

Washington, DC 20548

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, 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 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.

#### 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 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.

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.

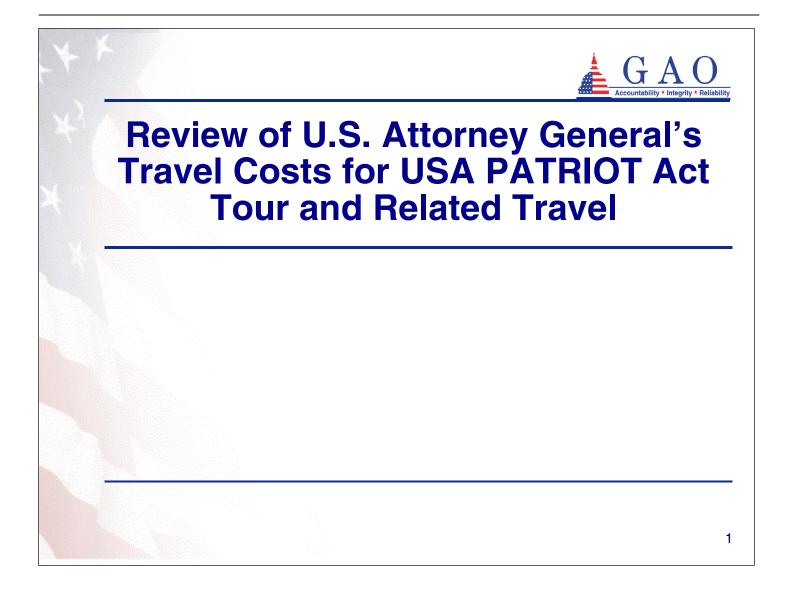
If you or your staff have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at (202) 512-8777 or by e-mail at EkstrandL@gao.gov or John C. Hansen, Assistant Director, at (202) 512-7105, or HansenJ@gao.gov. Key contributors to this report were Vickie Miller, David Alexander, Steven Haughton, Amy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

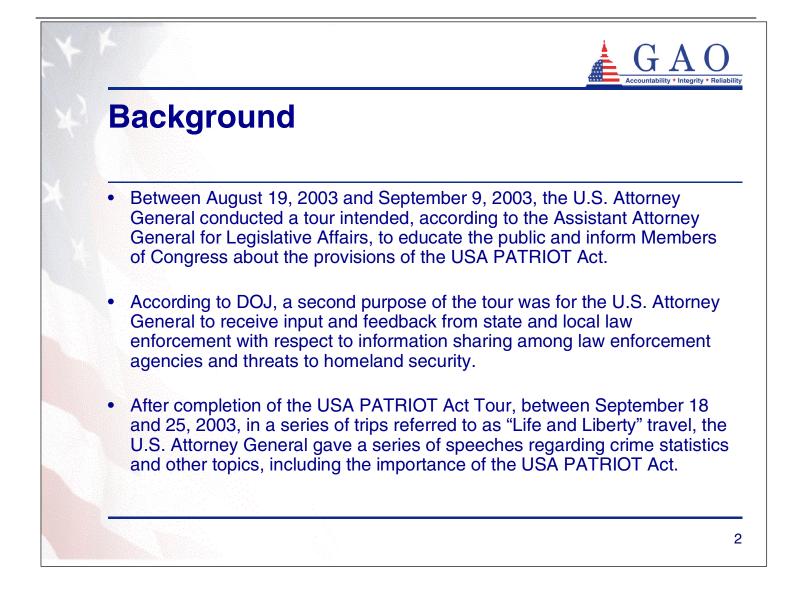
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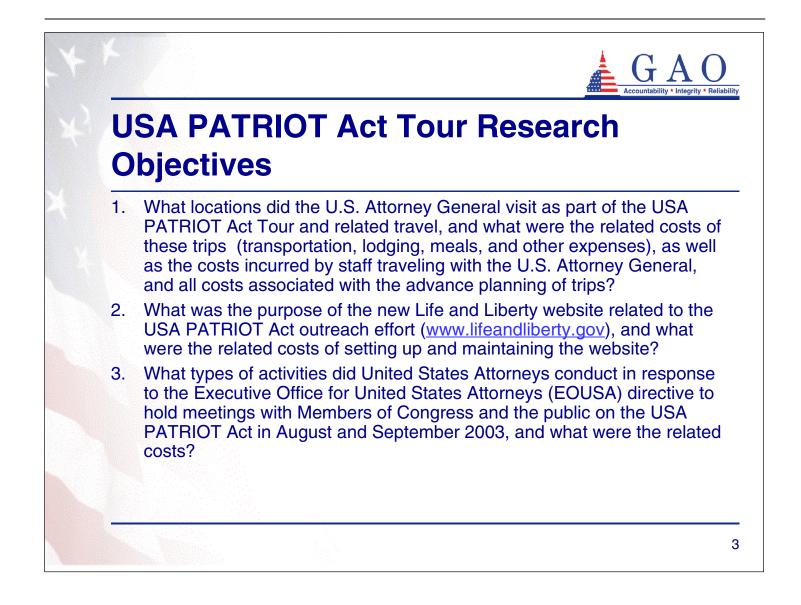
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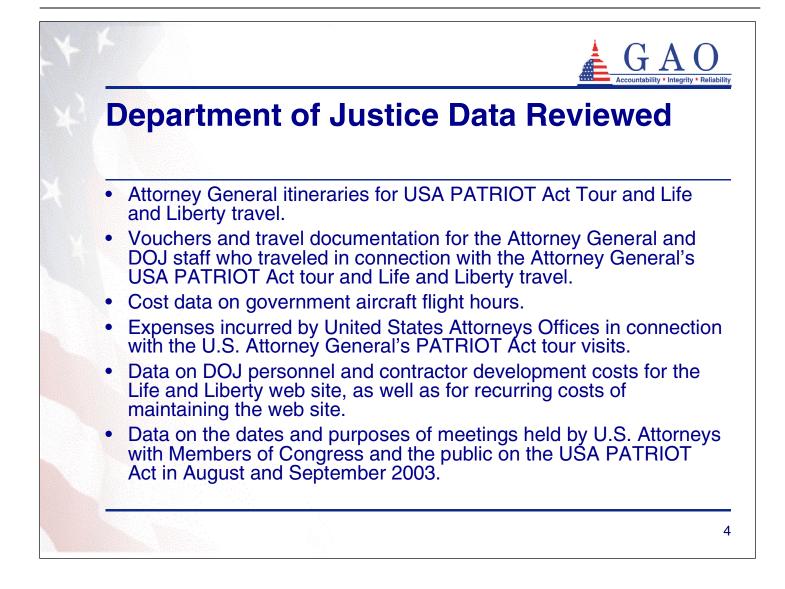
Laurie E. Ekstrand, Director Homeland Security and Justice Issues

## **Appendix I: Briefing Slides**





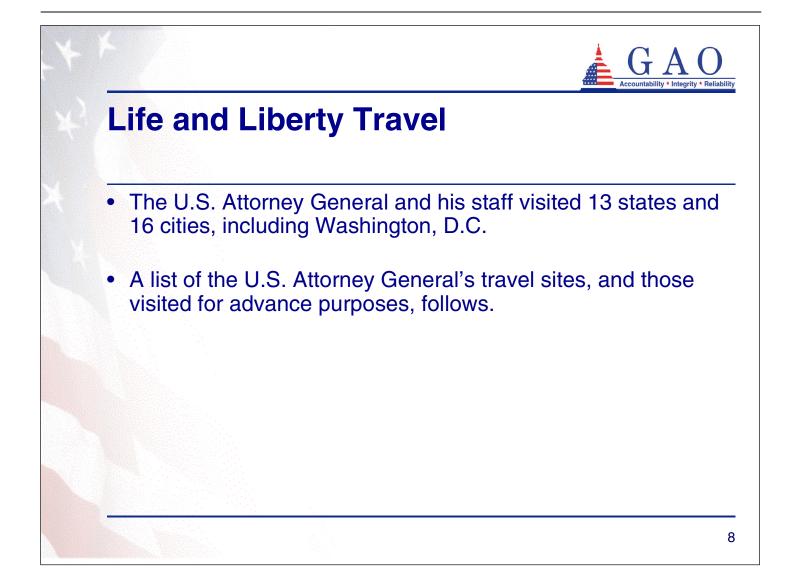


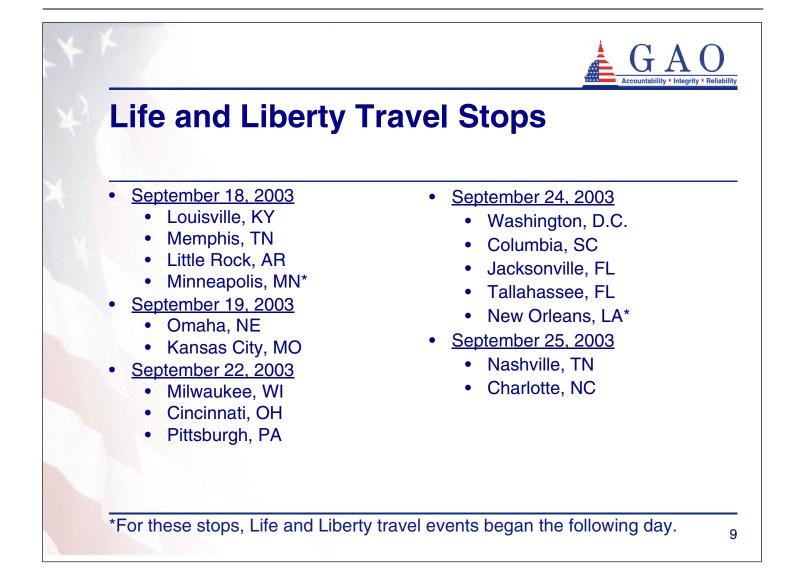


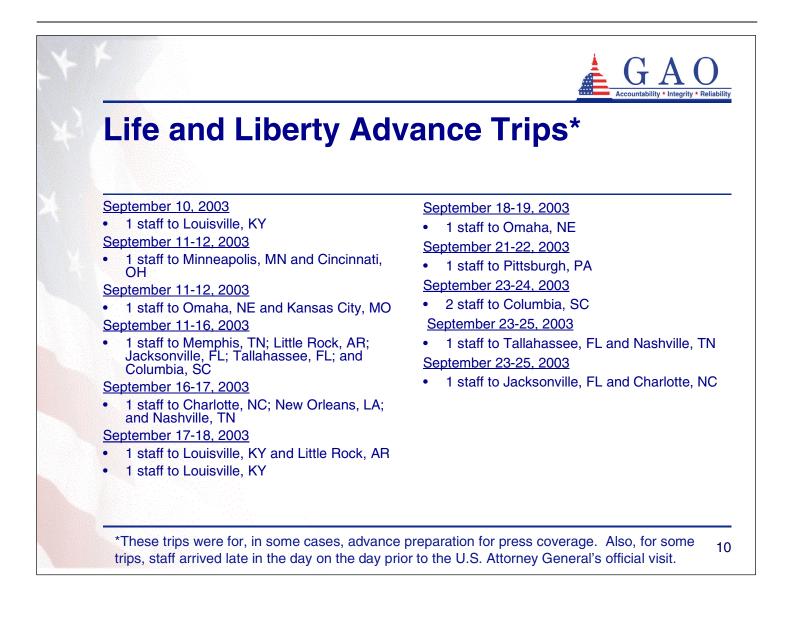




USA PATRIOT Act To	our Advance Trips'
August 8, 2003 5 staff to Philadelphia, PA August 10-12, 2003	August 19-21, 2003 • 1 staff to Philadelphia, PA; Charleston, WV; and Durham, NC
• 2 staff to Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Milwaukee, WI; and Des Moines, IA	August 21, 2003      1 staff to Durham, NC
<ul> <li>1 staff to Cleveland, OH and Des Moines, IA</li> </ul>	August 22-26, 2003
August 10-13, 2003	1 staff to Boise. ID
1 staff to Las Vegas, NV; Salt Lake City, UT; and	August 28, 2003
Boise, ID	1 staff to Norfolk, VA
<u>August 12-13, 2003</u>	<u>August 28-29, 2003</u>
1 staff to Boise, ID	1 staff to Atlanta, GA
August 17-18, 2003	September 4, 2003
1 staff to Tampa, FL	1 staff to Atlanta, GA
August 18, 2003 1 staff to Atlanta, GA	September 4-6, 2003
August 19-20, 2003	• 1 staff to Tampa, FL and Durham, NC
1 staff to Philadelphia, PA	September 7-8, 2003
August 19-21, 2003	1 staff to Manchester, NH September 7-9, 2003
<ul> <li>1 staff to Cleveland, OH and Des Moines, IA</li> </ul>	1 staff to New York, NY
	September 8-9, 2003
	1 staff to New York, NY





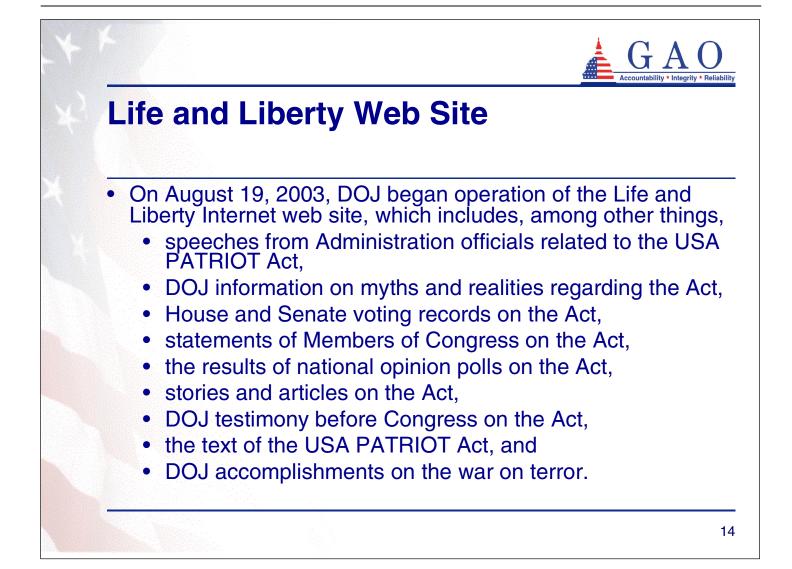


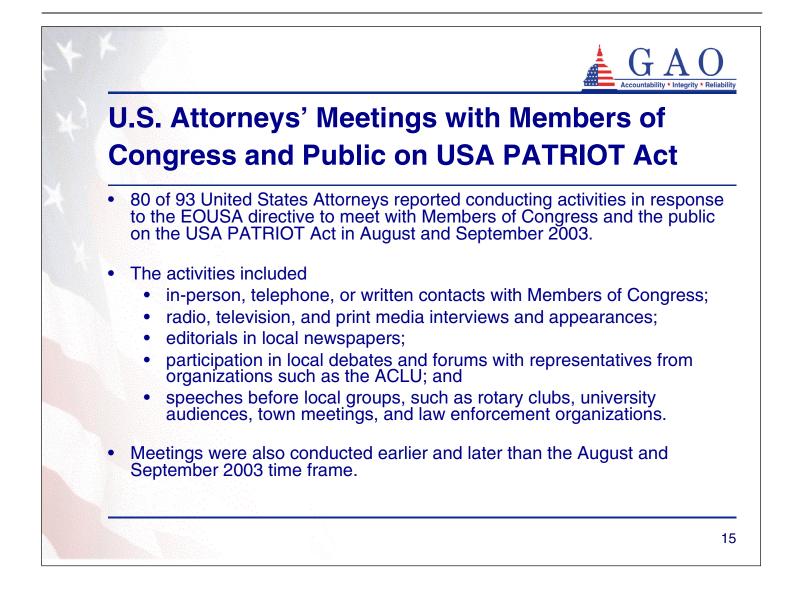
USA PATRIOT Act	<b>Four Expenses</b>
Government aircraft DOJ aircraft (12.4 hours) Non-DOJ aircraft (16.2 hours)	\$48,547.00 •\$21,452.00 •\$27,095.00
Travel voucher expenses (excluding government aircraft)	\$23,359.51
Expenses incurred by U.S. Attorneys Offices in connection with Attorney General's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

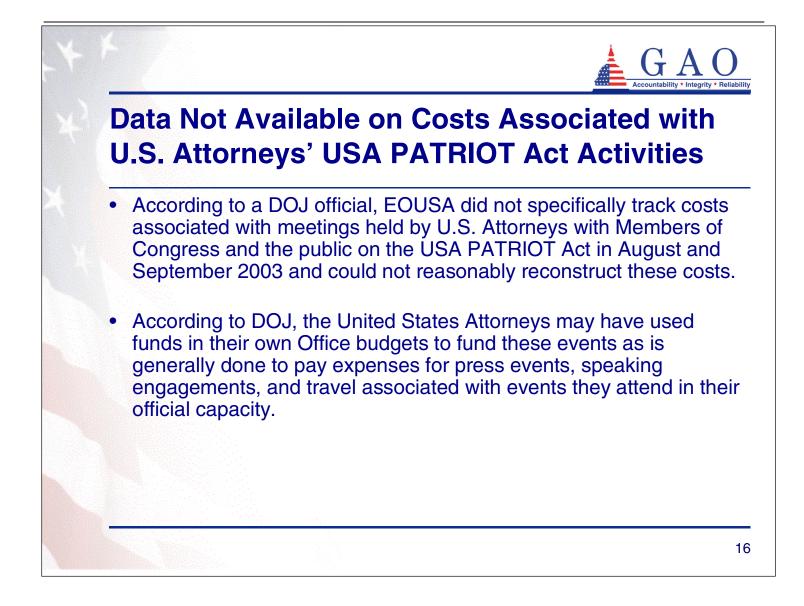
\*According to DOJ, these figures include money requested from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys to cover expenses incurred with the USA PATRIOT Act visits. According to DOJ, it did not collect information regarding similar expenses incurred for Life and Liberty travel.

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

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







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	

### 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	Washington, DC, to Philadelphia, PA	Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
	<ul> <li>Philadelphia, PA, to Cleveland, OH</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
	Cleveland, OH, to Detroit, MI	Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
08/21/03	Detroit, MI, to Des Moines, IA	Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
		Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Special Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (Speech Writer)
08/21/03	Des Moines, IA, to Washington, D.C.	Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
		Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Special Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (Speech Writer)
		Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs
08/25/03	• Washington, DC, to Salt Lake City, UT	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
	<ul> <li>Salt Lake City, UT, to Boise, ID</li> </ul>	Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (AG Advance)
		Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs
		<ul> <li>Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General</li> </ul>
08/26/2003	Boise, ID, to Las Vegas, NV	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (AG Advance)
		Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Special Assistant, Office of Legal Policy (Speech Writer)</li> </ul>

Date	Destinations	DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General
08/26/03	Las Vegas, NV, to Washington, D.C.	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General</li> </ul>
		Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs
09/05/03	<ul> <li>Washington, DC, to Tampa, FL</li> </ul>	Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Tampa, FL, to Atlanta, GA	Tampa, FL, to Atlanta, GA	<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs
09/05/03	Atlanta, GA, to Norfolk, VA	Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs
		Research Assistant, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)
09/06/03	<ul> <li>Norfolk, VA, to Raleigh/Durham, NC</li> </ul>	Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs
09/06/03	Raleigh/Durham, NC, to Washington,	Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
	DC	<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs
		<ul> <li>Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)</li> </ul>
09/08/03	<ul> <li>Washington, DC, to Buffalo, NY</li> </ul>	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
	<ul> <li>Buffalo, NY, to New Castle, NH</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Director of Scheduling and Advance</li> </ul>	Director of Scheduling and Advance, Office of the Attorney General
09/08/03	New Castle, NH, to Boston, MA	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
		Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
		<ul> <li>Director of Scheduling and Advance, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		<ul> <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	Boston, MA, to New York, NY	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
	Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs	
		<ul> <li>Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs (Public Affairs Advance)</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		• 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.
09/09/03	New York, NY, to Washington, D.C.	Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
		Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
		Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney (AG Advance)
		Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
		Director, Office of Public Affairs

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Justice data.

Table 2: Department of Justice staff accompanying U.S.	Attorney General on Life and Liberty Travel
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Date	Destinations	DOJ staff accompanying the U.S. Attorney General
09/18/03	<ul> <li>Washington, DC, to Louisville, KY</li> </ul>	Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
	<ul> <li>Louisville, KY, to Memphis, TN</li> </ul>	Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison
	<ul> <li>Memphis, TN, to Little Rock, AR</li> </ul>	Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs
		<ul> <li>Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Assistant to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
09/18/03	<ul> <li>Little Rock, AR, to Minneapolis, MN</li> </ul>	Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
09/19/03	<ul> <li>Minneapolis, MN, to Omaha, NE</li> </ul>	Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison
09/19/03	<ul> <li>Omaha, NE, to Kansas City, MO</li> </ul>	Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs
00/10/00		<ul> <li>Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
09/19/03	<ul> <li>Kansas City, MO, to Washington, DC</li> </ul>	Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General
	Attorney General did not return to Washington,	Advisor to the Attorney General and Dep. White House Liaison
	DC, with staff	<ul> <li>Senior Advisor, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Note: The Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison, stayed in Kansas City, MO.</li> </ul>
09/22/03	<ul> <li>Springfield, MO, to Milwaukee, WI</li> </ul>	Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs
		Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of Attorney General
		<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison</li> </ul>
		<ul> <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> <li>Milwaukee, WI, to Cincinnati, OH</li> <li>Cincinnati, OH, to Pittsburgh, PA</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Pittsburgh, PA, to Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (AG Advance)</li> </ul>
		Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
09/24/03	Washington, DC, to Columbia, SC	<ul> <li>Counselor to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General</li> </ul>
		Assistant Director, Office of Public Affairs
		Director, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys
		<ul> <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> <li>Columbia, SC, to Jacksonville, FL</li> <li>Jacksonville, FL, to Tallahassee, FL</li> <li>Tallahassee, FL, to New Orleans, LA</li> </ul>	<ul> <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, departed from New Orleans, LA, to Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>
09/25/03	<ul> <li>New Orleans, LA, to Nashville, TN</li> <li>Nashville, TN, to Charlotte, NC</li> <li>Charlotte, NC, to Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul> <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

0	U.S. Department of Justice
Weshington, D.C. 20530	
	October 6, 2004
Laurie E. Ekstrand Director, Homeland Securit General Accountability Offi- 441 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20548	·
Dear Ms. Ekstrand:	
Justice (DOJ) a copy of its of PATRIOT Act Tour and Re	e General Accountability Office (GAO) provided the Department of draft report entitled U.S. Attorney General's Travel Costs for the USA elated Activities (GAO-04-1091R/440287) with a request for the opportunity to review the draft report.
PATRIOT Act tour. The re information, the report shou With respect to the former, Representative Conyers asse tour was to educate the pub PATRIOT Act." Likewise, General conducted a tour in Affairs, to educate the publi	urately describes the purpose of what has been described as the USA eport addresses only one of the two purposes of the tour-sharing ald discuss the other major purpose of the tour-information gathering. the letter from Laurie E. Ekstrand to Senator Leahy and erts that "[a]ccording to DOJ, the intent of the [USA PATRIOT Act] blic and inform members of Congress about the provisions of the USA in Appendix I of the report, it is stated that "the U.S. Attorney thended, according to the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative ic and inform Members of Congress about the provisions of the USA corptions of purpose are incomplete and, therefore, misleading.
The second purpose of this t the-ground feedback from st sharing among law enforcem This dialogue between the A	bed in this report, the Attorney General not only spoke; he listened. tour was for the Attorney General to receive input and valuable on- tate and local law enforcement, both with respect to information nent agencies as well as with respect to threats to homeland security. Attorney General and state and local law enforcement occurred at Attorney General's travels. The Attorney General's staff took notes by state and local law enforcement and then followed up on these terwards. The GAO's report fails to mention even once this

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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