

October 12, 2004

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives

*Subject: U.S. Attorney General's Travel Costs for the USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Related Activities*

In August and September of 2003, the Attorney General of the United States visited a number of cities around the country on what has been termed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) as the "USA PATRIOT Act Tour." According to DOJ, the intent of the tour was to (1) educate the public and inform members of Congress about the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and (2) receive input and feedback from state and local law enforcement with respect to information sharing among law enforcement agencies and threats to homeland security. In response to your request, we are providing information on the locations and costs of the U.S. Attorney General's travels known as the USA PATRIOT Act Tour, as well as the locations and costs of a series of trips in September 2003 referred to by DOJ as "Life and Liberty" travel. These latter trips involved a series of speeches regarding crime statistics and other topics, including the importance of the USA PATRIOT Act. We are also providing information on the official positions and office assignments of the DOJ staff that accompanied the U.S. Attorney General on each of these travel visits. Additionally, we are reporting on the purpose and the costs associated with setting up and maintaining the new DOJ Life and Liberty Web site, [www.lifeandliberty.gov](http://www.lifeandliberty.gov), and the purposes of meetings or contacts held by U.S. Attorneys with members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003.

To obtain this information, we reviewed itineraries, vouchers, and travel documents for the U.S. Attorney General and DOJ staff members who traveled with him, or in advance of his trips, for all PATRIOT Act and Life and Liberty travel. We also collected data on government aircraft flight

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hours as well as the expenses incurred by United States Attorneys' Offices in connection with the USA PATRIOT Act tour visits. Finally, we obtained data on the purposes of the U.S. Attorneys' meetings with members of Congress and the public during the August and September 2003 time period. We relied on information and data provided by the Department of Justice and did not independently verify the information it provided.

On September 8, 2004, we briefed you on the results of our work. This report conveys the information provided during that briefing (see app. I), as well as information that we received from DOJ on additional travel voucher expenses (see app. I) and official positions and office assignments of DOJ staff that accompanied the U.S. Attorney General on USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Life and Liberty travel visits (see app. II).

In summary, we found:

- The U.S. Attorney General and his staff visited 14 states and 16 cities as part of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour and 13 states and 16 cities as part of the Life and Liberty travel.
- According to available DOJ data, total expenses related to the U.S. Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act Tour, Life and Liberty travel, and the Life and Liberty Web site are \$210,976.10. Expenses are reported to include \$155,207.51 in travel and related expenses for the U.S. Attorney General and his staff for the USA PATRIOT Act Tour itself, \$47,138.15 in travel and related expenses for the U.S. Attorney General and his staff for Life and Liberty travel, and \$8,630.44 to develop and maintain the Life and Liberty Web site.
- Eighty of 93 U.S. Attorneys reported conducting activities that included meetings with members of Congress and the public concerning the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003. According to a DOJ official, the cost of these meetings was not specifically tracked and could not be reasonably reconstructed. DOJ stated that the funds expended were part of the United States Attorney's (USA's) budget used to conduct any USA business, including press conferences, speeches, etc.

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## Agency Comments and Our Evaluation

We requested comments on this report from the U.S. Attorney General. In written comments dated October 6, 2004, and included in appendix III, the Department of Justice stated that the draft report addressed only one of the two purposes of the tour—sharing information—and should have discussed the other major purpose of the tour—information gathering. We

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included additional language in the report to reflect the information provided by DOJ.

Also, DOJ clarified that the cost of U.S. Attorneys' meetings with members of Congress and the public concerning the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003 was not specifically tracked and could not be reasonably reconstructed. We included additional language in the report to reflect DOJ's clarification of the tracking of this cost.

Regarding the draft report's references to expenses incurred by U.S. Attorneys Offices in connection with the Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act visits, DOJ stated that these figures include money requested from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to cover expenses incurred with the USA PATRIOT Act visits. DOJ stated that it did not collect information regarding similar expenses incurred for the Life and Liberty travel. We included additional language in the report to describe what these expenses include.

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We are sending copies of this report to other interested congressional committees and the U.S. Attorney General. We will also make copies available to others upon request. In addition, the report will be available at no charge on GAO's Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at (202) 512-8777 or by e-mail at [EkstrandL@gao.gov](mailto:EkstrandL@gao.gov) or John C. Hansen, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-7105, or [HansenJ@gao.gov](mailto:HansenJ@gao.gov). Key contributors to this report were Vickie Miller, David Alexander, Steven Haughton, Amy Bernstein, and Frances Cook.

Sincerely yours,



Laurie E. Ekstrand, Director  
Homeland Security and Justice Issues

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# Appendix I: Briefing Slides



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## **Review of U.S. Attorney General's Travel Costs for USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Related Travel**

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## Background

- Between August 19, 2003 and September 9, 2003, the U.S. Attorney General conducted a tour intended, according to the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, to educate the public and inform Members of Congress about the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.
- According to DOJ, a second purpose of the tour was for the U.S. Attorney General to receive input and feedback from state and local law enforcement with respect to information sharing among law enforcement agencies and threats to homeland security.
- After completion of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour, between September 18 and 25, 2003, in a series of trips referred to as “Life and Liberty” travel, the U.S. Attorney General gave a series of speeches regarding crime statistics and other topics, including the importance of the USA PATRIOT Act.

## USA PATRIOT Act Tour Research Objectives

1. What locations did the U.S. Attorney General visit as part of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour and related travel, and what were the related costs of these trips (transportation, lodging, meals, and other expenses), as well as the costs incurred by staff traveling with the U.S. Attorney General, and all costs associated with the advance planning of trips?
2. What was the purpose of the new Life and Liberty website related to the USA PATRIOT Act outreach effort ([www.lifeandliberty.gov](http://www.lifeandliberty.gov)), and what were the related costs of setting up and maintaining the website?
3. What types of activities did United States Attorneys conduct in response to the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) directive to hold meetings with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003, and what were the related costs?

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## Department of Justice Data Reviewed

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- Attorney General itineraries for USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Life and Liberty travel.
  - Vouchers and travel documentation for the Attorney General and DOJ staff who traveled in connection with the Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act tour and Life and Liberty travel.
  - Cost data on government aircraft flight hours.
  - Expenses incurred by United States Attorneys Offices in connection with the U.S. Attorney General's PATRIOT Act tour visits.
  - Data on DOJ personnel and contractor development costs for the Life and Liberty web site, as well as for recurring costs of maintaining the web site.
  - Data on the dates and purposes of meetings held by U.S. Attorneys with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003.
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## USA PATRIOT Act Tour Travel

- The U.S. Attorney General and his staff visited 14 states and 16 cities, including Washington, D.C., as part of the USA PATRIOT Act Tour.
- Trips originally planned to two additional cities and states were canceled.
- A list of the U.S. Attorney General's travel sites, and a list of sites visited for advance purposes, follows.



## USA PATRIOT Act Tour Stops

- August 19, 2003
  - Washington, D.C.
- August 20, 2003
  - Philadelphia, PA
  - Cleveland, OH
  - Detroit, MI\*
- August 21, 2003
  - Des Moines, IA
- August 25, 2003
  - Salt Lake City, UT
  - Boise, ID
- August 26, 2003
  - Las Vegas, NV
- September 5, 2003
  - Tampa, FL
  - Atlanta, GA
  - Norfolk, VA\*
- September 6, 2003
  - Raleigh/Durham, NC
- September 8, 2003
  - Buffalo, NY
  - New Castle, NH
  - Boston, MA\*
- September 9, 2003
  - New York, NY

\*For these stops, USA PATRIOT Act Tour events began the following day.

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## USA PATRIOT Act Tour Advance Trips\*

### August 8, 2003

- 5 staff to Philadelphia, PA

### August 10-12, 2003

- 2 staff to Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Milwaukee, WI; and Des Moines, IA
- 1 staff to Cleveland, OH and Des Moines, IA

### August 10-13, 2003

- 1 staff to Las Vegas, NV; Salt Lake City, UT; and Boise, ID

### August 12-13, 2003

- 1 staff to Boise, ID

### August 17-18, 2003

- 1 staff to Tampa, FL

### August 18, 2003

- 1 staff to Atlanta, GA

### August 19-20, 2003

- 1 staff to Philadelphia, PA

### August 19-21, 2003

- 1 staff to Cleveland, OH and Des Moines, IA

### August 19-21, 2003

- 1 staff to Philadelphia, PA; Charleston, WV; and Durham, NC

### August 21, 2003

- 1 staff to Durham, NC

### August 22-26, 2003

- 1 staff to Boise, ID

### August 28, 2003

- 1 staff to Norfolk, VA

### August 28-29, 2003

- 1 staff to Atlanta, GA

### September 4, 2003

- 1 staff to Atlanta, GA

### September 4-6, 2003

- 1 staff to Tampa, FL and Durham, NC

### September 7-8, 2003

- 1 staff to Manchester, NH

### September 7-9, 2003

- 1 staff to New York, NY

### September 8-9, 2003

- 1 staff to New York, NY

\*These trips were for, in some cases, advance preparation for press coverage. Also, for some trips, staff arrived late in the day on the day prior to the U.S. Attorney General's official visit.

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## Life and Liberty Travel

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- The U.S. Attorney General and his staff visited 13 states and 16 cities, including Washington, D.C.
- A list of the U.S. Attorney General's travel sites, and those visited for advance purposes, follows.

## Life and Liberty Travel Stops

- September 18, 2003
  - Louisville, KY
  - Memphis, TN
  - Little Rock, AR
  - Minneapolis, MN\*
- September 19, 2003
  - Omaha, NE
  - Kansas City, MO
- September 22, 2003
  - Milwaukee, WI
  - Cincinnati, OH
  - Pittsburgh, PA
- September 24, 2003
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Columbia, SC
  - Jacksonville, FL
  - Tallahassee, FL
  - New Orleans, LA\*
- September 25, 2003
  - Nashville, TN
  - Charlotte, NC

\*For these stops, Life and Liberty travel events began the following day.

## Life and Liberty Advance Trips\*

### September 10, 2003

- 1 staff to Louisville, KY

### September 11-12, 2003

- 1 staff to Minneapolis, MN and Cincinnati, OH

### September 11-12, 2003

- 1 staff to Omaha, NE and Kansas City, MO

### September 11-16, 2003

- 1 staff to Memphis, TN; Little Rock, AR; Jacksonville, FL; Tallahassee, FL; and Columbia, SC

### September 16-17, 2003

- 1 staff to Charlotte, NC; New Orleans, LA; and Nashville, TN

### September 17-18, 2003

- 1 staff to Louisville, KY and Little Rock, AR
- 1 staff to Louisville, KY

### September 18-19, 2003

- 1 staff to Omaha, NE

### September 21-22, 2003

- 1 staff to Pittsburgh, PA

### September 23-24, 2003

- 2 staff to Columbia, SC

### September 23-25, 2003

- 1 staff to Tallahassee, FL and Nashville, TN

### September 23-25, 2003

- 1 staff to Jacksonville, FL and Charlotte, NC

\*These trips were for, in some cases, advance preparation for press coverage. Also, for some trips, staff arrived late in the day on the day prior to the U.S. Attorney General's official visit.

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# USA PATRIOT Act Tour Expenses

Government aircraft	\$48,547.00
DOJ aircraft (12.4 hours)	•\$21,452.00
Non-DOJ aircraft (16.2 hours)	•\$27,095.00
Travel voucher expenses (excluding government aircraft)	\$23,359.51
Expenses incurred by U.S. Attorneys Offices in connection with Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act visits*	\$83,301.00
Conference room rental	•\$23,965.00
Audio-visual equipment rental	•\$45,426.00
Other equipment/rental/purchase	•\$12,840.00
Miscellaneous expenses	•\$ 1,070.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,207.51</b>

Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Justice data.

\*According to DOJ, these figures include money requested from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to cover expenses incurred with the USA PATRIOT Act visits. According to DOJ, it did not collect information regarding similar expenses incurred for Life and Liberty travel.

## Life and Liberty Travel Expenses

Government aircraft	\$28,550.00
DOJ aircraft (18.2 hours)	•\$23,825.00
Non-DOJ aircraft (7 hours)	•\$ 4,725.00
Travel voucher expenses (excluding government aircraft)	\$18,588.15
Total	\$47,138.15

Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Justice data.

## Life and Liberty Web Site Expenses

Life and Liberty web site development cost for DOJ personnel	\$792.64
Life and Liberty web site development cost for contractor	\$3,918.90
Life and Liberty web site recurring costs (From August 25, 2003 to June 29, 2004, a total of 71.5 hours were expended to maintain the website)	\$3,918.90
Total	\$8,630.44

Source: U.S. Department of Justice data.



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## Life and Liberty Web Site

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- On August 19, 2003, DOJ began operation of the Life and Liberty Internet web site, which includes, among other things,
    - speeches from Administration officials related to the USA PATRIOT Act,
    - DOJ information on myths and realities regarding the Act,
    - House and Senate voting records on the Act,
    - statements of Members of Congress on the Act,
    - the results of national opinion polls on the Act,
    - stories and articles on the Act,
    - DOJ testimony before Congress on the Act,
    - the text of the USA PATRIOT Act, and
    - DOJ accomplishments on the war on terror.
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## U.S. Attorneys' Meetings with Members of Congress and Public on USA PATRIOT Act

- 80 of 93 United States Attorneys reported conducting activities in response to the EOUSA directive to meet with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003.
- The activities included
  - in-person, telephone, or written contacts with Members of Congress;
  - radio, television, and print media interviews and appearances;
  - editorials in local newspapers;
  - participation in local debates and forums with representatives from organizations such as the ACLU; and
  - speeches before local groups, such as rotary clubs, university audiences, town meetings, and law enforcement organizations.
- Meetings were also conducted earlier and later than the August and September 2003 time frame.

## Data Not Available on Costs Associated with U.S. Attorneys' USA PATRIOT Act Activities

- According to a DOJ official, EOUSA did not specifically track costs associated with meetings held by U.S. Attorneys with Members of Congress and the public on the USA PATRIOT Act in August and September 2003 and could not reasonably reconstruct these costs.
- According to DOJ, the United States Attorneys may have used funds in their own Office budgets to fund these events as is generally done to pay expenses for press events, speaking engagements, and travel associated with events they attend in their official capacity.

## Total Expenses Related to USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Life and Liberty Travel

USA PATRIOT Act Tour Expenses	\$155,207.51
Life and Liberty Travel Expenses	\$47,138.15
Life and Liberty Web Site Expenses	\$8,630.44
Total Identified Expenses	\$210,976.10

(440287)

Source: GAO analysis of U.S. Department of Justice data.

# Appendix II: Department of Justice Staff Accompanying U.S. Attorney General on USA PATRIOT Act and Life and Liberty Travel

Tables 1 and 2 below show the official positions and office assignments of the Department of Justice (DOJ) staff that accompanied the U.S. Attorney General on each of his USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Life and Liberty Tour visits, conducted between August 20, 2003, and September 25, 2003. In addition to these staff, the U.S. Attorney General was accompanied by a security detail for this travel.

**Table 1: Department of Justice staff accompanying U.S. Attorney General on USA PATRIOT Act Tour**

Date	Destinations	DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General
08/20/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington, DC, to Philadelphia, PA</li> <li>• Philadelphia, PA, to Cleveland, OH</li> <li>• Cleveland, OH, to Detroit, MI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
08/21/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detroit, MI, to Des Moines, IA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Special Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (Speech Writer)</li> </ul>
08/21/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Des Moines, IA, to Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Special Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (Speech Writer)</li> <li>• Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
08/25/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington, DC, to Salt Lake City, UT</li> <li>• Salt Lake City, UT, to Boise, ID</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs</li> <li>• Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General</li> </ul>
08/26/2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boise, ID, to Las Vegas, NV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs</li> <li>• Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General</li> <li>• Special Assistant, Office of Legal Policy (Speech Writer)</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destinations</b>	<b>DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General</b>
08/26/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Las Vegas, NV, to Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (AG Advance)</li> <li>Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs</li> <li>Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General</li> <li>Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
09/05/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington, DC, to Tampa, FL</li> <li>Tampa, FL, to Atlanta, GA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
09/05/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlanta, GA, to Norfolk, VA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)</li> </ul>
09/06/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norfolk, VA, to Raleigh/Durham, NC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
09/06/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raleigh/Durham, NC, to Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)</li> </ul>
09/08/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington, DC, to Buffalo, NY</li> <li>Buffalo, NY, to New Castle, NH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>Director of Scheduling and Advance, Office of the Attorney General</li> </ul>
09/08/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Castle, NH, to Boston, MA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>Director of Scheduling and Advance, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> <li>Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)</li> </ul>

Date	Destinations	DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General
09/09/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boston, MA, to New York, NY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)</li> <li>• Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Note: The Director, Office of Public Affairs, and the Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General, met the U.S. Attorney General upon his arrival in New York, NY. The Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, met the U.S. Attorney General at Federal Hall in New York, NY, and accompanied him throughout the rest of the day.</li> </ul>
09/09/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New York, NY, to Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Justice data.

**Table 2: Department of Justice staff accompanying U.S. Attorney General on Life and Liberty Travel**

Date	Destinations	DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General
09/18/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington, DC, to Louisville, KY</li> <li>• Louisville, KY, to Memphis, TN</li> <li>• Memphis, TN, to Little Rock, AR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy</li> <li>• Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
09/18/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Rock, AR, to Minneapolis, MN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> </ul>
09/19/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minneapolis, MN, to Omaha, NE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
09/19/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Omaha, NE, to Kansas City, MO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy</li> <li>• Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
09/19/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kansas City, MO, to Washington, DC</li> <li>• Attorney General did not return to Washington, DC, with staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> <li>• Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy</li> <li>• Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Note: The Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison, stayed in Kansas City, MO.</li> </ul>
09/22/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springfield, MO, to Milwaukee, WI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs</li> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of Attorney General</li> <li>• Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison</li> <li>• Note: The Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs, met the U.S. Attorney General upon his arrival in Milwaukee, WI.</li> </ul>
09/22/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milwaukee, WI, to Cincinnati, OH</li> <li>• Cincinnati, OH, to Pittsburgh, PA</li> <li>• Pittsburgh, PA, to Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
09/24/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington, DC, to Columbia, SC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Director, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys</li> <li>• Note: The Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, met the U.S. Attorney General upon his arrival in Columbia, SC.</li> </ul>



Date	Destinations	DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General
09/24/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbia, SC, to Jacksonville, FL</li> <li>• Jacksonville, FL, to Tallahassee, FL</li> <li>• Tallahassee, FL, to New Orleans, LA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Director, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys</li> <li>• Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> <li>• Note: The Director of Scheduling and Advance, Office of the Attorney General, met the U.S. Attorney General upon his arrival in New Orleans, LA. The Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, departed from New Orleans, LA, to Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>
09/25/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Orleans, LA, to Nashville, TN</li> <li>• Nashville, TN, to Charlotte, NC</li> <li>• Charlotte, NC, to Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> <li>• Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> <li>• Director, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys</li> <li>• Director of Scheduling and Advance, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> </ul>

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Justice data.

# Appendix III: Comments from the Department of Justice



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 6, 2004

Laurie E. Ekstrand  
Director, Homeland Security and Justice  
General Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Ekstrand:

On September 17, 2004, the General Accountability Office (GAO) provided the Department of Justice (DOJ) a copy of its draft report entitled U.S. Attorney General's Travel Costs for the USA PATRIOT Act Tour and Related Activities (GAO-04-1091R/440287) with a request for comments. We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft report.

We believe the report inaccurately describes the purpose of what has been described as the USA PATRIOT Act tour. The report addresses only one of the two purposes of the tour—sharing information; the report should discuss the other major purpose of the tour—information gathering. With respect to the former, the letter from Laurie E. Ekstrand to Senator Leahy and Representative Conyers asserts that "[a]ccording to DOJ, the intent of the [USA PATRIOT Act] tour was to educate the public and inform members of Congress about the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act." Likewise, in Appendix I of the report, it is stated that "the U.S. Attorney General conducted a tour intended, according to the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, to educate the public and inform Members of Congress about the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act." These descriptions of purpose are incomplete and, therefore, misleading.

Throughout the trips described in this report, the Attorney General not only spoke; he listened. The second purpose of this tour was for the Attorney General to receive input and valuable on-the-ground feedback from state and local law enforcement, both with respect to information sharing among law enforcement agencies as well as with respect to threats to homeland security. This dialogue between the Attorney General and state and local law enforcement occurred at nearly every stop during the Attorney General's travels. The Attorney General's staff took notes to record the input offered by state and local law enforcement and then followed up on these suggestions and concerns afterwards. The GAO's report fails to mention even once this important objective of the Attorney General's travels. The report should describe both purposes of the USA PATRIOT Act tour.

Ms. Laurie E. Ekstrand

Page 2

On page 2, final bullet before "Agency Comments," change last sentence in paragraph to: "According to a DOJ official, the cost of these meetings was not specifically tracked and could not be reasonably reconstructed. The funds expended were part of each United States Attorney's (USA's) budget used to conduct any USA business, including press conferences, speeches, etc." We did not ask the USAs to go back through every travel voucher and estimate how much they may have spent at any one event on PATRIOT Act matters. When more than one subject of interest to a USA's Office was addressed at an event, it would require making highly subjective estimates to determine what portion of the monies were expended exclusively for PATRIOT Act matters. Under the circumstances, it would be more accurate to say that the exact figures could not be reasonably reconstructed.

On page 14, the third box lists expenses incurred by USA Offices in connection with the Attorney General's USA PATRIOT Act visits. These figures include money requested from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to cover expenses incurred with the USA PATRIOT Act visits. We did not collect information regarding similar expenses incurred for the Life & Liberty travel.

On page 19, add to first bullet the following: "The United States Attorneys may have used funds in their own Office budgets to fund these events as is generally done to pay expenses for press events, speaking engagements, and travel associated with events they attend in their official capacity." USAOs may have tracked them by making certain notations on their travel vouchers; however, we did not ask them to attempt to pull every travel voucher and reconstruct expenses in conjunction with these events. Delete the second bullet.

We hope these comments will be beneficial in preparing your final report. If you have any questions concerning the Department's comments in this matter, please feel free to contact Richard P. Theis, Acting Director, Audit Liaison Office, Justice Management Division on (202) 514-0469.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Corts  
Assistant Attorney General  
for Administration

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