

AIRLINE PILOTS SECURITY ALLIANCE

2526 VINEYARD LANE C ROFTON, MD 21114 | 615-479-4140

www.Secure-Skies.org

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL CHERTOFF
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
TSA HQ: TSA-1
601 SOUTH 12TH STREET
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-4220

February 1, 2006

Dear Mr. Chertoff:

As the largest organization of aviation professionals focused exclusively on improving aviation security, APSA's thousands of member pilots are keenly interested who the DHS will choose to succeed the retiring director of the Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) on February 3. We believe the maturing FAMS requires a director with a wealth of experience in the field, who will embrace a management style that seeks the consensus of frontline air marshals and industry professionals to employ realistic solutions that will most efficiently allocate our limited airline security resources. We believe Mr. Don Strange has all of the attributes necessary to serve as an outstanding FAMS Director.

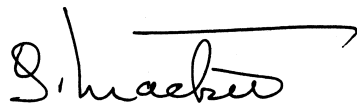
In the past week, we have spoken at length to Mr. Strange. We were impressed with his candor, professional demeanor, background and continued dedication –to the DHS, the air marshals on the frontlines –and to our country's security. We also have spoken to a large number of federal law enforcement officers who worked for Mr. Strange. Without exception, they respect and support him emphatically. Several officers reported it was not unusual for Mr. Strange "to just show up" to accompany agents on routine missions in order to gain perspective, even though he was not required to do this; and for him to aggressively seek input and consensus from them in order to ensure they had the proper tools and operational policies they needed to do their jobs effectively. One reported, "I worked for him. He's a no-nonsense kind of guy –a cop's cop. He runs a tight ship and he doesn't care about anything but getting the job done right."

We are also aware Mr. Strange has the support of a number of bipartisan members of Congress concerned with the future of the FAMS and airline security.

Accordingly, we believe appointing Don Strange to the position of Director of the Federal Air Marshal Service can do nothing but ensure the success of FAMS and improve our country's ability to defend against new 9/11's. We further believe spending just one hour in conversation with him will substantiate this.

We applaud the DHS for its risk-based resource allocation strategy. In an era of competing priorities for scarce resources, we note that the more programs like the FAMS, which are not intrusive to the public, are improved; the more programs that *are* more intrusive may be commensurately reconfigured. The result will be an airline security system that is more robust, yet more "passenger-friendly" –that encourages commerce and expansion of our airline system, while effectively protecting it. We look forward to working collaboratively to improve our airline security system.

Respectfully,



CC.: PETER KING, CHAIRMAN, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

CAPTAIN DAVID MACKETT
APSA PRESIDENT
615-479-4140
davidmackett@earthlink.net

