

MEDIA INFORMATION



Congresswoman

Sheila Jackson Lee

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CHAIRWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE WORKING TO IMPROVE FLIGHT SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR AMERICANS

"Jackson Lee Says the TSA and the FAA Must Improve Coordination of Emergency Response Plans to Security Threats"

Washington, D.C.- Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Chair of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection explores the role of the Transportation Security Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration in implementing safety and security coordination efforts in response to security threats at a hearing entitled "*Aviation Security: Are We Truly Protected?*"

"The aviation community relies on FAA for safety and TSA for security. One issue that needs further exploration and scrutiny is how these two distinctive agencies coordinate when an incident goes from safety to security," stated Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. "We also need to explore how air traffic controllers are trained to deal with security incidents and what steps we can take to make sure that air traffic controllers have the training to be able to deal with a security threat."

"Furthermore, I am concerned that the GAO found seven of the twenty-four performance expectations have generally not been achieved, including effective airport perimeter security, control access to airport secured areas, implementing biometric identifier systems for airport secured areas access control, implementing new and emerging technologies to screen air cargo," points out Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

"We must provide a mechanism for the FAA and TSA to effectively conduct and document interagency exercises that enhance response to in-flight scenarios. As chair of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, my main priority is to ensure that safety and security procedures are being effectively implemented to keep our nation safe," concluded Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

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