



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Aviation Safety*

**Maryland State Police  
Trooper 2  
District Heights, MD**

Scott Dunham

Air Traffic Control

# ATC Services Deficient

- Trooper 2 handled by Washington Tower (DCA), Potomac Approach Control (PCT), and Andrews Tower (ADW)
- ATC procedural and operational deficiencies at all three ATC facilities
- Effect on Trooper 2
  - Increased workload
  - Distraction
  - Required to compensate for poor ATC services

# DCA Tower

- Failed to recognize apparent VFR-into-IMC situation
- Did not coordinate Trooper 2 request for IFR clearance with PCT

# Potomac TRACON

- Initial pilot request – no response
- Repeated pilot request – inappropriate instruction to contact DCA
- No IFR clearance issued
- Pilot given 5-hour-old weather for ADW

# Potomac TRACON (continued)

- Improper vectoring took Trooper 2 through final – pilot self-corrected
- Use of Dulles radar site for ADW approach – poor coverage

# Andrews Tower

- Airport Surveillance Radar approach request declined – numerous ADW controllers not current on the procedure
- No other pilot indication of need for special assistance

# FAA Search and Rescue Support

- Potomac Approach and ADW Tower unable to provide specific last known position to search teams



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