

The Federal Protective Service

Secure Facilities, Safe Occupants



Dear Stakeholders,

On February 8, 2008, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Review of the Federal Protective Service (FPS). FPS cannot refute what GAO stated, though some of the information and events presented were taken out of context. We especially do not contest GAO's recognition that GSA never fully funded FPS and therefore did not provide adequate funding to DHS when it transferred FPS to ICE.

I responded to the media on Friday February 8, 2008, by addressing the many challenges that existed for FPS long before the organization was transferred to ICE and DHS. I also discussed FPS' recent successes and accomplishments. During FY 2006, FPS significantly refined and improved its business practices by creating a Consolidated Contract Group and, in FY 2007, consolidating its invoice processing and payment operations. In addition, by August of 2007, FPS had paid all of its outstanding invoices - more than 2,000 invoices amounting to over \$92.8 million. ICE has worked with FPS to implement a great number of business improvements over the last year to include establishing a new financial accounting process that has helped FPS tackle and overcome many of the fiscal accountability problems of the agency.

ICE/FPS is moving ahead to improve building security through transition to an Inspector-based permanent workforce, which was recognized and initiated under GSA. An enhanced Inspector workforce will provide better oversight for an extensive contract guard service that has been fully maintained and which provides the first line of security for the federal facilities protected by FPS.

As stated by Public Law 110-161, signed December 26, 2007, FPS was directed to increase its staffing to 1,200 personnel to protect and enforce laws at Federal buildings, including 900 law enforcement personnel. This requires FPS to hire an additional 150 law enforcement officers above its current staffing levels. You may have heard rumors regarding how this increase in staff will be funded. To comply with the law, FPS must increase its operating budget and will hire 150 new officers in FY 2008 to bring FPS' total law enforcement officer staffing to 900.

Public Law 110-161 went on to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to either collect fees or fund through other means. Subsequently, the Secretary has determined that increasing fees is the method chosen to financially support the increase in FPS Law Enforcement personnel.



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Since FPS is entirely fee-funded, it must recoup these additional costs through a mid-year fee increase. The law directs that the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget adjust the fees to generate the necessary revenue to fund this increase in personnel. This unfunded congressional requirement requires us to raise the basic security fee level in FY 2008 and in FY 2009. We recognize that these increases are unbudgeted and must be absorbed within current resources.

As of November 28, 2007, FPS staffing was at 1,104 federal employees, with 70 percent in Inspector/Law Enforcement positions and 30 percent in mission support positions. While short of the target of 1,200 employees, FPS continues to work toward building funding and staffing.

With the addition of 150 new Inspectors, in FY 2008, who have law enforcement certification, FPS will have the necessary flexibility to allow FPS Regional Directors as well as District and Area Commanders to provide the imperative attention needed for our primary physical security core mission. Through proper scheduling, this will allow us to provide proactive patrol and appropriate response. The addition of RAMP, a National Countermeasures Program and an increase in our K-9 program will also provide FPS with additional flexibility.

FPS is finalizing efforts to establish a National Security Countermeasures Program that includes streamlined processes to purchase and maintain such countermeasures as closed circuit video systems, x-ray machines, and metal detectors. Countermeasures incorporated as part of a comprehensive risk mitigation strategy often include certified, armed contract security guards. As such, to truly integrate this effort, FPS has further trained and certified over 400 Inspectors as Contracting Office Technical Representatives (COTR) to properly monitor, maintain and make necessary adjustments to contract guards, their placement and maintenance of security measures.

As the Director of FPS, I want to assure you that the dedicated men and women of FPS will continue to use every resource available and continue our efforts to provide *Secure Facilities, Safe Occupants*.

Gary W Schenkel
Director, Federal Protective Service



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