October 24, 2017

Our objective was to determine the extent to which the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) contributes to the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA’s) layered approach to security. The FAMS overall mission is to detect, deter, and defeat criminal, terrorist, and hostile activities that target our Nation’s transportation system. FAMS is TSA’s only law enforcement layer of in-flight security.

We identified limitations with FAMS contributions to aviation security. Details related to FAMS operations and flight coverage presented in the report are classified or designated as Sensitive Security Information. We are making five recommendations that when implemented, should improve FAMS operations. We also identified a part of FAMS operations where, if discontinued, funds could be put to better use. TSA concurred with three recommendations and did not concur with two recommendations.