



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FLEOA CALLS FOR CONGRESS TO HOLD CLOSED-DOOR HEARING ON TSA SECURITY BREACH

Lewisberry - Today, J. Adler, National President for the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) announced that he is asking House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson to hold a private hearing on TSA HQ'S security breach. According to Adler, "Both TSA'S posting of sensitive security information and their unwillingness to grasp the seriousness of this are unacceptable. A discreet hearing should be held so Congress can determine why TSA posted this information, and why TSA attempted to minimize the importance of the information as "outdated." The so-called "outdated" information should not be recklessly discounted like a college textbook that is last year's edition.

Unfortunately, in response to this serious unwarranted disclosure, TSA HQ has offered more "layers" of excuses than assurances of protection. Contrary to their efforts to deflect their responsibility for making a serious security breach, they do not have sound security procedures in play. What they have is a dedicated workforce that is tasked with overcompensating for a flawed system. Air Marshals and TSO'S proudly shoulder considerable risk by virtue of their jobs; their agency shouldn't compound this risk with flawed internal controls and dismissive excuses. Furthermore, the careless posting of information pertaining to law enforcement officers flying armed only serves to compromise their safety.

FLEOA takes great exception to the remarks attributed to former TSA Administrator Edmund "Kip" Hawley. His suggestion that no one should "hyperventilate" over the breach is offensive and epitomizes the hypocrisy of his tenure at TSA. To wit, he unfortunately did not hyperventilate when an external hard drive containing employee personnel data disappeared. Instead, he condoned management's pursuit and termination of dedicated Air Marshals who disclosed serious Officer safety issues to the news media. One can only conclude that TSA HQ has their own set of rules that exempts them from accepting responsibility for serious security disclosures.

FLEOA expects Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member King will embrace the seriousness of the disclosure, as well TSA'S propensity for managing by double-standard. TSA HQ

should be held accountable for this breach, and a discreet, closed-door hearing would be the appropriate forum to properly address this serious matter. FLEOA is confident that the committee will be able to persuade TSA-HQ to conduct a comprehensive review of this situation, and provide them with a meaningful damage-control assessment.