

JUN 25 2012



**Transportation
Security
Administration**

Mr. Gary Mitchell
Executive Director
Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation
1131 Chapel Crossing Road
Building #TH383
Glynco, GA 31524

Dear Executive Director Mitchell:

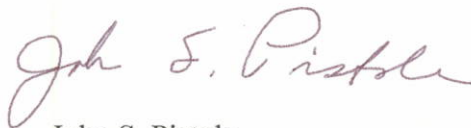
Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation's (FLETA) 10-year anniversary is an ideal opportunity for Federal law enforcement to reflect on how we have changed since 9/11. Born of necessity in the months following the terror attacks, the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) rapidly evolved from a small contingent of Federal Aviation Administration officers into a large, professionally trained workforce sworn to protect our Nation's commercial aviation, both domestically and internationally. Now an integral part of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the FAMS successfully accomplished this abrupt transformation with the help of a clear mandate from Congress and an enlightened vision of the significance of training to accomplish and sustain that mandate. Part of that enlightened vision was the conscious decision to pursue accreditation under the rigorous FLETA standards.

The FAMS received their initial accreditation for their Academy (the FAMS Training Center in Atlantic City, NJ) and Federal Air Marshal (FAM) Training Program II (FAMTP-II) in 2007. In 2011, both the Academy and FAMTP-II were reaccruited. In 2009 and 2010 respectively, the FAMS received their initial accreditations for FAM Training Program I (FAMTP-I), which is based at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Artesia, NM, and the Instructor Development Course (IDC). Both FAMTP-I and IDC are on track for reaccruited during 2012, along with the initial accreditation of the Defensive Measures Instructor Training Program (DMITP).

TSA is committed to the accreditation process and believes FAM training has benefitted enormously from FLETA accreditation. Improvements in FAM training directly linked to accreditation can be grouped into four broad categories: process, safety, continuity, and professionalism. By embracing process, the FAMS ensures a systematic approach to training that uses best practices. This in turn has led to safer instruction, while still providing dynamic, reality-based training that challenges candidates and pushes them to perform at the highest levels. A systematic approach to training also provides greater continuity within the workforce, ensuring that all FAMs receive the same high-quality training. Ultimately, all of this reinforces a level of professionalism that is to be expected from our Nation's law enforcement officers.

TSA congratulates FLETA on its 10th anniversary. Moving forward, TSA looks to build upon this relationship and strengthen the defense of our Nation by training law enforcement personnel in accordance with FLETA standards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John S. Pistole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

John S. Pistole
Administrator