



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

**June 29, 2009**

William E. Reukauf  
Acting Special Counsel  
U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036-4505

Re: OSC File DI-08-0338

Dear Mr. Reukauf:

This is in response to your letter of April 9, 2009, regarding whistleblower concerns raised by Gabriel D. Bruno, former Manager of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Orlando Flight Standards District Office. Mr. Bruno discloses that FAA has failed to provide to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for screening a list of Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanics certified by St. George Aviation (SGA) who have failed, or failed to complete the re-examination process, thereby creating a national security threat. Mr. Bruno also contends that FAA has failed to properly re-examine all SGA-certified mechanics, placing the flying public at risk. Because the latter allegation has already been investigated and remains pending with your office, this letter only addresses the first allegation.

As you describe in your letter, on September 15, 2008, the Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Inspector General (OIG) reviewed and provided a response to the informal referral of the first allegation by the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). In its review, OIG recommended to FAA that it compile and provide to TSA for screening a list containing names and identifying information for the A&P mechanics certified by SGA who have either failed or not completed the re-examination process. Believing that it was constrained by the Privacy Act, FAA declined to provide the list to TSA. You state in your letter that because FAA declined to share this list with TSA for screening, you were formally referring this allegation for investigation and report.

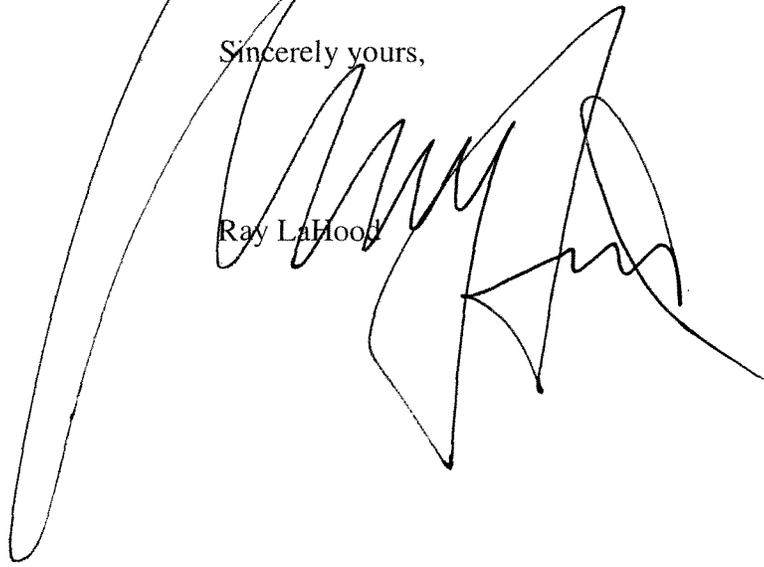
After reviewing the matter, FAA has reconsidered its position and has determined that the list may be released to TSA as a routine use under the Privacy Act. Accordingly, FAA transmitted the list to TSA on May 19, 2009. I have enclosed a copy of the transmittal letter. Given this development, we do not believe that further investigation is necessary.

I share your concern about protecting the Nation's transportation system from any potential threats and am committed to working with and supporting the intelligence community to ensure and enhance aviation security.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to call me or Jerry Mellody, in the FAA's Office of Chief Counsel, at (202) 385-8254.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray LaHood', is written over the typed name. The signature is highly cursive and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Enclosure

AFS-200



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20059

MAY 19 2009

Mr. Russell Roberts  
Director, Airmen Certificate Vetting Program  
Transportation Security Administration  
601 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Office E3-424N  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Roberts:

In response to an Office of the Inspector General inquiry, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is to provide the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) a list containing names and identifying information for airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanics certified by St. George Aviation (SGA) either who have failed or not completed the reexamination for their A&P certificate.

The enclosed list updates the November 4, 2008, version of the SGA failed/not completed reexamination list provided to Rick Beitel, Assistant Inspector General for Washington Investigative Operations. We provide this list pursuant to routine use number 8 under the Department of Transportation's General Routine Uses that allows the FAA to provide specified types of information to TSA.

If you have any questions, or additional information is needed, please contact Russell (Rusty) Jones, Manager, Special Programs Branch, at (202) 385-6399.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
MARGARET GILLIGAN

Margaret Gilligan  
Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety

Enclosure

cc: Rick Beitel, JI-3

File:2970

cc: AFS-300, AFS-140, AFS-1, AVS-1,  
AFS320:MLashells:x5-6427:dmb:05/01/09:WP:G/AVS300/DmBean/320doc/OIG Inquirey  
#081HA271000 dated 4.21.09 letter.doc  
Retyped: 05/06/09:sgs