



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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The Special Counsel

May 10, 2007

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File Nos. DI-06-1236; DI-06-1237; DI-06-1253;  
DI-06-1272; DI-06-1273; and DI-06-1286

Dear Mr. President:

Passenger screening by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one line of defense in our national security protections, which can ill afford cutting of corners. I received disclosures from six Agricultural Specialists with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), CBP, Sanford International Airport, Sanford, Florida. The whistleblowers, Selma Ocasio, Jose Vazquez-Quinones, William Errico, and three anonymous federal employees (Agricultural Specialists) alleged that they were instructed to enter into a CBP database false information concerning passenger screening. They believed that this practice constituted a violation of law, gross mismanagement, and a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

I required the Secretary, DHS, to conduct an investigation into these disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The Secretary, DHS, tasked CBP, Office of Internal Affairs (OIA), with investigating the allegations. The investigation was conducted by OIA, Investigative Operations Division (IOD). OSC received the agency's report dated October 31, 2006, and signed by DHS Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson.

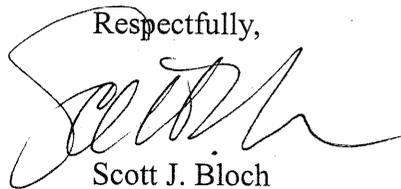
As discussed in the attached Analysis of Disclosures, the report partially substantiated the whistleblowers' allegations. The report reflects that personnel assigned to enter data were improperly directed to use default or generic data, and that authorized users were directed to enter data under another employee's user identification number and password. The agency has taken disciplinary and corrective action in response to the findings of violations of law. Three of the whistleblowers provided comments on the report. As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting to you the agency report and the whistleblowers' comments.

I have reviewed the original disclosures, the report, and the whistleblowers' comments. Based on that review, I have determined that the agency's report contains all of the information required by statute, and that its findings appear to be reasonable.

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As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the DHS report and the whistleblowers' comments to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and to the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. I have also filed a copy of the DHS report and the whistleblowers' comments in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bloch', written in a cursive style.

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures