



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

The Special Counsel

January 8, 2008

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

Re: OSC File No. DI-06-1117

Dear Mr. President:

I received a disclosure from Mr. Michael Dunkin, a former Avionics Technician, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aviation System Standards 300 (AVN 300), Technical Operations Service Unit, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Dunkin, who consented to the release of his name, disclosed to OSC that managers at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), purposely failed to record chronic aircraft equipment problems in the Inventory, Logistics, and Maintenance (ILM) database.

I required the Secretary of Transportation to conduct an investigation into these disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The Secretary tasked the Office of the Inspector General with conducting the investigation and writing the report. The report's findings are discussed further in the attached Analysis.

Mr. Dunkin alleged that managers did not record these problems because, once recorded, the aircraft would be grounded for maintenance and unavailable for flights. He alleged that management operated in this manner because aircraft availability is a standard used to evaluate management performance. Mr. Dunkin believed that allowing aircraft with equipment problems to fly unnecessarily placed the aircraft and crew in substantial danger and violated Federal Aviation Regulations. He also alleged that Dan Murphy, Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic, used FAA equipment and facilities for his own personal benefit in violation of federal regulations. The Department of Transportation's investigation, conducted by the Office of the Inspector General, did not substantiate the allegations. OSC's analysis of the whistleblower's disclosures, the agency's report and the whistleblower's comments are enclosed.

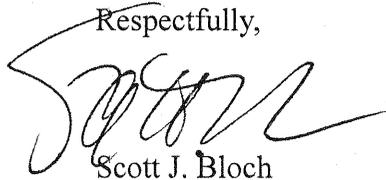
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I have reviewed the original disclosures and the agency's report. Based on that review, I have determined that the agency's report contains all of the information required by statute and that its findings appear to be reasonable.

As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the agency report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I have also filed a copy of the report and the whistleblower's 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