

March 26, 2014

The Honorable John S. Pistole
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
United States Department of Homeland Security
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 2059

Dear Administrator Pistole:

On behalf of the undersigned law enforcement associations, we are writing to strongly commend the actions of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and law enforcement during the tragic shooting at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) that occurred on November 1, 2013. The immediate and swift actions of the TSA and law enforcement to pursue the shooter undoubtedly saved lives, and the later examination of the response on that day will no doubt improve airport security for years to come and prevent further tragedy.

We would like to thank you and the TSA for not only the response on the day of the tragic shooting, but for the thorough review that was taken to determine what lessons could be learned to better protect airports from active shooters. As part of that examination, the TSA sought the input, guidance, and feedback of the law enforcement community. You and your colleagues held several meetings with our groups and law enforcement in order to gain feedback and collaborate on emergency response efforts and protocols at airports nationwide.

Those meetings and direct collaboration were the result of the report that is being presented at the March 28, 2014 hearing: *Lessons from the LAX Shooting: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies at Airports*. We appreciate being consulted and given the opportunity to provide feedback on the report. It is this kind of joint effort and collaboration that is needed to help safeguard our airports and our nation.

Sincerely,



Chief Yousry Zakhary
President
International Association of Chiefs of Police



Commissioner Charles Ramsey
President
Major Cities Chiefs Police Association



Donny Youngblood
President, Major County Sheriffs' Association
Sheriff-Coroner, Kern County (CA)



Sheriff Michael H. Leidholt
President, National Sheriffs' Association
Hughes County Sheriff's Office