

Dear Fellow Employees:

I was deeply honored when President Bush asked to me to lead the FAA. Now that I am on board I am excited by the opportunity to work with you on the challenges facing the agency. As I told the Senate Aviation Subcommittee in my confirmation hearing, I have great respect for the people of the FAA who deliver the goods day in and day out to promote the safety and efficiency of the world's largest aviation system.

As I begin my tenure as FAA Administrator, I ask for your patience and forbearance as my immediate staff and I learn the ropes. In the coming weeks, you will see that I place a great deal of emphasis on teamwork, on everyone pulling together to accomplish the job entrusted to us. No single person or staff can possibly possess the wide range of skills and abilities to do the job. Going it alone is not my management style, so I will be relying on your good judgment and counsel as we move forward together.

As part of this effort, I plan to do early walkarounds -- meeting as many people as possible from headquarters, the regions, centers, and other facilities. I want to get to know people throughout the FAA, to talk with you in your workplace. Years ago, I started my government service as a GS-3 clerk. I understand the wealth of wisdom and knowledge available at all levels of the organization and the importance for a leader to engage with employees on their turf, not just in the executive offices.

I am fully aware of the important responsibility entrusted to me, and I am reassured by the knowledge that I have a tremendously talented and professional workforce to rely on. I look forward to meeting you all.

Sincerely,

Marion C. Blakey