Merit Systems Protection Board

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U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board and Transportation Security Administration Launch a New Appeals System that Grants MSPB the Authority to Adjudicate Whistleblower Appeals Filed by Transportation Security Officers

New System to Protect 46,000 TSA Security Officers from Reprisal for Whistleblowing

WASHINGTON – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) announced today the launch of a new appeals system under which Transportation Security Officers (TSOs), as well as applicants for those positions, may appeal alleged incidents of whistleblower reprisal to the MSPB. Under the new system, the MSPB will also adjudicate complaints seeking corrective and/or disciplinary action filed by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

The launch of the new system follows the execution of an Interagency Agreement between the TSA and MSPB, completing the process first announced in February 2008, when the agencies announced their intention to work together to provide enhanced whistleblower protections for security officers.

The parameters of the new appeals system are set forth under a Statement of Work that establishes the framework and procedures under which MSPB will adjudicate these cases. In addition, the TSA will issue an internal management directive that contains further detailed information regarding the appeal rights of Transportation Security Officers and the procedures in force under the new system.

MSPB Chairman Neil A. G. McPhie praised the cooperation between the TSA and MSPB in launching the new appeals system, stating: "We are honored to play a central role in ensuring that Transportation Security Officers will have their allegations of whistleblower retaliation heard

by a neutral third party. The American traveling public should see this agreement as improving their safety and security."

The MSPB is an independent, quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from personnel actions taken against them, protecting the integrity of the civil service and other Federal merit systems, and conducting studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch.