



**Transportation
Security
Administration**

MAR - 8 2013

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary Janet Napolitano
FROM: John S. Pistole
Administrator *John S. Pistole*
SUBJECT: Renewal of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee

Purpose

This memorandum requests that you approve the renewal of the charter for the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC), a discretionary advisory committee that operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. Appendix). FACA requires that an advisory committee's charter be renewed 2 years after the charter's filing date and a committee must terminate if its charter is not renewed by that date. The charter for ASAC will expire on July 23, 2013.

Background

The ASAC is a long-standing advisory committee established in 1989 following the destruction of Pan American World Airways Flight 103 by a terrorist bomb. The committee is traditionally composed of members representing key constituencies affected by aviation security requirements. This charter proposes the following constituencies for membership, which are unchanged from the previous charter: Victims of Terrorist Acts Against Aviation; Law Enforcement and Security Experts; Aviation Consumer Advocates; Airport Tenants and General Aviation; Airport Operators; Airline Management; Airline Labor; Aircraft and Security Equipment Manufacturers; and Air Cargo.

Discussion

We recommend that you approve renewal of the ASAC for the following reasons:

- a) Need for the Advisory Committee: The ASAC helps the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) establish critical policies and procedures in consultation with leading industry organizations, other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and stakeholder representatives concerning potential risks to aviation

infrastructure, passengers, and cargo; response capabilities that NGOs and other stakeholders control; and the economic, social, and political drivers that impact risk or response. The ASAC is also a recurring forum for TSA to gather customer and stakeholder input concerning the effectiveness of security actions and proposals, the costs and burdens associated with security actions and proposals, and the general level of customer satisfaction TSA is engendering across affected constituencies. This committee has experience working together to identify problems, gather input, and reach consensus on security issues that result in security initiatives and regulations that can be quickly implemented, are effective in terms of performance and cost, and have a lower impact on the commerce of aviation. Renewing this committee ensures continuation of the ASAC operations in pursuit of these important goals.

- b) Lack of Duplication of Resources: The ASAC focuses on “areas of civil aviation security with the aim of developing recommendations for the improvement of civil aviation security methods, equipment, and procedures.” It is the only FACA committee that brings together industry representatives and multiple Federal security, law enforcement, and aviation-related agencies to focus on matters of aviation security. Similar aviation security initiatives have been conducted under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC), but this forum does not include key constituency groups, such as advocacy groups and labor unions, that are included in the ASAC. The CIPAC also prohibits work on regulatory issues, which may comprise some of the work done under the ASAC.
- c) Membership Balanced Fairly: The proposed charter organizes the ASAC by membership categories to assure fair balance in terms of the points of view of those represented and the functions performed by the committee. The committee shall be composed of no more than 27 members appointed for a 2-year term. Each membership category shall have at least one member.

The ASAC’s advice, experience, expertise, and technical assistance provide valuable input and insight, assisting TSA in achieving its mission. Over the term of this charter, TSA anticipates forming subcommittees or working groups to study security issues in the following general areas:

- **General Aviation**: Develop recommendations to improve security methods, equipment, and procedures.
- **Air Cargo**: Examine methods to further enhance air cargo security across the national and international supply chain.
- **International Aviation Security**: Develop recommendations to improve security coordination, methods, equipment, and procedures.
- **Risk-Based Security**: Consider traditional and nontraditional risk-based airline passenger/crew member prescreening initiatives and make recommendations about specific approaches for TSA to consider and implement.

Recommendation

I recommend that you approve renewal of the ASAC. A draft charter is attached for your review.

Approve: John McE / 13-25-13 Disapprove: _____ / _____
Date Date

Modify: _____ / _____ Needs more discussion: _____ / _____
Date Date

Attachment