



**One Hundred Eleventh Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Homeland Security**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 9, 2009

The Honorable Janet A. Napolitano  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We are deeply concerned about recent revelations that the Transportation Security Administration had posted its "Aviation Security Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures" on a Department of Commerce website since March of this year and the resulting damage to our homeland security. We are writing to request your immediate assurance that mitigation measures are being implemented by the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the travelling public is adequately protected, and further to inform you that we are requesting the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General (DHS OIG) immediately review the circumstances surrounding the release of this very sensitive document, and conduct an assessment of the damage done to our homeland security.

The document in question outlines TSA screening procedures at over 450 airports and provides specific procedures for calibrating magnetometers, identifying law enforcement credentials, and providing alternative screening procedures at over 700 security checkpoints nationwide. However, it would be a monumental mistake for the Department to fail to recognize that the release of this sensitive security information goes far beyond aviation security. TSA screeners and equipment were utilized by the Secret Service frequently during the 2004 and 2008 Presidential campaigns to augment Service personnel and continue to be used by the Secret Service at National Special Security Events<sup>1</sup>. The compromise of this document, including magnetometer calibration and explosive trace detection procedures, could prove to have disastrous consequences for the security of President Obama.

Therefore, given these immediate and compelling concerns, and the likelihood that additional vulnerabilities to homeland security will be identified through the course of

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/testimony\\_london\\_attacks\\_hawley\\_sept\\_21.pdf](http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/testimony_london_attacks_hawley_sept_21.pdf)  
<http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2009/0114.shtm>

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TSA's and any Inspector General investigation, pursuant to House Rule X(3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, we ask that you please respond in writing to the following questions as soon as possible, but no later than December 22, 2009:

1. Why was it necessary to post the Aviation Security Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures (Aviation Security Manual) on the Federal Business Opportunities website?
2. Are there/were there similarly "redacted" documents designated as "Sensitive Security Information," pursuant to sections 15 and 1520 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations posted on the Internet and what actions has the Department taken to verify the security of these documents? Have similar incidents been noted?
3. What policies or guidelines has the Department's Chief Security Officer put into place regarding redaction procedures for SSI, PCII, LES, FOUO, or other controlled unclassified information? Did TSA's failed attempts to redact the sensitive security information in the Aviation Security Manual comply with such policies, if any?
4. What actions have the Department of Homeland Security, its agencies and directorates, and specifically the Secret Service, taken to identify the impacts of the release of this manual outside of the traditional aviation security missions?
5. What actions are the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration taking to mitigate the threats posed by the release of this extraordinarily sensitive document?
6. How has the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration addressed the repeated reposting of this security manual to other websites and what legal action, if any, can be taken to compel its removal?
7. Is the Department considering issuing new regulations pursuant to its authority in section 114 of title 49, United States Code, and are criminal penalties necessary or desirable to ensure such information is not reposted in the future?

Please contact Mr. Joseph Vealencis of the Republican Committee staff at (202) 226-8417 if you have any questions regarding the requests for information in this letter.

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Sincerely,



PETER T. KING  
Ranking Member



CHARLES W. DENT  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation  
Security and Infrastructure Protection



GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Management,  
Investigations, and Oversight

Copy: The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security  
The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Transportation  
Security and Infrastructure Protection, Committee on Homeland Security  
The Honorable Richard L. Skinner, Inspector General, Department of Homeland  
Security