

Talking Points Prepared for TSA Administrator John S. Pistole
Brief Welcoming Comments to the First ASAC Call

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- Good afternoon. Thanks for carving out a little bit of time from the call – I appreciate the opportunity to address the group, and want to quickly welcome you all as the newest members of the Secretary’s Aviation Security Advisory Committee.
- Since 1989, following the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, this Committee has been tasked with making recommendations to help strengthen and secure air travel for all Americans.
- Before you get started with the task at hand, I wanted to extend my personal thanks and my appreciation for your service on this vital committee.
- I look forward to meeting with all of you as soon as possible. The work of this advisory committee enhances TSA’s security posture through consultation with key aviation partners concerning potential risks to infrastructure, passengers, and cargo.
- Your ability to provide recommendations on the effectiveness of security procedures adds strength and depth to our layered approach to aviation security.
- Federal advisory committees such as this play a vital role throughout government, and I am confident we here at TSA, and by extension the broader traveling public, stand to benefit from your experience, your expertise, and your counsel.
- As you know, DHS has taken significant steps to keep Americans safe since 9/11. At more than 450 of our nation’s airports, this has included deploying new and enhanced technology, expanded data analysis capabilities and a more complete understanding of current intelligence.

- As part of a risk-based security initiative, we began testing several new screening concepts at select airports to further enhance security. These include TSA Pre✓™, an initiative that involves prescreening eligible passengers to potentially expedite their screening, the Known Crewmember initiative designed to provide positive ID verification for airline pilots while expediting their screening, as well as expanding the use of behavior detection in airports around the country.
- Here at TSA, our risk-based security initiatives reflect a commitment to developing and implementing new ways of moving our organization further away from a one-size-fits-all construct and establishing TSA as a high-performing counterterrorism agency.
- It means focusing our resources on those we know the least about, and using intelligence – often classified – in better ways to inform the screening process. Anytime we can reduce the size of the haystack in which a terrorist can hide, we are adding strength and security to America’s transportation network.
- I know there are several more people who are eager to talk with you this morning/afternoon, so I’m going to hop off the call. Once again, on behalf of Secretary Napolitano, thank you all for your dedication to aviation security and for answering the call when asked to serve. Safe travels, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

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