

***Statement for the Record of the Honorable Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA)
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation Security
Committee on Homeland Security***

**Field Hearing:
“Lessons from the LAX Shooting: Preparing for and Responding to
Emergencies at Airports”**

March 28, 2014

I would like to acknowledge Administrator Pistole for his service and leadership in the wake of the tragic shooting at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1, 2013. I would also like to thank Los Angeles World Airports for hosting the Subcommittee, so that we may gain a greater insight into precisely what happened on that tragic day.

Los Angeles World Airports should be commended for conducting a thorough and thoughtful review of the shooting.

The report released last week uncovered several flaws as well as viable solutions that can be implemented to ensure that similar future events are mitigated or deterred altogether. It is my hope and expectation that other airports around the nation will review the report and learn from it.

Having said that, Los Angeles World Airports cannot implement all of the reforms necessary without assistance from local and Federal partners such as the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Transportation Security Administration.

Undoubtedly, Federal funds and resources will be required to ensure all of the needed reforms are implemented. That places the onus on Congress to provide the funding needed to make planned reforms a reality.

I would like to thank National President Cox for testifying before the Subcommittee today. He brings the vital element of the perspective of Transportation Security Officers, the frontline workforce in the fight to protect our aviation system and those targeted by the shooter last November.

To Gerardo Hernandez’s wife and family, please accept our sincerest condolences on your loss. Officer Hernandez was the first TSA employee to be killed in the line of duty. His service and sacrifice will not be forgotten. To the other Transportation Security Officers injured during the shooting, Mr. Grigsby and Mr. Speer, we thank you for your bravery and continued service to our nation.

Transportation Security Officers across the country perform the often thankless task of screening 1.8 million passengers every day. All too often, they are the target of unwarranted criticism by both Members of Congress and the media. Much of the criticism arises from these dedicated public servants simply following the mandated standard operating procedures handed down from headquarters.

I would encourage all of us to keep that in mind the next time we travel through an airport.