

## **Steven I. Cooper, Director, Information Technology & CIO**

### *Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Organization*

Steven I. Cooper is the current Director, Information Technology, and Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic Organization (ATO). This is the operating arm of the FAA which runs the nation's national airspace system, ensuring the safety of the flying public while handling 40 million flights per year. Mr. Cooper and his team of 400 professionals are responsible for ensuring the operational excellence of mission support and business systems of the ATO and the underlying technology infrastructure.

Mr. Cooper is a founding partner of Strativest ([www.strativest.com](http://www.strativest.com)), a firm focused on identifying emerging technologies applicable to homeland security, emergency response and preparedness, assisting in the development of 'go-to-market' actions, providing management advisory services for business strategy and business development, competitive intelligence, and the strategic use of information and communications technology for competitive advantage.

In late 2005, Mr. Cooper was asked to join the American Red Cross (ARC) as the Senior Vice President and CIO. Mr. Cooper was responsible for the Information Technology (IT) assets of the Red Cross and leveraging them to support the humanitarian organization's 35,000 employees and the 300 million Americans they serve. Working with the Board and executive leadership, he guided the introduction of a first ever National Call Center during Hurricane Katrina to provide emergency financial assistance to the more than 4 Million people displaced from their homes. He also coordinated and led a unique partnership of technology corporations to develop and deploy critical services to the more than 1 million families impacted by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Mr. Cooper and his senior IT leadership team led the strategic outsourcing of the ARC's primary data center.

In 2003, he was appointed by President George W. Bush as the first CIO of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). His accomplishments include the implementation of a Homeland Secure Data Network to enable the exchange of classified homeland security information among Federal Civilian Agencies and the Department of Defense; in partnership, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the deployment of a Homeland Security Information Network to share sensitive information with state and local agencies; first responders, and private sector entities who own critical infrastructure; in developing the department's first IT Strategic Plan, and in standing up the 'day one' IT operations of DHS. Mr. Cooper testified frequently before Congress on matters related to Cyber and Information Security, and the use of Information Technology to achieve homeland security mission objectives.

Early in 2002, Mr. Cooper was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and also served as Senior Director for Information Integration in the White House Office of Homeland Security. In this role, he initiated the integration of the Terrorist Watch Lists, and launched the development of the National Enterprise Architecture for Homeland

Security to address information integration within the federal government and the sharing of homeland security information with State, Local, and relevant Private-Sector entities.

Mr. Cooper was named one of the Top 100 CIO's in America by CIO Insight in 2007. He was previously honored by Government Computer News as the Government Civilian Executive of the Year; by the Northern Virginia Technology Council as a Titan of Technology; was a recipient of the Fed 100 Award recognizing the 100 Most Influential People in Federal Government Technology; and was named by the Washington Post as one of the Five to Watch while serving in the White House. He recently served on the blue ribbon panel established by the Administrator of the FAA to determine the outage of the FAA's telecommunication network and offer recommendations for improvement.

Mr. Cooper serves as a board member and officer of several not-for-profits and humanitarian organizations working to extend Information and Communication Technology capability, infrastructure, and innovation across the nation and the globe to more effectively help people and emergency responders prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Prior to his federal government service, Mr. Cooper spent more than twenty years in the private sector as an IT professional and holds a BA degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. He is an honorably discharged Naval Air Reserve petty officer who served during the Vietnam conflict. He is married and states that being the father of four daughters, and the brother of four sisters, remains the toughest challenge he's ever had.