



Chairman John Carter

*Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing - Transportation Security Administration March 19, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

Hearing is called to order –

This morning we welcome Acting Administrator Melvin Carraway. Administrator, thank you for being here to testify about the Transportation Security Administration's fiscal year 2016 budget request.

While threats to transportation security continuously evolve, one thing remains constant – America's aviation sector is a primary target for terrorists. A recent Al-Qaeda publication encouraging attacks on U.S. flights using homemade explosives provided yet another reminder that we must be vigilant, and we must adapt to address these changing threats.

The fiscal year 2016 budget for TSA is nearly \$4.8 billion, which is \$68 million below fiscal year 2015. This decrease is primarily driven by reductions in screening personnel and other efficiencies achieved as a result of savings from TSA's continued implementation of risk-based security initiatives.

As you know, this Committee has long supported risk-based approaches to transportation security as an effective means of improving security and streamlining operations, while also reducing costs. In a time of shrinking budgets, I commend TSA for finding ways to maximize the impact of limited resources, and for continuing to seek ways to build upon these efforts.

However, we must ensure the expansion of TSA's risk-based programs are carefully considered and purposefully implemented, and that they are first and foremost grounded in improving security.

Transportation security has – and will – remain a priority for this Subcommittee. I look forward to hearing from you today about how TSA is further implementing its risk-based efforts and driving down costs, while strengthening the security of our nation's transportation system.

Administrator, your written statement will be placed in the record, so I ask you to take five minutes to summarize it. But first, I'd like to recognize Mrs. Roybal-Allard, our distinguished Ranking Member, for her opening remarks.

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