

U.S. Office of Special Counsel
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

Re: OSC File No. DI-08-0494

To Whom It May Concern:

June 14, 2009

I am writing in response to the supplemental agency report I received in April and May of this year. Most of the information I read through was for experts to comment on. However, there is one area I would like to comment on. It has to do with the DTW: OST Recommendations Tracking Sheet from February 11, 2009.

H: "Review the policies at FAA's Detroit Air Traffic Control Tower to ensure that employees are encouraged to report work-related health and medical problems."

What good does it do just to review the policies?

This is the foreword to FAA order 3930.A: The people who run the National Airspace System are the most vital element of it. Their health is important to morale, efficiency, economy, and most of all to safety. This order sets out new program standards and procedures for choosing air traffic control specialists and, most importantly, helping them to remain fit and on the job. **This order means that no one with health problems need be afraid to seek help.**

This is my story: While I was working at DTW I reported health issues due to mold exposure and as a result I had my medical certificate pulled, meaning I could not perform air traffic duties. I was unable to work from September 17, 2007 to January 10, 2008. During that time, local management would not let me perform administrative duties nor would they grant me advance sick leave. First saying "the available information indicates that your return to such a demanding position is not and/or is only a remote possibility, the FAA cannot advance sick leave to you at this time." Then in a second letter went on to say, "At this time, the FAA cannot advance you sick leave since you are not incapacitated for duty." These two letters came from my OM, Kevin Grammes who is not a doctor but yet making medical judgments about me. As a result I used all the leave I had, 487 hours in order to get paid. When my leave run out I was placed on LWOP, Leave without Pay and had to borrow from my TSP just to make ends meet. In fact, DTW management did everything in their power to try and fire me during this time. The management at DTW doesn't want to hear your health problems. They don't care that you are sick or that the building you are working in is making you sick. After watching what I went through no one else was going to report their health issues. Would you? Like I said what good does it do just to review the policies if you don't follow through and make your employees feel safe? I wasn't afraid to seek help but in the long run everyone else was. I don't blame them. I would not want to go through what I did again.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth L. Dale