which measures an individual's physical fitness and consists of a number of physical activities, such as body composition, sit and reach, bench press, an agility run, and a 1.5 mile run. I agreed to join the staff for the assessment which allowed me to see their competitive spirit in full swing. The good news was that I walked away without

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any muscle pulls or contusions—and the staff seemed to enjoy seeing the boss sweat!

During my talk with staff, I discussed both HQ and JI issues. I spoke specifically about three of my goals: (1) continued stability within JI; (2) standardizing JI's internal processes to ensure greater efficiencies, and (3) strategies for continuing to identify the best investigations, which have the greatest impact for the Department. It was great to talk and interact with staff I too seldom get to see.

NICK COATES, J-3, DC: I was invited to provide a legal update training to follow Tim's talk. The training fulfilled the "periodic legal refresher training" required by the Attorney General's Guidelines for Offices of Inspectors General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority. We had a fun time (as fun as three hours of legal training can be) discussing federal criminal and civil legal updates, interviewing techniques and policies, the laws of arrest/search/seizure, and the trial process. Specific topics included an examination of several Fifth Amendment "Miranda" cases currently before the Supreme Court and the do's and don'ts of testifying.

Big thanks to Tim and everyone in JRI-9 for inviting me! I was really impressed with all the great/interesting work you guys do.

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UPDATE ON MANDATORY TRAINING

Federal Security and Privacy Awareness Training (SAT) for 2010—eLMS

Complete by: July 15, 2010.

As of April 28: 200 employees have completed training.

This year's eLMS course is entitled "Information System Security LOB Awareness Training 2010."

Report Writing Seminar

Training offered in DC on the following dates:

May 13th

May 20th

Supervisor I

Training offered in DC on the following dates:

May 11-13

Training questions? Contact Margaret Uckert at: Margaret.E.Uckert@oig.dot.gov

eLMS issues? Contact Karen Muller at: 202-260-8550 or Karen.Muller@oig.dot.gov.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Executive Management Team Meeting

PHMSA Administrator, Cynthia Quarterman spoke at this week's Executive Management Team (EMT) meeting with Secretary LaHood. Quartermann stated her administration is taking action to require Trade Associations using special permits or approvals to move hazardous materials (20,000 to 30,00 members in total) to reapply. We recommended reapplication for special permits and approvals in our March 4, 2010 report on "New Approaches Needed in Managing PHMSA's Special Permits and Approvals Program." The review found that when blanket special permits or approvals were issued to trade associations, the required safety checks were not conducted of the trade association members. At the most recent hearing on April 22, USA Today quoted Cal who said that the "failure to evaluate each permit holder is a 'pernicious' practice that 'can significantly impact (public) safety.'"



Cynthia Quarterman, PHMSA Administrator

Quartermann stated that each company's fitness would be evaluated and an equal level of safety determination would be performed and documented as required—thus eliminating this serious safety issue. Congratulations to the staff for raising this serious safety gap and for recommending that it be closed.

- Bob Falter, Project Manager, JA-10, DC

Ann's Meeting with the NTSB Chairman

On May 3rd, Rebecca Leng and George Banks (JA-20) accompanied Ann Calvaresi-Barr to a "Meet and Greet" with the NTSB Chairman, Deborah Hersman; Managing Director, David Mayer; and Chief Financial Officer, Steve Goldberg. The meeting was held to introduce Ann to Chairman Hersman and senior NTSB officials. Ann congratulated NTSB management for receiving positive outcomes from recent Financial Statement and FISMA audits. She also expressed interest in partnering with NTSB on safety-related issues. Ann provided an overview of OIG ongoing work that either involves or may interest NTSB, such as FAA's oversight of On Demand Operators; Pilot Training and Regional Airlines; Pilot Rest and FAA's oversight of corresponding Airline Regulations; and OIG work on the trends in Aviation Accidents and their correlation with Pilot Experience and Compensation. She also mentioned our work on Transit Safety and Cross Boarder Trucking.



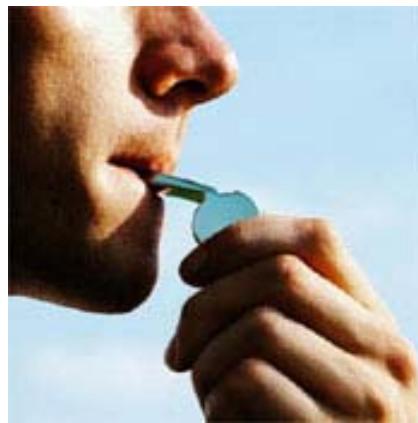
Chairman Hersman welcomed the suggestions and indicated that both parties could benefit by learning from each other. She also indicated that the information uncovered by NTSB investigators may be useful to DOT/OIG work, such as its recent work concerning Mexican Trucks. It was agreed that OIG and NTSB teams will meet periodically (e.g., twice a year) to share information and insights.

- George Banks, JA-20 Baltimore, MD

A Guide to JI: What's the Role of JI-3?

Part II of III (Whistleblower Disclosures)

This is the second of a three-part series about the Special Investigations and Analysis Group (JI-3), which is the OIG's primary focal point for receiving complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in the use of DOT resources. JI-3 also investigates allegations involving whistleblower disclosures and integrity-related misconduct by departmental employees. JI-3 is comprised two units, the Complaint Analysis Center and Special Investigations. The Special Investigations and Analysis directorate is overseen by Bob Westbrooks,



Acting Assistant Inspector General for Special Investigations and Analysis. Ron Engler and Heather Albert serve as Directors for Special Investigations. The Special Investigations unit focus on two priority areas: Whistleblower Disclosures and Employee Integrity Investigations. In this installment, we will describe Special Investigations' Whistleblower Disclosures investigations.

The Special Investigations staff investigate disclosures that the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) refers to Secretary LaHood involving possible (1) violations of a law, rule, or regulation; (2) gross mismanagement; (3) a gross waste of funds; (4) an abuse of authority; and/or (5) a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

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The results of these investigations are used by DOT's General Counsel for developing Secretary LaHood's formal responses to OSC.

The majority of JI-3 whistleblower-related investigations involve highly sensitive and complex aviation safety issues.

The majority of JI-3 whistleblower-related investigations involve highly sensitive and complex aviation safety issues. For example, one recent investigation concerned whether Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) managers had (1) compromised the safety of the flying public by operating an air traffic approach and departure configuration at one airport in an unsafe manner and in violation of FAA policy and (2) provided disingenuous information about the situation in response to a congressional request. As you might imagine, the results of these investigations frequently become the focus of intense national media coverage once publicly released.

One aspect of these investigations most OIG members may not be aware of is that JI-3 and JA-10 are increasingly partner to work on these cases. JI-3 is very appreciative of JA-10's assistance in this regard—such as that from Mark Perrill and Liz Hanson of OIG's Atlanta office who worked with us to complete an investigation concerning compliance with helicopter Airworthiness Directives. Visit <http://www.oig.dot.gov/whistleblower-protection> for more information on this topic.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG Briefs Brazilian Anti-Corruption Program on OIG Issues

On May 4, OIG briefed top Brazilian officials in the 2010 Brazilian National Briefing, sponsored by the George Washington University Brazilian Anti-Corruption Program. About two dozen Brazilian attendees participated in this event, including the Ministry of Health, representatives from the Inspector General for the IRS, and officials from the Federal Police Department. Ann gave a high-level overview of the IG's office, starting with the creation of the IG Act. Ann's presentation included a discussion of OIG's structure, OIG's accomplishments in fiscal year 2009 (including audits, testimonies, prosecutions and convictions), top management challenges for fiscal year 2010, and significant work, including oversight of the Recovery Act.

Tim Barry then spoke on JI topics, including key investigative lines of effort and top investigative cases for 2010. (b)(6), Matt Hampton, and Amy Berks gave more detailed overviews of Investigations, Audit, and Legal, respectively.

Following the formal presentation, Ann headed a lengthy question-and-answer session, answering questions that ranged from how the OIG and GAO differed to how the OIG affects policy. Some of the Brazilians asked their questions in English, but Portuguese interpreters were present to translate the proceedings. "He was the best one I've ever seen," Ann said.

- Christina Lee, Analyst, JA-60, DC

"Challenge of Meeting FAA's Long-Term Goals for NextGen": A Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Aviation

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On April 21, the Inspector General testified before the House Subcommittee on Aviation on the FAA's progress in developing the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The Inspector General noted significant challenges FAA must overcome to achieve its long-term goals for NextGen and that the successful implementation of ongoing modernization projects that will enhance capacity is central to this effort.

Inspector General Scovel pointed out that key multibillion-dollar programs have experienced problems, and FAA has yet to fully determine their NextGen-specific requirements. For example, FAA's \$2.1 billion En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) program is experiencing software-related problems at FAA's key sites in Salt Lake City and Seattle. The software problems have led to difficulties in handling off traffic between controllers and matching critical flight information to the right aircraft. The Inspector General warned that delays with ERAM and other projects will have a cascading effect on NextGen plans now and well into the future.

Following the hearing, the DOD witness called to complement the Inspector General on his statement and his knowledge and expertise on NextGen related issues.

The Inspector General fielded a number of questions from members of the Aviation Subcommittee, including questions about the nature of ERAM's problems, progress on development of a multi-agency integrated budget document, and the involvement of partner agencies in NextGen efforts. The Inspector General's testimony was widely and favorably reported in a number of Aviation and Nationwide News publications. Following the hearing, the DOD witness called to complement the Inspector General on his statement and his knowledge and expertise on NextGen related issues. Overall, the hearing was very successful.

- Joe Hance, Project Manager, JA-10, DC

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Former DOH inspector pleads guilty to extortion

APRIL 29, 2010

(Associated Press reports on a JRI-3 investigation)

[http://www.wvgazette.com/
News/201004290814](http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201004290814)

"A former state Division of Highways employee has pleaded guilty to extorting money from a contractor working on a Logan County road project. Gwen Conley, 52, of Chapmanville, entered the plea to a charge of interference with commerce by extortion at a hearing Thursday in Charleston. Prosecutors say Conley was inspecting a project on W.Va. 10 in Man in 2008 when he threatened to impede work done by a contractor unless he was paid off."

DOT's Handling Of Hazmat Safety Checks Criticized

MAY 4, 2010

(USA Today reports on recent JA-10 testimony on PHMSA's Special Permits and Approvals Program)

[http://www.usatoday.com/NEWS/
usaedition/2010-05-04-
1Ahasmat04_ST_U.htm?csp=34](http://www.usatoday.com/NEWS/usaedition/2010-05-04-1Ahasmat04_ST_U.htm?csp=34)

DOT "never conducted required safety checks on 20,000 to 30,000 companies that got special permits to move risky shipments of hazardous materials by road, rail, water and air, records show." Beginning this month, the DOT "will require all the companies to file new permit applications and undergo a 'fitness review,' including assessments of their safety and security records, before the permit is issued, according to an agency plan." The DOT's "failure to evaluate each permit holder is a 'pernicious' practice that 'can significantly impact (public) safety,' Inspector General Calvin Scovel said last month."

END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

There are no comings or goings this week!

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov), **Dan Raville** (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

A NOTE FROM THE IG

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From the looks of things, everyone had a great time at last Thursday's "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day." Al-

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though I couldn't be there because of recent testimonies, I heard the participants really enjoyed the day, especially the mock interviews and the Earth Day celebration. Thanks to Susan Dailey, Toby Burt, and many others who contributed to this event and organized a fantastic outing for our future OIGers. It's never too early to start recruiting. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

Cal

Participants of 2010 Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day Events

CHILD	AGE
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TAKING OUR FUTURE OIGERS TO WORK by Toby Burt, J-2

The OIG celebrated "Take our Daughters and Sons to Work" on Thursday, April 22, 2010. A total of 11 children participated this year, ranging in age from 8 to 18 years old. Although some of our future OIGers were reluctant to venture from their parents; others were up for the challenge. They said good bye to Mom or Dad and set out for a day of educational and fun-filled activities.

The day began with an overview of OIG by the Deputy IG, Ann Calvaresi-Barr, followed by an overview of JM by AIG for Management, Susan Dailey.

For ages 14-18, a mock vacancy announcement was prepared and forwarded to the parents of the participants a couple of days prior to event. The participants were asked to prepare a resume in response to the vacancy announcement. They were all interviewed for the position and were provided feedback on what they did well and areas that needed improvement. After landing the job, they were "processed-in" which included completing the paperwork to be an employee, being sworn in, and having their picture taken for their IDs. The 8 to 10 year olds assisted with the interviews and picture-taking.

In the afternoon, the participants toured the Crisis Management Center, participated in the Department's Earth Day, and were introduced to our Security personnel. Security demonstrated finger printing and explained the background investigation process. After the tours, the participants were briefed on the work of Audit and Investigations. At the end of the day, all participants were given certificates and OIG souvenirs.

Thanks to all the OIG headquarters employees that volunteered to plan and execute this event.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 5/3	TUESDAY, 5/4	WEDNESDAY, 5/5	THURSDAY, 5/6	FRIDAY, 5/7
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>ANN– Meet & Greet with NTSB Chairman (11:00 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN– Supervisory 1 Training; Opening Remarks (8:30 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN & TIM– 2010 Brazilian National Briefing; Opening Remarks by Ann (10:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>ANN– Supervisory 1 Training; Opening Remarks (8:30 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>ANN & TIM– 2010 Brazilian National Briefing; Opening Remarks by Ann (10:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>ANN & SUSAN– JM-40 Team Meet & Greet (2:00 p.m.)</p>		
CONGRESSIONAL		<p style="text-align: center;">CAL - CIGIE Annual Conference</p>			

TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

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UPDATE ON MANDATORY TRAINING

Federal Security and Privacy Awareness Training (SAT) for 2010—eLMS

Complete by: July 15, 2010.

As of April 28: 186 employees have completed training.

This year's eLMS course is entitled "Information System Security LOB Awareness Training 2010."

COOP Training—eLMS

Complete by: April 30, 2010

As of April 28 - 340 employees have completed training

Please bookmark OIG's COOP website on your office computers:

www.oig.dot.gov/coop

Note: at the completion of the course click on "Exit" (upper right hand of the document), so the course will transfer to your Learning History.

Supervisor I

Training offered in DC on the following dates:

May 4 - 6

Training questions? Contact Margaret Uckert at: Margaret.E.Uckert@oig.dot.gov

eLMS issues? Contact Karen Muller at: 202-260-8550 or Karen.Muller@oig.dot.gov.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

JA-60 Moves Into New Office Space in 3rd Street DC Office

Last August some of my colleagues and I from JA-60 were called upon to jump ship from 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE and set sail for the unknown area of 409 3rd street SW. Since most of us had only ever been in the area for training, we weren't quite sure what to expect. However, with other OIG family members having set up shop there in past years (JRI-3 and the Human Resource Development Office), we would at least be encircled by others who would help us become acclimated to our 'new' (and I use that term loosely) surroundings.

Speaking of 'new' surroundings, our space before renovations felt like a scene from the 1970s. The only thing missing from the space was a pair of bell bottoms.

In early February of this year, renovations got underway. Excitement and enthusiasm filled the air. Thanks to Mother Nature (in the form of Snowpocalypse 2010), our initial move-in date got pushed back a couple times. We all grew even more anxious to see what our post-renovation space would look like. Finally, earlier this month we were able to set anchor in our new residence. We now have a spot for the printer and a place to put both copy paper and Xerox supplies (a huge improvement). The folks here in JA-60 at 3rd street want to send a big "THANK YOU" to the JM-20 folks over here for letting us take some space from their office as part of our renovations and for sharing their pantry room with us. We are all looking forward to settling into our new 'home' and, as always, we welcome any visitors and those lost at sea (i.e. in town for training and/or TDY).

- David Lahey, JA-60, DC

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

A Guide to JI: What's the Role of JI-3?

Part I of III (Complaint Analysis Center)

This is the first of a three-part series about the Special Investigations and Analysis Group (JI-3), which is the OIG's primary focal point for receiving complaints alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement in the use of DOT resources and investigating allegations involving whistleblower disclosures and integrity-related misconduct by departmental employees. JI-3 is divided into two divisions, Complaint Analysis Center and Special Investigations, which currently consists of 17 investigators, attorney-investigators, analysts, a senior special agent, and support staff (supplemented by a contractor) and is overseen by the Acting Assistant Inspector General for Special Investigations and Analysis: Bob Westbrooks and two Directors. In this first article we will describe the responsibilities of the Complaint Analysis Center, whose director is Heather Albert.

More commonly known as the "Hotline," staff this unit last year received and processed more than 9,000 complaints reported to OIG by DOT employees, contractors, and the general public. OIG's Hotline (1-800-424-9071) is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and serves as an avenue for individuals to anonymously provide OIG information about possible improprieties involving a wide range of issues, including:

- ◆ Contract, Procurement, and Grant Fraud
- ◆ Environment, Health, and Safety Violations
- ◆ Product Substitution and Suspected Unapproved Aircraft Parts (SUP)
- ◆ Bribery, Kickbacks, and Gratuities
- ◆ Conflicts of Interest and Ethics Violations
- ◆ False Statements and False Claims
- ◆ Theft and/or Abuse of Government Property
- ◆ Whistleblower Disclosure
- ◆ Employee Integrity
- ◆ Other Violations of Federal Laws and Regulations

Hotline staff assess and make decisions about what level of attention is warranted for each complaint received, and track and monitor the status of complaints from initial opening to closing review and analysis, ensuring complainant confidentiality is maintained, as appropriate, and documentation is prepared throughout the process.

Actionable complaints are typically referred to other DOT OIG or DOT Operating Administration personnel for inquiry and resolution. A complaint referred, however, is not a complaint closed out, since Hotline staff are also responsible for evaluating responses to all tasked complaints for sufficiency of fact and analysis to ensure the principal issues/allegations have been adequately addressed and when applicable, corrective actions taken or planned are suitable. Something most OIG members might not know is that an increasing number of complaints are also now being investigated by Hotline and other JI-3 staff, as opposed to being referred elsewhere.

OIG IN THE NEWS

Man Sentenced in Connecticut for Providing False Records to Federal Agents

APRIL 25, 2010

(*Ethiopian Review* on JRI-1 investigation)
[http://www.ethiopianreview.com/
news/79879](http://www.ethiopianreview.com/news/79879)

"U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that DONALD R. PERRY III, 36, formerly of Woodbridge and now residing in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, was sentenced today...to six months of imprisonment, followed by four months of home confinement and three years of supervised release... According to court documents and statements made in court, in April 2007, PERRY knowingly altered and falsified documents that were provided to special agents of the FBI, IRS, and U.S. DOT, who were investigating potential criminal conduct in connection with the I-84 highway improvements."

Problems Plague New Air Traffic Control Computers

APRIL 22, 2010

(CBS News on JA-10's testimony on Challenges in Meeting Long-Term Goals for NextGen)

[http://www.cbsnews.com/
stories/2010/04/22/ap/politics/
main6420064.shtml?
utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=
feed&utm_campaign=Feed%
3A+FromTheRoadCBSNews+\(
From+The+Road%3A+CBSNews.com\)](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/04/22/ap/politics/main6420064.shtml?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FromTheRoadCBSNews+(From+The+Road%3A+CBSNews.com))

"The \$2.1 billion computer system has misidentified aircraft and had trouble processing radar information, Calvin Scovel, DOT's inspector general, told a House panel...Scovel warned that if the problems continue they could delay the FAA's NextGen program to replace the current air traffic control system, which is based on World War II-era radar technology, with a new system that's based on GPS technology."

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

The CARS audit team sends special thanks to Heather Albert, Special Investigations and Analysis, and William Owens, National Investigative Programs and Operations, and their teams for their support on matters related to investigations and hotline complaints.

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OIG IN THE NEWS**Fed agency says better Big Dig safety oversight necessary**

APRIL 22, 2010

(*Boston Herald* on JA-40's report on the Commonwealth of MA's Safety Review of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project)
<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1249270&src=rss>

"The report shows DOT OIG believes Massachusetts has done a good job of implementing the safety improvements recommended in a "stem-to-stern review" that followed the accident. But it also says FHWA needs to do a better job in three areas: ensuring the safety of ceiling anchors in the Ted Williams Tunnel; improving the Dig's preparedness for a fire, and assuring calculations for the safety of concrete viaducts are accurate."

Former Executive of Iowa Ready-Mix Concrete Company Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing and Bid Rigging

APRIL 28, 2010

(*Ethiopian Review* on a JRI-5 case)
<http://www.ethiopianreview.com/news/85289>

"A former executive of an Iowa ready-mix concrete company has agreed to plead guilty and serve 19 months in jail for participating in three separate conspiracies to fix prices and rig bids for the sales of ready-mix concrete, DOJ announced today...Today's charge arose from an ongoing federal antitrust investigation of the ready-mix concrete industry in Iowa and its surrounding states. The investigation is being conducted by the DOJ Antitrust Division's Chicago Field Office, the FBI's Sioux City Resident Agency, and the DOT OIG, with the assistance of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Sioux City, Iowa."

END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov), **Dan Raville** (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

A NOTE FROM THE IG

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Susan and I had an excellent trip to Oklahoma City and Chicago last week, where we met great people and ate great food (me and food...we go way back).



I truly enjoyed the brief time I was able to spend out in the field. We were fortunate enough to be in Chicago for young Dave Hoefler's 41st birthday. I also had the chance to meet JA-20's Joann Adam who arranged our visit to the Aeronautical Center in OKC. By the way, Joann is extremely well-known there. Wherever we went, everyone seemed to know who she was.

As most of you know, yesterday was Administrative Professionals Day. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of our administrative staff. Your dedication and commitment to our organization is inspiring, and I thank you for everything you do.

Today, the Department is celebrating "Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day." OIG's participating children range in age from as young as 4 years to "old enough to vote." Keep your eye out in next week's *Inspector* for photos of what promises to be a fun-filled event.

Cal

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The next day In Chicago, Susan updated staff on happenings at Headquarters. She and Cal were then briefed on the region's ongoing investigations. (b)(6)

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It was "a good trip, but quick," Cal said.

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 4/26	TUESDAY, 4/27	WEDNESDAY, 4/28	THURSDAY, 4/29	FRIDAY, 4/30
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>CAL– Updates with S2 (8:00 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– OST GA & OA Weekly Legislative Mtg. (4:00 p.m.)</p>	<p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9:00 a.m.)</p>	<p>CAL—Interagency Coordination Group Meeting of IGs for Guam Realignment (9:00 a.m.)</p> <p>SUSAN– IT Shared Services Change Management Team Mtg. (2:00 p.m.)</p>		<p>TRAINING DEADLINE – Mandatory COOP training in eLMS due</p> <p>CAL– Out of Office</p>
CONGRESSIONAL			TIM - JRI-9 In Service		ANN – Hearing before Senate THUD Appropriations Subcommittee on rail issues (9:30 a.m.)

CAL AND SUSAN'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURES IN THE FIELD (CONT.)

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HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL by David Wonnenberg (J-3)

Boise TRACON

JA-10's Barry DeWeese and Joe Hance, along with David Wonnenberg, met last Friday, April 16th, with Idaho Delegation staff to update them on OIG's review of FAA's cost estimates for relocating the Boise TRACON to Salt Lake City, a review that was initiated at the delegation's request. We informed the staff that we had completed our analysis of FAA's 2005 business case (and subsequent re-looks) and had visited the terminal and TRACON facilities in Boise and Salt Lake City for a first-hand perspective.

In sum, we let the staff know that our review of FAA's business case calls into question the transparency of the process and FAA's projected costs and savings. We told the staff that we do not intend to make formal recommendations to FAA, but offer lessons learned on improving the transparency in the agency's process going forward. We informed the staff that we had discussed our preliminary results with FAA and that they generally agreed with our observations. We hope to have a formal response to the requestors finalized in May.

Cash for Clunkers

On Tuesday, April 13, 2010, Nathan Richmond, Gary Middleton, and Rosalyn Millman briefed Senator Grassley's Finance Committee staff -- Emilia DiSanto; Janet Drew, Brian Downey, Kelly Bloyer, and John DeDona on the draft CARS audit report (final publication planned for statutory deadline of April 29, 2010). The GAO CARS audit team was scheduled to attend, but did not receive clearance to participate from the Senate Commerce Committee (GAO's requestor). We advised the staff about the three major findings of our report: (1) generally high compliance with requirements, but concerns about trade-in vehicle disposal; (2) early NHTSA assumptions and decisions about transaction processing and IT created challenges during implementation; and (3) a lack of plans for compliance and accounting activities to close out the program. The Committee staff, particularly Ms. DiSanto, asked many questions throughout the meeting. In addition, the staff was interested in the level of cooperation and access we received during our audit. We noted that we encountered generally good cooperation, including from dealers and disposal facilities during our fieldwork.

NOTEWORTHY

Are You Ready? Your Free COOP Disaster Guide

DISASTER. It strikes anytime, anywhere. It takes many forms—a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado, a flood, a fire or hazardous spill, an act of nature, or an act of terrorism. It builds over days or weeks, or hits suddenly, without warning. Every year, millions of Americans face disaster, and its terrifying consequences. In a major disaster, it might be several days before vital services are restored. Are you and your family ready?

Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's most comprehensive source on individual, family, and community disaster preparedness information.



This guide provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through how to get informed about local emergency plans, how to identify hazards that affect their local area, and how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and disaster supplies kit. Other topics covered include evacuation, emergency public shelters, animals in disaster, and information specific to people with disabilities.

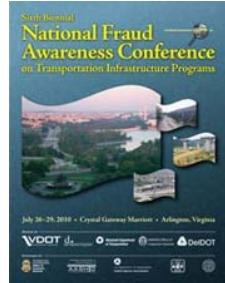
You can also find in-depth information on specific hazards including what to do before, during, and after each hazard type, including floods, wildfires, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes—you name it!

Make sure you and your family are ready for disaster, when or wherever it strikes. Visit http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready_full.pdf for a free copy of your guide.

FRAUD AWARENESS CONFERENCE

WHEN:

July 26-29, 2010


WHERE:

Crystal Gateway
Marriott,
Arlington, VA

WHY: DOT OIG's JI is co-sponsoring the **Sixth Biennial National Fraud Awareness Conference on Transportation Infrastructure Programs** this year, along with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and several other state DOT agencies. The goals of this conference are to sharpen awareness of fraud schemes; share best investigative, audit, and oversight practices; and strengthen working relationships for the expected 250-300 attendees.

This conference can earn you up to 38 CPUs! Agenda and registration information are online at www.PreventTransportationFraud.org.

HOW: All employees—JA, in particular—are invited to attend. You should first get approval from your manager and then add the conference to your ILP.

CONTACT: JI Conference Coordinator [REDACTED] (b)(6) at [REDACTED] (b)(6) @oig.dot.gov or (202) 366-[REDACTED] (b)(6)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

An Auditor's Guide to JI: What's the Role of JI-2?

The National Investigative Programs and Operations Division (JI-2) services both the regional offices and headquarters—primarily acting as an interface between the two. JI-2 is staffed by desk officers (senior special agents), who are primarily responsible for ensuring that the operational needs of the field are met and for keeping the Principal Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (PAIGI)—and ultimately, the Inspector General and his Deputy—informed of all relevant case activities and administrative issues.

The National Investigative Programs and Operations Division is overseen by a Director (Bill Owens is currently its Acting Director). The remaining structure of JI-2 and the responsibilities of each of the desk officers are summarized in the charts below:

	(b)(6)
Operational Liaison and Coordinator:	JI-3
Program Management:	Employee Integrity
Operating Administration Liaison:	OST
Other Duties:	First line supervisor for desk officers & back-up for any desk officer(s) on leave or away from the office. Final review of all IG Subpoena, Consensual Monitoring, C-Funds, and Undercover Operations requests before approval is sought. Final review of all pre-ALERT and ALERT sheets, weekly reports, Talking Points, and SAR write-ups before they are submitted to the front office. (b)(6)
Operational Liaison and Coordinator:	Regions 1, 2, 3, and 9
Program Management:	Motor Carrier Safety, Contract/Grant Fraud, CARS
Operating Administration Liaison:	STB, SLSDC, NHTSA, FMCSA, FHWA, FTA, RITA
Other Duties:	Asset Forfeiture Program (b)(6)
Operational Liaison and Coordinator:	Regions 4, 5, and 6
Program Management:	Aviation Safety/Security (SUPS & Dangerous Goods), HazMat
Operating Administration Liaison:	FAA, NTSB, MARAD, PHMSA, FRA,
Other Duties:	National Training Coordinator COOP (Back-up to Crumpacker) (b)(6)
Duties:	National Firearms Coordinator; Field Inspection Program (QAR, ALERTS/Logs QC); Policy Maintenance & Development; FinCEN Requests; Budget (Travel, Purchases, DCAA, etc.) Semi-Annual Report

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NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(“What’s the Role of JI-2?” from page 5)

The desk officers have a wide range of responsibilities, which, in addition to serving as a liaison between the regional offices and headquarters, include acting as a liaison between the regions and the Operating Administrations, overseeing investigative program areas, and working on special projects. We also have one desk officer who is responsible for strategic planning, quality assurance, and policy development and maintenance.

In addition to the desk officers, JI-2 also has two data specialists assigned to it: (b)(6)

(b)(6) . (b)(6) is principally responsible for development and support of the JI investigative case management system (ICMS). (b)(6) is also responsible for the development and support of the ICMS but also handles FOIA requests, semi-annual and monthly report data pulls, and processes adhoc data requests. Also a part of JI-2 is the Computer Crimes Unit (CCU), whose roles and responsibilities will be discussed in a future edition of *The Inspector*.

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END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov),
Dan Raville (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

OIG IN THE NEWS

Two Miami Based Aircraft Parts Suppliers Please Guilty of Fraud

APRIL 13, 2010

(AvStop.com on a JI investigation by the Region 4, Sunrise, FL office)

http://avstop.com/news_april_2010/two_miami_based_aircraft_parts_suppliers_plead_guilty_fraud.htm

"United States Attorney office for the Southern District of Florida announced the April 7, 2010 guilty plea of defendants Mariella Bianchi, 51, and Juan Beltran, 28, both of Davie, for their participation in a massive procurement fraud scheme designed to defraud the U.S. Air Force and Navy, and the commercial aviation sector."

Delivery Service Owners Indicted for Major Fraud

APRIL 15, 2010

(Commercial Carrier Journal on a JI investigation by the Region 6, Lakewood, CO office)

<http://www.ccjdigital.com/delivery-service-owners-indicted-for-major-fraud/>

"George Grunden Sr. and Renza Grunden, owners of Colorado Choice One Delivery Services, were indicted March 24 in U.S. District Court in Denver on charges of major fraud against the United States, making false statements and obstruction of a federal audit... According to the DOT OIG, an investigation revealed that the Grundens, doing business as Colorado Choice One Delivery Services, entered into contracts with the U.S. Postal Service valued at more than \$ 1 million to transport mail within Colorado."

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



NextGen Testimony Team, JA-10

A NOTE FROM THE IG

It's testimony crunch time, folks. This time, times three.

As most of you may know, a tremendous amount of work goes into preparing for a testimony, especially if they come at us back-to-back-to-back. Testimony time can require us to spend nights, weekends--and yes, even holidays at the office. For some of our colleagues, it may also require lengthy travel away from their families. Please know that I sincerely appreciate all of your efforts and that your sacrifices don't go unnoticed. Because of your efforts, our office continues to put out exceptional products that are timely and relevant to Members of Congress and their staff.



TESTIMONY TRILOGY

There's an old saying that "good things come in three's" (or is it vice versa)? Anyway, they're coming—testimonies—back-to-back-to-back. Starting on April 21st, Cal will testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure's (T&I) Aviation Subcommittee on FAA's progress in standing up the Next Generation of Air Traffic Control (NextGen). Then on the 22nd, Cal will testify again before the full T&I Committee on the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) management and oversight of the Special Permits and Approvals Program. Finally, on the 29th, Ann will testify before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing & Urban Development regarding the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Programs and Amtrak.

That's quite a workload and a true command performance (literally). But we've got three talented teams of weekend warriors who stand ready and willing to take on the challenge (well, at least ready ☺). And it is a real challenge! Our teams will have to first pen a 10 to 15 page written statement that will have to be cross referenced to supporting evidence and then independently referenced. Next, they'll have to tackle an oral statement (of no more than 5 minutes) that Cal or Ann will deliver before the Members on the day of the Hearing. But the most intense piece of the process will be preparing the witnesses for Members' questions. This involves compiling a series of sample Q&A's, fact sheets, point papers, Member's biographies, and other witnesses' statements into one giant book. (Adrienne Williams of our PHSMA team displays a sample of the dreaded "prep book" on page 2). The teams then meet in three or four 2-hour sessions to go over all that material and "prep" our witnesses. On the all-and-all it's quite an ordeal, but on Hearing day we know that Cal and Ann will be ready for the lights, the camera, and the Members!

(more testimony team photos on next page)

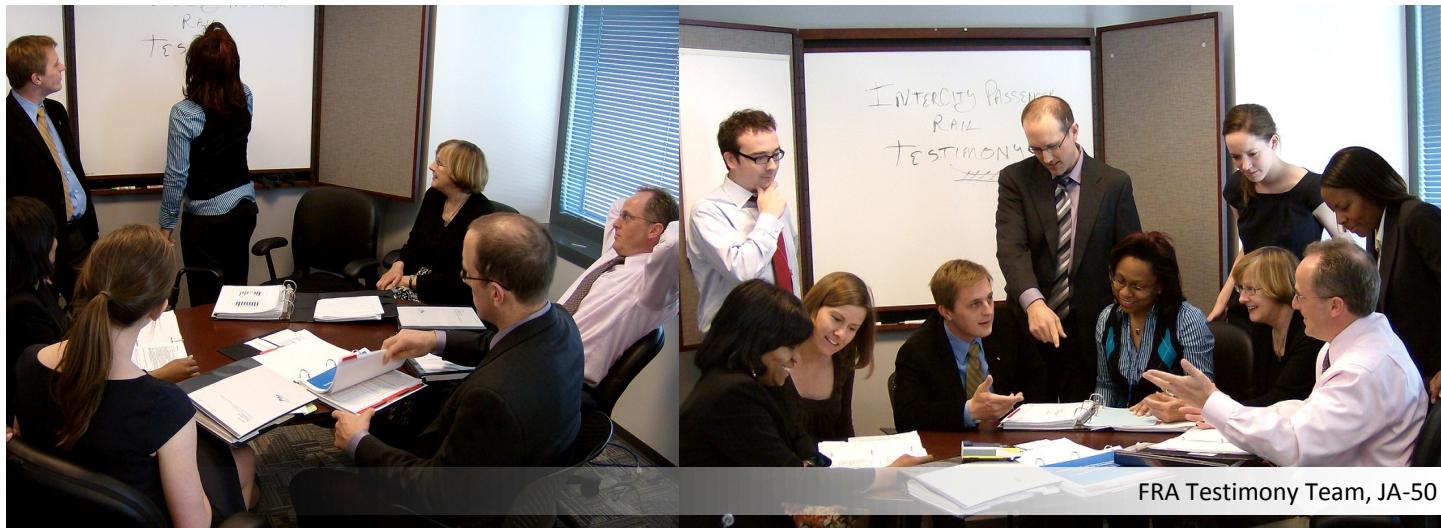
In the meantime, this week I get to do one of my favorite things: visiting with folks out in the field. Susan Dailey and I will be visiting our regional colleagues in Oklahoma City and Chicago. Stay tuned—Susan's bringing her camera along and promised some cameo shots in the next edition of the Inspector.

Cal

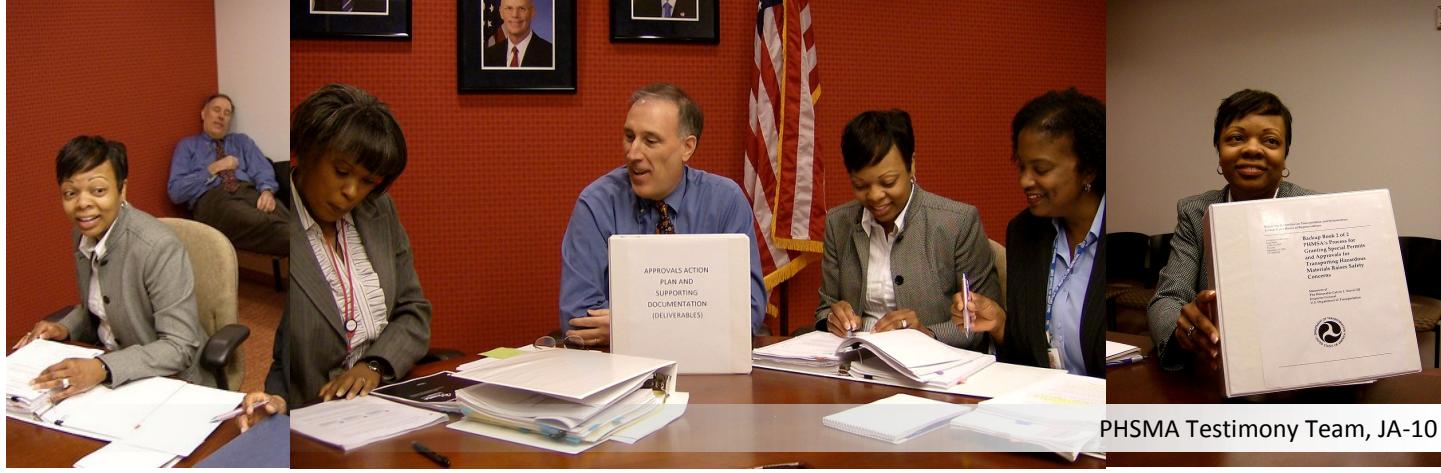
OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 4/19	TUESDAY, 4/20	WEDNESDAY, 4/21	THURSDAY, 4/22	FRIDAY, 4/23
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>BRIAN– Legislative Strategy Mtg. (4 p.m.)</p> <p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL, BRIAN—CIGIE Mtg. (10 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– EMT Congressional Mtg. (10:30 a.m.)</p>	<p>CAL– Executive Management Team (EMT) Mtg. (9 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL, BRIAN—CIGIE Mtg. (10 a.m.)</p> <p>BRIAN– EMT Congressional Mtg. (10:30 a.m.)</p>	<p>SUSAN– Monthly AMC/WCF Mtg. (2 p.m.)</p>	<p>Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day!</p>	
CONGRESSIONAL		<p>ANN– Mtg. with Senate THUD Appropriations Minority Staff (2:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>Hearing on NextGen: Long-Term Planning and Interagency Cooperation (2 p.m.)</p> <p>ANN– Mtg. with Senate THUD Appropriations Majority Staff (10 p.m.)</p>	<p>Hearing on DOT's Oversight & Management of Hazardous Materials Special Permits & Approvals (10:30 p.m.)</p>	

TESTIMONY TRILOGY (cont.)



FRA Testimony Team, JA-50



PHSMA Testimony Team, JA-10

NOTEWORTHY

Phase II of Investigative Case Management System (ICMS) to Begin

The Office of Investigations, Investigative Case Management System (ICMS), commonly referred to as ALERTS (Automated Law Enforcement Reporting Tracking System) is in the process of starting Phase II of its development.

Many of the changes to be made are much needed and were desired enhancements that came to light after ALERTS was put into service. The ICMS team, based on input it has received from an ALERTS user working group, has been developing a requirements document to initiate the process of securing a contract for Phase II.

Some of the most significant items that we are looking to accomplish are:

- ◆ **TARGET WORKFLOW:** We want to consolidate all the actions that take place against our investigative targets in one place: Target Disposition, which will simplify the process of data input for users and the subsequent management reporting. At present, actions against targets are tracked in a number of places; once this change is implemented, all actions that JI employees report concerning a particular target--from prosecutorial referral to sentencing--will only be recorded in Target Disposition.
- ◆ **TIME MODULE:** We would like the time module user input form to more closely resemble the Labor Category View report. This will help to ease the input, review, and approval process. We will also ask for an option to auto-populate a timesheet based on the cases where an agent/investigator is assigned as the Primary Agent, a feature that a number of users have requested.
- ◆ **RESOURCES TAB:** We are going to build-out the Resources Tab with Regional Inventory, Purchase Card, and Training. The last item will be used to track the training and certificates that are JI specific, such as quarterly firearms qualifications, PEB, and periodic/annual training certificates (use of force, LEAP Policy Review, Authorities and Responsibilities, etc).
- ◆ **MISCELLANEOUS:** There are a number of miscellaneous changes we are also looking to make. For example, we will ask that all signatures throughout ALERTS behave the same as the signatures in the Time Module (i.e., no password prompt). We will also remove the need for one Allegation Status in order to close an investigation, enhance the indices search to go beyond just contacts last name/business name field, and consolidate all contacts so that they can be shared throughout ALERTS.

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These are but a few of the features that we plan to incorporate as part of the Phase II contract. JI users, please be sure to watch your email in-box in the coming months for an **ALERTS Update** announcing the issuance of this contract.

HUMAN CAPITAL UPDATES

Take your Daughters and Sons to Work Day!

The national day for Take Your Daughters and Sons To Work Day is April 22, 2010. The OIG headquarters will be participating and is in the process of planning activities for this event. Field locations are encouraged to plan their own event. Headquarters employees—please notify Toby Burt of the number and ages of your children that plan to attend by April 15, 2010 (TODAY!).

You can email him at Toby.Burt@OIG.DOT.GOV or call at (703) 366-1962.

Telework

The OIG is required to report on telework participation to the Department, who reports to OPM, who reports this information to Congress. Therefore, it's important that you notify your timekeeper when you telework and that timekeepers record this information into Castle. Thanks for helping us ensure our reports accurately reflect the extent that our employees are using our telework program.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

JA-10's Seattle Team Shows You How to Have Fun While Doing Acquisitions Work

Acquisition work is inherently boring. Or so the stigma goes. However, the small Seattle team consisting of senior auditor Greggory Bond and analyst Henning Thiel has implemented a simple formula that made their current acquisition assessment a blast. Greggory has had a triple decade career in the auditing field; Henning is a career intern--for about another week--after which he will join the permanent ranks of our OIG. According to the team, the secret to making acquisition work fun has two parts: One is the right attitude - you have to *make it fun*, and the other is - getting out of the office!

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If you are traveling exclusively between your own office and some FAA Program Office, you are missing out on the fun adventure it could be! Don't believe me? Our two person team travelled across the country, to include Washington (D.C.) of course, but also Houston (TX), Oklahoma City (OK), Atlantic City (NJ), and Anchorage (AK). On the way we visited the FAA Technical Center, the FAA Logistics Center, SEATAC & Paine Field (Boeing) airports in Washington State, and several ATC centers (TIP: Always ask for a tour!). Along the way we met some excellent people from FAA, got to "fly & land" in a Twin Otter flight simulator, participated in an aircraft smoke-fire drill,(b)(6)

, (b)(6)

In a stroke of luck, Henning - being at the right place at the right time - was invited to join a FAA/Honeywell flight test crew, witnessing proprietary and ADS-B testing first hand, by flying around in a private Citation Sovereign Jet. For these tests, SEATAC airport closed down its third runway, so we could perform low-altitude over-flights,

(Continued on next page)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(“How to Have Fun” continued from previous page)

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as well as ground speed-runs, and test near-miss scenarios with our jet, as well as another aircraft. In what other job do you get to play chicken with jets? That was incredible good fun. In my book, the acquisition stigma doesn't hold any truth.

Henning Thiel, Analyst, JA-10, Seattle

JA-50 Team Visits Amtrack's Back Shops

In February and March, JA-50's Yana Hudson, Leslie Mitchell, Becky McKnight, Emily Vasile and Aaron Schwarz braved the cold and wind and travelled to Amtrak's three, heavy overhaul, back shops in Beech Grove, Indiana; Bear, Delaware; and Wilmington, Delaware. The team is conducting an audit of Amtrak's utilization of its maintenance facilities.

Unlike Amtrak's other 18 maintenance facilities, the 3 the team visited perform complete overhauls of Amtrak cars and locomotives. The overhaul process in-

volves the removal of all car amenities and components, including electrical wiring, lights, carpet, seats, and bathroom facilities.

These facilities have played an instrumental role in Amtrak's ARRA efforts by overhauling and return-

Before and After:
Amtrak's back shop in Wilmington uses a wheel truing machine to shave wheels to shiny perfection.

ing to service 36 wrecked cars and locomotives to support Amtrak's significantly capacity-constrained fleet. Back shop staff and management wel-

comed the team's visit and eagerly displayed their pride in their unequalled skill and craftsmanship.

After a long day of visiting the Beech Grove facility, the team was surprised to find refurbished Pullman train cars modified as their hotel rooms. They had seen enough trains for the day, however, and elected to stay in traditional rooms.

- Emily Vasile, Analyst, JA-50, D.C.



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Aaron Schwarz, Yana Hudson, Leslie Mitchell, and Emily Vasile pose for a picture outside of Amtrak's Beech Grove maintenance facility. Brrr!

UPDATE ON MANDATORY TRAINING

Federal Security and Privacy Awareness Training (SAT) for 2010—eLMS

Complete by: July 15, 2010.

As of April 13: 159 employees have completed training.

This year's eLMS course is entitled “Information System Security LOB Awareness Training 2010.”

COOP Training—eLMS

Complete by: April 30, 2010

As of April 13 - 145 employees have completed training

Please bookmark OIG's COOP website on your office computers:

www.oig.dot.gov/coop

Supervisor I

Training offered in DC on the following dates:

April 20 -22

May 4 - 6

Training questions? Contact

Margaret Uckert at:

Margaret.E.Uckert@oig.dot.gov

eLMS issues? Contact

Karen Muller at:

202-260-8550 or

Karen.Muller@oig.dot.gov.

OIG IN THE NEWS

Glitches May Delay Lockheed U.S. Air-Traffic Upgrade, FAA Says

APRIL 9, 2010

(*Business Week* quotes the IG)
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-09/glitches-may-delay-lockheed-u-s-air-traffic-upgrade-faa-says.html>

"ERAM is 'a linchpin' for a broader FAA overhaul to a satellite-based system, Calvin Scovel, the Transportation Department's inspector general, told Congress last year.

"Any schedule delays will affect the pace of introducing new capabilities,' Scovel told the House aviation subcommittee."

Govt faults oversight for labs testing explosives

APRIL 9, 2010

(Associated Press on JA-50's upcoming PHSMA testimony)
http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h4tB_90m5kIQU_BkKHG8GdULiwwD9EV5QS81

"The federal agency that regulates the transport of hazardous materials failed for at least a decade to inspect or conduct safety reviews of the four private laboratories it pays to test explosives, a government watchdog has found.

"The Transportation Department's inspector general said in a memo released Thursday that an investigation has found problems with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's safety oversight that require 'immediate attention.'"

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

JA-40 Gets Down and Dirty in New York City

On March 25, 2010, JA-40 announced a new audit to evaluate FTA's oversight of four major transit projects in New York City. The first project to be evaluated will be the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Fulton Street Transit Center. This project has received funding from FTA's September 11 Emergency Recovery appropriation and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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JA-40 Team members include: Tom Yatsco, Rosa Scalice, Joseph Tschurilow, Michael Dzandza, and George Lavano with the Director, FTA's Lower Manhattan Recovery Office [front left] and the Project Director, Fulton Street Transit Center [front right].

Prior to the entrance conference, the team participated in a tour of the various project sections to observe first-hand the construction complexities of this project. As seen in the photo, the team had to wear protective equipment-hardhats, goggles, and vests- to ensure their safety. Wearing hardhats came in very handy when the tour entered a section that had a low height clearance and the thumping sound of hardhat hitting construction beam was



An underground ramp section being demolished.

heard on numerous occasions. During the tour FTA officials pointed out that while construction is on-going, the New York City subways must continue operating to serve almost 300,000 riders a day commuting through the open sections of this and connected stations.

When completed in 2015, the Fulton Street Transit Center project will improve transit interconnectivity between several platforms and access to the Lower Manhattan area for the millions of visitors expected to visit the World Trade Center location.

(Continued on next page)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(“Down and Dirty” continued from previous page)

The project includes a highly visible, aboveground Transit Center with a dome structure as the principal entrance to the subway system and to public spaces below ground, and improvements to facilitate passenger flow between several different subway lines.

-George Lavanco, JA-40, D.C.

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OIG IN THE NEWS (cont.)

DOT IG Confirms T&I’s Findings on PHMSA’s Lack of Safety Oversight

APRIL 8, 2010

(T&I Committee Press Release on JA-50's upcoming PHSMA testimony)
<http://transportation.house.gov/News/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1162>

"The Department of Transportation's Inspector General released a management advisory today calling for immediate action to address significant weaknesses in the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's oversight of the transportation of explosives."

Many Air Traffic Controller Candidates Not Ready for Prime Time, OIG Finds

APRIL 9, 2010

(*Federal News Radio* on JA-10's report on air traffic controller selection and placement)

<http://www.federaldaily.com/federaldaily/archive/2010/04/FD040910.htm>

"While the Federal Aviation Administration may have hired 1,731 new air traffic controllers in FY 2009 to address the wave of retirements, it has not been doing the best job in placing novice controllers, according to a Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General report released earlier this month.

"The report, conducted at the request of the House Aviation Subcommittee, said the way FAA selects and places new controllers does not sufficiently take into account candidates' aptitudes. According to the OIG, FAA 'does not effectively use screening test results or consider candidates' academy performance to help determine facility placement.'"

END SHOT

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov), **Dan Raville** (Dan.Raville@oig.dot.gov), or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov) by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(b)(6)

A NOTE FROM THE IG

It's a moving week at OIG. First, Lou Dixon settles into her new role as our next PAIGAE. I'm sure most of you already know



Lou....she's not exactly shy. Before leading JA-10 as the AIG, Lou was the Program Director for our Atlanta office. I think we can all agree that her broad experience and strong support of continuous improvement make her perfect for this role.

Mitch Behm is also starting his new role as JA-50's new "AIG Designate." Actually, this role isn't new for Mitch, as he's been acting as JA-50's AIG for several months. Mitch first arrived at OIG as a Financial Consultant in 2003. He tolerated us so well that he decided to stick around, and we're very glad he did.

From the looks of things, Lou and Mitch will take their new hats very seriously.

In other news, we're gearing up for our upcoming testimonies, with several prep sessions already locked in. Stay tuned--more information on these testimonies will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Best Regards,

Cal

LOU DIXON AND MITCH BEHM PUT ON NEW HATS

Hi Everyone! I'm very excited about starting my new position as the Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations. I probably know most of you already (as Cal said in his note—I'm not exactly the shy type). But if I don't, I look forward to meeting you all very soon. Although I don't become an official resident of "the bunker" until May, the Inspector's editors-in-general asked me to give a little bio. So here it is.

I've been with DOT OIG for just about 12 years now, most recently as the AIG in charge of JA-10—a position I've just loved because I've always been a big aviation buff (they say the smell of jet fuel gets in your blood). But I'm really looking forward to expanding into all modes of transportation. Before that, I was the Program Director in charge of our Atlanta regional office for nearly 7 years, where we did extensive work into airline safety issues and my love of all things aviation really began. (And yes, I still do get on airplanes).

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I look forward to continuing to work with an even larger group of some of the most dedicated and talented people I've ever met as we carry on with our mission of excellence! See you soon!

Lou Dixon

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 4/12	TUESDAY, 4/13	WEDNESDAY, 4/14	THURSDAY, 4/15	FRIDAY, 4/16
SPECIAL MEETINGS	CAL & SUSAN— TDY Oklahoma City BRIAN— Legislative Strategy Meeting (4 p.m.)	CAL & SUSAN— TDY Chicago ANN— Executive Management Team Mtg. (9 a.m.)		CAL— Recovery Funds Working Group Committee Mtg. (1 p.m.) ANN— Annual Leave	
CONGRESSIONAL			CAL— Senior Leadership Training		

House and Senate in Recess

OIG BY THE NUMBERS

1st Half, FY 2010



48
reports issued

179
recommendations

5
testimonies



\$800,000,000
put to better use

\$5,200,000
costs questioned

NOTEWORTHY

Washington Man Sentenced for Providing False Documents on Seattle's Light Rail Project

On February 19, David Appleby, president of Appleby NW, a steel fabrication company in Granite Falls, Washington, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to one year probation, a \$20,000 fine and \$30,523 in restitution for making and using false documents in relation to his work on the Sound Transit Light Rail.

Mr. Appleby successfully bid to fabricate steel casings for the footings for the four mile elevated portion of the Tukwila, Washington, Light Rail-Line Project (Sound Transit). The casings are large metal tubes, ten or twelve feet in diameter that encase the concrete pilings just below the surface and are supposed to be manufactured from M270 Grade 50 steel. Mr. Appleby purchased steel plates from Oregon Steel Mills, Inc. to fabricate into the casings. After the first batch of steel plates were ordered, Mr. Appleby became aware that the steel did not meet the contract specifications. Mr. Appleby continued to purchase and use Grade 36 steel, from Oregon Steel Mills and provided falsified reports to Sound Transit to make it appear that Appleby NW, Inc. had fabricated the casings out of Grade 50 steel. Between May 2005 and November 2006, Mr. Appleby falsified 36 reports and provided them to Sound Transit, who in turn provided them to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Appleby NW, Inc. supplied more than 150 casings to the light rail project, the majority of which did not meet the contract standards. Both Sound Transit and FTA asked experts to evaluate the use of the lesser grade steel. The studies concluded there is no safety issue. This case was investigated by the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance provided by FTA.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

JA-40 Team's Alaskan Audit

Last December, JA-40's Brenda James, Jay Swartzbaugh, Calvin Moore, and Adam Tabaka traveled to Anchorage, Alaska for six days to collect data at the Denali Commission for an audit. The audit, which has been conducted at the request of Senator Christopher S. Bond, evaluates the use of Federal-aid highway and transit funds transferred by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to the Denali Commission (Commission) for improvements to Alaska's surface and maritime transportation infrastructures.



View of Cook Inlet looking from the Commission.

The winter season in Alaska is extremely long--with about nine months of temperatures that range from a 9°F to 25°F and only around five hours of daily sunlight. Each day that we were in Alaska, the sun rose around 10:30 a.m. and set around 4:00 p.m. On our last the work days in Anchorage, an intense ice fog covered the short periods of sunlight and thickly coated everything in frost.

The Denali Commission is located in downtown Anchorage in a private building with views of both Cook Inlet (which is known for devouring people each year in its quick-sand-like muddy banks) and Mount Denali (or, as non-Alaskans, call it Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America).

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UPDATE ON MANDATORY TRAINING

Federal Security and Privacy Awareness Training (SAT) for 2010—eLMS

Complete by: July 15, 2010.

As of April 6, 130 employees have completed training.

This year's eLMS course is entitled "Information System Security LOB Awareness Training 2010."

COOP Training—eLMS

Complete by: April 30, 2010

Please bookmark OIG's COOP website on your office computers:
www.oig.dot.gov/coop.

Supervisor I

Training offered in DC on the following dates:

April 13 - 15

April 20 -22

May 4 - 6

May 11 -13

Training questions? Contact Margaret Uckert at:
Margaret.E.Uckert@oig.dot.gov

eLMS issues? Contact Karen Muller at:
 202-260-8550 or
Karen.Muller@oig.dot.gov.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

Attend the Sixth Biennial National Fraud Awareness Conference on Transportation Infrastructure Programs



<http://www.preventtransportationfraud.org/>

The U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and several other state DOT agencies are co-sponsoring the Sixth Biennial National Fraud Awareness Conference on Transportation Infrastructure Programs scheduled for July 26-29, 2010 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia. The primary conference goals are to sharpen awareness of fraud schemes; share best investigative, audit, and oversight practices; and strengthen working relationships for the expected 250-300 attendees. Among these attendees will be attorneys, auditors, engineers, contract and procurement officers, investigators, and law enforcement personnel from all levels of government. In addition, the conference will be open to transportation industry representatives and the media.

This conference also provides an opportunity for you to earn up to 38 CPUs! Register by June 1st and receive the discounted rate of \$425, register five people or more for as low as \$325 per person. Agenda and registration are online at www.PreventTransportationFraud.org, so plan to attend, expand your knowledge, and receive continuing educational credits.

All employees who want to register for the conference should obtain approval from their manager and add the conference to their ILP. All JI employees who express an interest in attending are going to be registered; however, the conference has seen a fairly low registration from JA, so we encourage JA to consider attending this year.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns regarding the conference please do not hesitate to contact the JI conference Coordinator (b)(6) by e-mail at (b)(6).

Company President Pleads Guilty to Mail Fraud Involving FHWA Funded Contracts

On March 2, Kamleshwar Gupta, President and CEO of KAM Engineering, Incorporated (KEI), pled guilty in U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, to mail fraud related to falsified information submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and other state entities for payment on state transportation contracts. From 1994-2003, Mr. Gupta submitted false invoices and financial information regarding

(Continued on page 5)

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

OIG IN THE NEWS

("Mail Fraud" continued from page 4)

overhead expenses and the number of hours worked by KEI employees on contracts for IDOT, Chicago Department of Transportation, Metra, and the Illinois State Tollway Authority, many of which were Federally-funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The total amount of fraudulent invoices amounted to over \$1.6 million. The scheme to defraud involved Mr. Gupta moving hours among different jobs and contracts by directing the 30 plus employees of KEI to complete timesheets in pencil, which allowed the alterations. Fraudulent invoices were then mailed to IDOT for payment. Mr. Gupta has made full restitution to all parties involved. After indictment, KEI, now defunct, and Mr. Gupta were suspended by FHWA. This was a joint investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation with substantial assistance from IDOT, Division of Audits. Sentencing for Mr. Gupta is scheduled for May 27, 2010.

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FAA managers broke rules at Detroit Metro Airport

APRIL 2, 2010

(**Detroit Free Press** on JI OSC investigation)

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100402/NEWS05/4020302/1320/FAA-managers-broke-rules-at-Detroit-Metro>

"For six months in 2007, FAA managers at Detroit Metro Airport allowed a pattern of aircraft landings and departures that violated safety rules and potentially put passengers at risk even as air-traffic controllers warned of the danger...That was the conclusion of the U.S. DOT's IG's Office, which responded to whistleblower allegations."

FAA Hiring Practices For Air Traffic Controllers In Question

APRIL 6, 2010

(**AVStop.com** on JA-10 report on newly hired air traffic controllers)
http://avstop.com/news_april_2010/faa_hiring_practices_for_air_traffic_controllers_in_question.htm

"The DOT OIG issued their report on the FAA's policies and procedures for screening, placing, and initially training newly hired air traffic controllers...DOT found that the FAA's process for selecting and placing new controllers does not sufficiently evaluate candidates' aptitudes because the FAA does not effectively use screening test results or consider candidates' FAA Academy performance to help determine facility placement."

END SHOT

(b)(6)

COMINGS & GOINGS

(b)(6)

Do you have news to share with the OIG community?

Email your suggested articles to **Angela McCallister** (angela.mccallister@oig.dot.gov)
or **Karen Sloan** (Karen.Sloan@oig.dot.gov)
by COB Tuesdays to be included in next week's publication.

THEINSPECTOR

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



A NOTE FROM THE IG

We at DOT OIG are well-regarded for the excellent communication vehicles we produce to share our audit and investigation findings with our stakeholders. These external communication products include audit reports, Top Management Challenge reports, testimonies, and the Semi-Annual Report to Congress.

(b)(6)

However, other than emails and quarterly all-hands meetings, we haven't had a regular vehicle for communicating with one another internally. This is what we're hoping *The Inspector* newsletter will provide.

Consider this newsletter an opportunity for all of you to share with us what you are doing, thinking and reading. I look forward to hearing about the interesting stories that go on behind the scenes, such as JA-10's eventful experience with a flight simulator in this week's issue.

Best Regards,

Cal Scovel

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF *THE INSPECTOR!*

When I first mentioned the idea of pulling together a weekly newsletter to our Communications Officer, Karen Sloan, I envisioned it as a place to collect nuggets of information that had no home and needed to be sent in dribs and drabs over email—news coverage of our work, upcoming events, new hires, Congressional updates, and so on. Through the hard work of a team led by Karen and Dan Raville, that vision has become a reality.

I am very happy to kick off this first issue of *The Inspector*, and I invite the entire OIG community—headquarters and regions; auditors, investigators, and support staff—to contribute regularly. It will allow us to recognize all of our hard work and keep us informed of what's going on in OIG.

I know it will be a huge time-saver for me to read our weekly highlights in one fell swoop rather than sift through individual emails in my inbox. My hope is that *The Inspector* will become a weekly "must-read" for you all as well.

In addition to Karen and Dan, I'd like to thank Heather Voda, Christina Lee, Courtney Scott, Nathan Richmond, and Dave Wonnemberg for getting the newsletter off the ground. Special thanks to Angela McCallister for stepping up as our first newsletter editor.

Ann Calvaresi-Barr

OIG WEEKLY CALENDAR

	MONDAY, 4/5	TUESDAY, 4/6	WEDNESDAY, 4/7	THURSDAY, 4/8	FRIDAY, 4/9
SPECIAL MEETINGS	<p>CAL—Lunch with Karen Hedlund, FHWA Chief Counsel (12 p.m.)</p> <p>DEADLINE—Focus articles for Semi-Annual Report due COB</p>	<p>CAL—Executive Management Team Meeting (9 a.m.)</p>		<p>CAL, ANN—Meet & Greet with FAA Admin. Babbitt (10 a.m.)</p> <p>CAL—RATB/CIGIE Working Group Meeting (1 p.m.)</p> <p>NATS v. PHILLIES GAME (Morale Comm., 4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>CAL—RATB Meeting (1:30 p.m.)</p>
CONGRESSIONAL				House and Senate in Recess	

RECENT TESTIMONIES

The FAA's Oversight of On-Demand Aircraft Operators

March 17, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

PDF: <http://www.oig.dot.gov/library-item/5294>

VIDEO: <http://transportation.edgeboss.net/wmedia/transportation/20100317av.wvx>

Weaknesses in DOT's Suspension and Debarment Program Limit its Protection of Government Funds

March 18, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Aviation

PDF: <http://www.oig.dot.gov/library-item/5296>

VIDEO: <http://groc.edgeboss.net/wmedia/groc/fullcommittee/2010/03.18.10.fc.suspensionanddebarment.wvx>

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

On March 1, Cal, Ann, and Tim met with majority and minority staff from the House T&I Committee. To field potential in-the-weeds questions, they brought some back-up muscle: Matt Hampton, Joe Come, and Mitch Behm. Not surprisingly, they wowed the crowd. Much like the Senate Commerce briefing they held in January, Cal led off with a high level picture of OIG efforts, emphasizing the stimulus work that we've ramped up. Tim highlighted JI—its structure, the investigative mission, and where things stand with respect to ARRA investigations. Ann covered the audit side, providing a sense of where each JA intersects with T&I's jurisdiction, which covers all of DOT and its Operating Administrations.

Although the briefing was remarkably void of questions, one seemed to pique the interest of the mostly seasoned staffers. Clay Foushee, lead majority staff for Oversight and Investigations, wanted to know if our Acquisition and Procurement audit group—a relatively recent addition—cross-pollinated with the other audit groups? Ann responded that, generally speaking, JA-60 spends about 50 percent of its time working with other audit groups, and 50 percent on its own efforts.

Near the end of the briefing, Ann noted changes that JA is implementing that are designed to streamline the audit process, in addition to attempts to bring critical information into the open more rapidly via management and ARRA advisories. Cal closed the meeting, thanking the Committee staff for their longstanding support of our work.

The meeting not only provided our front office team a venue to interact with staff on a level other than a hearing, but gave them the opportunity for some brief, informal one-on-one interactions following the meeting.

—Dave Wonnenberg (J-3)

NOTEWORTHY

JA-10 Flight Simulator

In late January 2009, staff from JA-10's Operations Group traveled to (b)(6) (b)(6) in Atlanta, Georgia, to conduct fieldwork for our audit of Pilot Fatigue and Crew Rest Requirements. As a special treat; they were invited to take part in the pilot's monthly required flight simulator training.



The entire team walked into the training facility eager to get behind the controls of the Bombardier CRJ 700/900; the main aircraft operated by ASA. Dolly Deneva joked, "I can't believe I'm behind the controls of a plane right now, I may have a future as a pilot." (b)(6)

(b)(6) provided a general overview of how the simulator is used for training purposes. He indicated that he could change the settings to simulate a 180 degree/3-dimensional view of any metropolitan area/airport in the United States of America, as well as in climate weather.

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After the overview, Aaron Rodgers (a Chicago native and our resident VIP) got behind the controls and enthusiastically requested Captain Stephens to simulate the aircraft to prepare for landing at Chicago-O'Hare International Airport during a thunderstorm. Although his technique was questionable, Aaron landed the plane and marked his piloting experience as "challenging yet attainable with a little more training." Unfortunately other members of the team were not as successful. Our future, self proclaimed pilot, Dolly, managed to crash the plane not once, but twice.

—Aaron Rodgers (JA-10)

Missed Previous Community of Practice (CoP) Events?

Watch the *ARRA: Now and Later* presentation with Tom Yatso, (b)(6), and Madeline Chulumovich, or the *Congressional Playbook* presentation with Nathan Richmond and David Wonnenberg's on the OIG intranet at: <http://portal.oig.dot.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

(continued on next page)

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REGISTER FOR NEW REPORT WRITING SEMINARS IN eLMS

Four audit **Report Writing Seminars** developed by Communications Officer, Karen Sloan, will be available this month at DOT OIG Headquarters. The course dates are **April 8, 20, 22, and 29**.

If interested, please register for the Report Writing Seminar through the Schedule Offerings function in eLMS. Here are the step-by-step instructions:

1. Sign into eLMS at <https://elms.dot.gov/index.html>
2. Click on **Catalog**
3. Click on **Calendar of Offerings**
4. On **April 8, April 20, April 22 or April 29** – Click on **Communications**
5. To the far right you will see a register button – click **Register**
6. Click on **Confirm**
7. The next screen will show “enrolled” or if you are waitlisted
8. If you are enrolled - The course will show up on your Learning Plan; both you and your supervisor will receive an e-mail notification from eLMS.

If you have questions, please call Margaret Uckert at (202) 260-8544.

NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

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Fraud: A Blight on Stimulus Work

February 1, 2010

(CNN Money on JA-60's Suspension and Debarment audit)

http://money.cnn.com/video/news/2010/01/28/n_stimulus_fraud_investigations.cnnmoney/

"Auditors for the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation warned there is "a 'perfect storm' for contractors intend on defrauding the government."

END SHOT |

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COMINGS & GOINGS

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American Airlines, FAA faulted for safety lapses

February 19, 2010

(Chicago Tribune on JA-10's American Airlines maintenance audit)

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sc-biz-0219-american-airlines-20100219,0,1785516.story>

"Federal inspectors failed to detect a troubling decline in the maintenance and upkeep of American Airlines' aircraft in recent years, according to a report by the Transportation Department's watchdog arm.

"The safety audit by the Office of Inspector General also is raising questions about the effectiveness of an inspection system that, critics contend, has largely left airlines to police themselves."

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