

Steven J. Tochterman

Federal Aviation Administration, Special Agent (retired, September 2021)

Contact

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Education

Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, Texas
Bachelors Degree, June 1979
Law Enforcement & Police
Science
Graduated Cum Laude

Canal Zone College
Panama Canal Zone
June 1977
Criminal Justice major

Balboa High School
Panama Canal Zone
June 1975
High School diploma

Summary

Seeking a position to support efforts to reduce the use of aircraft in illicit activity, to include analysis of aircraft transactions, identification of crashed/destroyed aircraft, trends involving aircraft used in illicit activity, and legislation to strengthen the identification of owners of aircraft.

Experience Highlights

August 1985 to September 2021

Federal Aviation Administration, Special Agent
Civil Aviation Security Specialist and Federal Air Marshal
(Tampa, FL), Civil Aviation Security Liaison Officer (Belgium
& Singapore), Regional Canine Coordinator, Special
Technical Support Officer, Internal Investigations and the
Law Enforcement Assistance Program (Atlanta, GA)

Civil Aviation Security Liaison Officer
(represented the FAA, Assistant Administrator for Civil
Aviation Security)

Employee of the year 2018 and 2020, FAA, Security and
Hazardous Material Safety

Award from the United States Interdiction Coordinator, Office
of National Drug Control Policy for Detection & Monitoring,
JTFI-I National Aviation Trafficking Initiative (NATI).

Developed the information that initiated OCDETF Trident
Resolve and Homecourt National Air Trafficking Initiative
(NATI).

Achievements

Award from the United States Interdiction Coordinator, Office
of National Drug Control Policy for Detection & Monitoring,
JTFI-I National Aviation Trafficking Initiative (NATI).

Distinguished Award from the Department of Transportation
for responding to the events of September 11, 2001.

References

Scotty Bates, Manager, FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program

Atlanta, GA

Scotty.bates@faa.gov

404-305-6816

Ryan Gorman, Special Agent, Homeland Security Investigations

Orlando, FL

Ryan.p.gorman@ice.dhs.gov

407-908-1268

Kenneth Hysell, Senior Financial Investigator, DEA Group Supervisor, HSI (retired)

St. Petersburg, FL

Kenneth.hysell@dea.gov

813-781-0045

Kimberly Garcia, Intelligence Program Director, Customs and Border Protection, Air & Marine Operations

Washington, DC

Kimberly.j.garcia@cbp.dhs.gov

Professional Experience

August 2002 – September 2021 Federal Aviation Administration College Park, GA

Investigator/Special Agent

Conducted more than 30 internal investigations of FAA employees suspected of abuse of authority, sexual harassment, fraud, mismanagement, and other abuses of Conduct and Discipline. Conducted more than 300 regulatory investigations of airman and other FAA certificated individuals suspected of misusing their certificate and/or those alleged to have been involved in falsification of documents or narcotics or alcohol abuse cases.

Since Summer 2004, primary duties and responsibilities were; Provide assistance to Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies regarding aviation investigations. Conducted research and review of more than 1000 aircraft registration records for registration irregularities and for law enforcement agencies. Reviewed more than 80 aircraft escrow files for law enforcement agencies and reviewed more than 200 airman and airman medical files for regulatory violations and assistance to law enforcement in support of regulatory and/or criminal investigations. Obtained certified records of aircraft, airman and medical records for regulatory investigations and in support of criminal investigations. Provided subject matter expert testimony for Federal, State and local criminal investigations involving aircraft registration records, airman and airman medical records of the FAA in Federal and State court (Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC). Coordinated and participated in more than 50 multi-agency operations at airports in Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas and New Mexico inspecting aircraft and airman documents. Conducted more than 80 training sessions of more than 1000 FAA Special Agents, and Federal, State, local and International law enforcement agencies in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, California, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina, California, Puerto Rico and Panama on aircraft registration, illicit activity involving aviation and the FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program. Facilitated the dissemination of FAA air traffic, safety of flight and airworthiness information to Federal, State, local and international law enforcement agencies upon request.

Supported multiple requests from the Department of Justice on MLAT requests. Participated in multiple long term regulatory investigations with FAA Flight Standards regarding aviation safety specifically unauthorized charter flights, maintenance discrepancies, falsification of records, violations of Federal Aviation Regulations, operating aircraft without FAA certificates and laser and drone events. Referred multiple aviation related cases to the DOT-OIG and/or other law enforcement agencies when criminal activity was uncovered and supported the criminal investigations. Supported these investigations in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, New York, etc. Coordinated aviation related investigations with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Developed and provided more than 300 investigative leads of suspicious transactions involving aircraft or owners to;

Air and Marine Operations Center (AMOC)

Customs and Border Protection

Drug Enforcement Administration in more than ten States and Mexico, Bahamas, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, Aruba, Curacao, Belize, Peru, Paraguay, Brazil, Costa Rica, Spain and Nigeria

Department of Justice

Department of Commerce in four States

Department of Transportation-OIG in four States

Department of Treasury-Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)
El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)
Federal Bureau of Investigation in more than ten States
Homeland Security Investigations and Immigration and Customs Enforcement in more than ten States and Canada, Australia, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Aruba, Colombia, Brazil and Belgium

Internal Revenue Service
Joint Terrorism Task Force
Joint Task Force-International
National Targeting Center, CBP and HSI
Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S)
Department of State
United States European Command
United States Special Operations Command
Canadian Security Border Agency
Australia Federal Police
French civil aviation police in France
Dutch civil aviation police in The Netherlands
Aruba civil aviation authority
State and local law enforcement agencies

The leads led to the seizure of more than 75 aircraft, more than 75 FAA regulatory investigations and more than 80 criminal investigations. Provided support on more than 300 aviation related investigations to State and local law enforcement agencies in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico. Responded to more than 1000 inquiries for assistance on aviation investigations/cases from Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and international law enforcement agencies. Reviewed Federal law enforcement affidavits for the seizure of aircraft and criminal charges involving aviation related charges/crimes.

Conducted ramp checks and/or document checks of more than 900 aircraft and/or crew members in more than fifteen States and U.S. territories.

Participated in six aviation related OCDETF cases.

In support of law enforcement and foreign government efforts, through research and forensics analysis identified the make and model of more than two hundred aircraft in Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, Guyana, Senegal, Mali, Guinea and Guinea Bissau that were used in narcotics smuggling. Most of these aircraft crashed, were significantly destroyed and/or torched.

In support of law enforcement and foreign government efforts, through research and forensics analysis, positively identified more than fifty aircraft that were used in narcotics smuggling flights to include the make, model and serial number and in most cases the nationality of registration that led to either the initiation of criminal investigations or additional evidence on existing criminal investigations. Charter member of HSI Operation Calusa, Trident Resolve and Homecourt NATI.

Identified more than 200 suspect aircraft that went to Bolivia from the U.S. and ten other countries, many exported by individuals linked to Drug Trafficking Organizations and/or illicit activity.

Identified more than 350 aircraft associated to more than 50 different companies that were registered in the U.S. and went to Latin America or the Caribbean under suspicious circumstances. Identified the top four registrants of more than 350 U.S. aircraft that were sent to Latin America and linked to DTO's and illicit activity.

Identified more than 40 fraudulent FAA aircraft and airman documents linked to illicit activity.

Supported the HSI investigation in Kentucky involving the largest domestic narcotics smuggling investigation via air in which the defendants used at least seven different aircraft to transport more than \$1 billion in narcotics.

Developed information that led to the initiation of OCEDTF Trident Resolve and Homecourt NATI that resulted in the seizure of more than 30 tons of cocaine, 50 aircraft and shut down the top four exporters of aircraft that were supplying aircraft to DTO's.

Provided briefings and instruction to more than 50 classes of CBP officers at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA.

Provided subject matter expertise on illicit activity involving aircraft registration to U.S. Attorney's Offices and Federal, State and local law enforcement.

July 2002 – August 2002 Federal Aviation Administration College Park, GA
Regional Canine Coordinator

Performed FAA/TSA Canine Coordinator duties in 15 States in the Southeast U.S.

Monitored work schedules and ensured completion of Field Canine Coordinator duties and responsibilities. Ensured required explosives handling safety measures were applied by Field Coordinators and law enforcement participants, ensured currency by Field Coordinators of required FAA/TSA training. Reviewed and approved requests for reimbursement by law enforcement participants. Provided technical assistance to Field Coordinators and law enforcement participants. Assisted FAA/TSA headquarters and Evaluation Branch in arranging Evaluations, Training Missions, explosives deliveries, etc. in 15 States.

July 2000 – July 2002 Federal Aviation Administration, Singapore

Civil Aviation Security Liaison Officer, Representative of the FAA Assistant Administrator for Civil Aviation Security, FAA Washington, DC and then TSA Under Secretary for Transportation Security. Provided technical civil aviation security guidance and subject matter expertise to foreign Governments and U.S. Department of State personnel in;

Afghanistan

Pakistan

India

Bangladesh

Nepal

Sri Lanka

Indonesia

Malaysia

Singapore

Brunei

Papua New Guinea

Served as the focal point for all inquiries concerning U.S. civil aviation security programs, Federal Aviation Regulations, U.S. and foreign laws affecting civil aviation security, and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards & Recommended Practices. Developed and presented to foreign civil aviation security counterparts aviation security presentations on the proper implementation of civil aviation security measures. Provided subject matter expertise of U.S. civil aviation security and International civil aviation security measures to U.S. Embassies and foreign

governments. Worked closely with U.S. Government entities assigned to U.S. Embassies in area of responsibility, attended U.S. Ambassador Country Team meetings as representative of FAA Security and TSA. Coordinated with U.S. Embassy and foreign government elements of U.S. Presidential visits, U.S. Congressional visits, FAA security visits to include Federal Air Marshals to foreign locations within area of responsibility. Maintained effective relationships with foreign governments to ensure timely exchange of civil aviation information in event of an aircraft hijacking, or other criminal acts against civil aviation - specifically three attacks against airports in India, more than twenty attacks against airports in Nepal, four attacks against airports in Pakistan, three attacks against airports/aviation in Indonesia, alleged hijacking of Alliance Air aircraft in India, etc. Team Leader on first FAA visit into Afghanistan in 2002.

Handled and prepared sensitive and classified material regarding civil aviation security.

Recognized in letter from U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan to the FAA Administrator for assistance to U.S. Embassy during the three evacuations from U.S. Embassy Islamabad of U.S. personnel.

Recognized by Federal Bureau of Investigation, Legal Attaché Office-Singapore for assistance & support provided during tour in Singapore.

Recognized as member of Singapore International Law Enforcement Committee, which comprised representatives of the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service, DEA, U.S. Customs, U.S.

Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Australia Federal Police, French Police, Japanese National Police, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Represented FAA at U.S.-India counter-terrorism talks in New Delhi, India, January 2002.

July 1997 – June 2000 Federal Aviation Administration College Park, GA

Special Technical Support Officer

Project Manager for FAA explosives storage magazine project in support of FAA Explosive Detection K-9 Program. Responsible for the development of the initiative to procure and deploy explosive storage magazines at more than 40 airports in the United States. Developed standards for explosive storage magazines, conducted site visits of airports for deployment of magazines, coordinated project with FAA Airports Division, FAA Real Estate, FAA Acquisition, FAA General Counsel, FAA Office of Civil Aviation Security-Operations, and Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, airport officials and law enforcement entities at the airports. Led team of three personnel to deploy more than 80 storage magazines to more than 40 airports in less than two years.

Regional K-9 Coordinator in FAA Southern Region (15 States). Responsible for ensuring effective utilization of FAA assets (K-9) at ten airports in eight States. Provided guidance to FAA Field Coordinators and local law enforcement participant agencies. Coordinated explosives deliveries to cities within area of responsibility, conducted inventories of explosives and inspections of magazines. Ensured currency regarding required explosive safety handling requirements.

Liaison officer with FAA Federal Security Manager to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), Atlanta, GA. Regional focal point on Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Conducted aviation security assessments at more than ten airports and airlines in Latin America.

Aviation security consultant to Government of Honduras, Director General of Civil Aviation.

With Deputy Division Manager, developed and represented FAA Security on the 1999 NFL Super Bowl Task Force.

Provided multiple aviation security seminars to more than 60 civil aviation security officials in Lagos, Nigeria.

April 1991 – June 1997 Federal Aviation Administration Brussels, Belgium

Civil Aviation Security Liaison Officer

Represented the FAA, Assistant Administrator for Civil Aviation Security to U.S. Embassies and foreign Government counterparts in Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Luxembourg. For approximately eight months, area of responsibility also included Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. In addition to duties performed during 2000-2002 as CASLO-Singapore; provided timely and extremely valuable information to FAA headquarters involving six aircraft hijackings in Europe and directly involved in three specific threats against civil aviation. Developed and negotiated the first FAA - foreign Government bilateral agreement on use of bulk explosive detection equipment. Deployed to foreign countries on short notice to ensure application of proper civil aviation security measures. Co-leader of U.S. group at Brussels National Airport, Brussels, Belgium, involved in the evacuation of American citizens from the war in Sierra Leone as they transited Brussels during five-day period. Recommended by U.S. Ambassador to the Chief of Staff and the Vice President of the United States to participate on the White House Commission on Aviation, Security and Air Traffic. Recognized by U.S. Ambassador to FAA Assistant Administrator for Civil Aviation Security for exemplary conduct and professionalism of duties as CASLO. Coordinated visits of foreign civil aviation authorities and foreign aviation law enforcement entities to FAA, Washington, DC and multiple States/airports in the United States.

June 1990 – April 1991 Federal Aviation Administration Brussels, Belgium

Civil Aviation Security Specialist

Conducted foreign airport assessments and air carrier security inspections in Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Turkey and Germany. Performed lengthy deployments at airports in Europe during Gulf Crisis (1990-1991) to ensure application of heightened civil aviation security measures. Maintained liaison with FAA Civil Aviation Security Liaison Officers, U.S. Embassy personnel, foreign Government entities and airline representatives. Monitored foreign airports (International Civil Aviation Organization, Annex 17) and airlines for compliance with civil aviation security standards during visits. Assisted FAA Security management in deployment schedule and communication center duties during Gulf Crisis.

August 1985 – June 1990 Federal Aviation Administration Tampa, FL

Civil Aviation Security Specialist/Federal Air Marshal

Conducted aviation security assessments and inspections of airports and airlines within area of responsibility (Central and North Florida) to determine compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations. Provided technical guidance to aircraft operators and handlers on the handling and shipping of hazardous materials in accordance with pertinent regulations, directives and procedures. Conducted regulatory investigations of non-compliance by airlines and airports of civil aviation security Federal Aviation Regulations. Acted as Federal Air Marshal on U.S. carriers protecting the aircraft, crew and passengers from illegal seizure and other unlawful acts against civil aviation. Conducted civil aviation security assessments at more than 30 foreign airports in Latin America and the Caribbean as Team Leader and Team member.

June 1981 – August 1985 Florida Department of Law Enforcement Tallahassee, FL

Crime Intelligence Analyst (and others)

Advanced from Crime Information Input Technician I, II, and III, to Crime Intelligence Analyst I, and II, to Criminal Justice Reporting Specialist. Crime Information Input Technician duties included reviewing and coding arrest fingerprint cards, reviewing and coding court disposition and sealing or expunging

criminal files. Crime Intelligence Analyst duties included accepting and processing Florida Intelligence Center inquiries, submissions and lookouts from local, county and State of Florida law enforcement agencies, other State law enforcement agencies and Federal law enforcement agencies. Conducted analysis of trends involving criminal activity and provided case reports to agents/officers. Most inquiries were related to crimes involving narcotics. Provided information and direction to entry level Analysts regarding developing leads for investigative cases. Provided assistance to FDLE Special Agents on investigative cases. Last three months at FDLE was Criminal Justice Reporting System Specialist and conducted statewide training to local and county law enforcement agencies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Traveled to more than 50 countries performing civil aviation security duties. Co-published article on FAA/TSA aviation security in Southeast Asia. Briefed the Southeast Asia, conference of Directors of civil aviation in Seoul, Korea on the events of 9/11. Maintained a Top-Secret security clearance for 35 years.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Recognition by the U.S. Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to safeguard the financial system from abuse by illicit actors.

Participated in HSI money laundering briefings/training with HSI Fincen in Panama.

In 2002 was the first FAA employee to travel to Afghanistan since 1985.

Certificate of Appreciation from the DEA, Country Attache in the Dominican Republic for outstanding contributions in the field of drug law enforcement

Numerous Certificates of Appreciation from DEA, CBP, HSI and FAA.

Multiple awards from FAA for consistently exceeding work requirements and accomplishments.