

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION:
QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD**

**HEARING ON
STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON IMPROVING TSA FOR THE SECURITY OF
THE TRAVELING PUBLIC
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**

**Questions for Mr. Stephen Alterman, President, Cargo Airline Association; Chairman,
Aviation Security Advisory Committee**

From Senator Young

Question. Mr. Alterman, in April 2015, the Aviation Security Advisory Committee promptly responded to TSA's request for assistance in reevaluating airport security. The Working Group that the Committee released put forward 28 separate recommendations for the improvement of airport security. This report itemized a number commonsense recommendations such as the expansion of random employee screenings, the expansion of disqualifying criminal offenses for employees, and the introduction of biometric standards for identify validation of employees. Could you please speak to TSA's reception of the Committee's 2015 Report and more specifically any outstanding recommendations that you believe TSA should focus on further implementing and improving?

Answer. Thank you very much for the question. As you note, the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC) made 28 separate recommendations for dealing with the issue of insider threats at nation's airports. These recommendations were issued unanimously by both the Employee Access Working Group formed to address the issue and by the full ASAC.

Upon review, TSA concurred with all 28 recommendations and has either implemented, or is in the process of implementing, all the suggestions made. As with anything as comprehensive as the 28 recommendations, some of the recommendations were easier to implement than others. And some of the more important recommendations are also some of the most complex and have taken longer to implement than others. For example, one of the centerpieces of the ASAC report is the recommendation that employees with access to the secure areas of airports be subject to increased random inspections that give the employees the expectation of being screened at any time that they are attempting to enter the secure areas and when they are in that secure area. Implementation of this recommendation requires sophisticated algorithms that create protocols that are both risk-based and airport specific. TSA is currently in the process of piloting this program at various airports around the country and ASAC continues to monitor its progress.

In addition, other recommendations have taken longer than expected due to necessary coordination with other federal agencies. However, even those are now in the initial implementation stage and we look forward to full implementation in the relatively near future.