



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: **Initiation of NAOMS Information Release Review**

DATE: November 19, 2007

At a hearing before the House Science and Technology Committee on October 31, I testified that, "I have directed that all [National Aviation Operations Monitoring Service] data that does not contain confidential commercial information or information that could compromise the anonymity of individual pilots be released as soon as possible. The release of this data will be accompanied with the proviso that neither the methodology nor the results have received the level of peer review required of a NASA research project. Therefore, the survey methodology and the data should not be considered to have been verified."

By this memorandum you are hereby directed to chair a panel that will oversee a formal review of airline and general aviation pilot survey responses collected as part of the National Aviation Operations Monitoring Service (NAOMS) Project and recommend to me, consistent with the position stated above as well as all applicable federal laws and regulations, a methodology for releasing NAOMS survey responses that does not compromise participant identities or reveal confidential commercial information.

The panel will be comprised of persons independent of the Aviation Safety Program who have knowledge of aviation operations, safety, and law. The review panel will consist of the following members at a minimum:

Chairman
Experienced aviation research program manager
General Counsel Member
Senior Flight Surgeon
Experienced FAA licensed NASA pilot
Executive Director

Bryan O'Connor, OSMA
Robert Meyer, SOFIA PM
Dan Thomas, HQ OGC
Dr. Richard Williams, CHMO
Geary Tiffany, ARC
Jean Wolfe, HQ ARMD

As panel chair, you may increase membership as required, and you may call on advisors in fields such as survey methodology, aviation safety reporting systems, FOIA, public affairs, FAA regulations, commercial aircraft operations, etc., to support the panel as needed. In addition, you are authorized to communicate with the primary NAOMS contractor, Battelle, and any contractors you deem necessary to complete this assignment.

The panel also shall verify that the approved process for release of information is being followed to assure that the goal stated above is being met.

It is my desire to release as much information as possible before December 31. To that end, the panel should conduct its review and submit to me by November 30 recommendations for an initial release of information, including timing, format, and the criteria used in any redactions. The panel also should submit recommendations for the expeditious review and release of any NAOMS survey responses that may be withheld from the initial release.

This memorandum authorizes you to obtain agency support from any Headquarters office, Center, or program as required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.D. Griffin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael D. Griffin
Administrator