

Dear Colleagues:

As I announced to the executive management team earlier today, I have decided to divide the current Office of Policy, Planning, and International Aviation (API) into two separate offices, each under an Assistant Administrator reporting directly to me. One will be the Office of Policy and Planning -- the other the Office of International Aviation. We expect to fill both Assistant Administrator positions in the near future.

We are taking this action to increase the focus in both areas. As I mentioned when first coming on board, one of my major priorities is to put more focus on FAA's international role and responsibilities. This office will help further that objective by focusing exclusively on meeting the challenges abroad for the next five years and beyond.

In addition, after seeing the myriad responsibilities assigned to the current Office of Policy, Planning, and International Aviation, it became increasingly clear it had too much on its plate. We need a separate office that can focus exclusively on developing national policies, goals, and priorities for aviation -- a complex agenda that requires keeping tabs on changing technology, as well as environmental and energy policy. This new office also is responsible for coordinating the development of a new FAA strategic plan -- a dynamic, results-oriented process that will be adapted as necessary to meet changing conditions. In addition, this office will retain responsibility for managing and coordinating the FAA reauthorization process.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Louise Mailett for the extraordinary job she has done over the last year and a half heading the current Office of Policy, Planning, and International Aviation (API). She has been invaluable in helping me and my team during the transition and we are relying on her help during the transition of API into two separate offices.

Marion C. Blakey