



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2014

Honorable John S. Pistole  
Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
Arlington, VA 20598

Dear Administrator Pistole:

It is with grave concern that I write regarding recent allegations of unethical activity within the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS). If true, my concern is not only about the gross misconduct that may have taken place, but also the failure of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to appropriately inform the Congress, pursuant to our oversight and legislative authorities and responsibilities enumerated in the Constitution of the United States, Federal law, and the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It has come to my attention that a supervisory Federal Air Marshal (FAM) in the Washington Field Office may have accepted free firearms that were offered because of the employee's official position in 2010, at a time when such firearms were being tested by FAMS for possible future procurement. Additionally, this same employee may have, in turn, sold or given those firearms to other Federal employees, including but not limited to the current Director of FAMS. I am further concerned that the Director's recently announced retirement may be directly related to an investigation into these activities and that this information was withheld from the Committee on Homeland Security.

I am providing you an opportunity to submit any information you may have about these alleged activities at this time. Please respond no later than Friday, April 18, 2014, to the following questions:

1. Did any unlawful and/or unethical activity take place within FAMS as it relates to the giving and receiving of firearms from an outside entity as described above?
2. If so, please describe such activities and who specifically within the TSA and FAMS had, or has, direct knowledge of or involvement in these activities. What actions or penalties, if any, are being, or have been, administered to all persons involved?
3. Is TSA's Office of Professional Responsibility investigating this matter? What additional agencies, if any, are carrying out an investigation to your knowledge? Has the Office of Professional Responsibility issued any recommendations in this alleged case?

4. How, when, and by whom were you personally made aware of these allegations? How, when, and by whom was your Deputy made aware of these allegations?
5. Is the announced retirement of the FAMS Director on March 31, 2014, connected in any way to the alleged activities that may have taken place as described above?

Finally, please exclude any and all Sensitive Security Information from your response and provide any such information under separate cover so that we may conduct the transparent and thorough oversight that this issue deserves. If you fail to provide adequate information on this matter, please be advised that I intend to utilize the full extent of the Subcommittee's authority to investigate further.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



RICHARD HUDSON  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation Security

cc: Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Honorable John Roth, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Honorable Michael T. McCaul, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security  
Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security  
Honorable Cedric L. Richmond, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security