

# THE TSO VOICE

American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

June 11, 2010

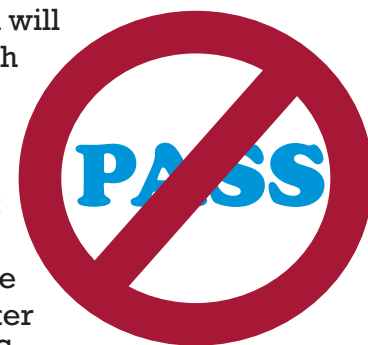


John Pistole

**Pistole Clears First Hurdle to Confirmation:** Despite being pressed to reject granting TSOs collective bargaining rights by Republican senators, the White House's third nominee to lead TSA John Pistole is expected to win the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation's confirmation next week. At the confirmation hearing June 10, all the senators indicated he was well qualified to lead TSA. As expected, Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said that collective bargaining would not help TSA. But Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, argued that unionization does not negatively affect public safety. As a former mayor who had to administer more than 800 unionized police officers and fire fighters, Begich said he did not see any diminishment in public safety because the employees' number one mission was the safety of the community. Pistole, currently the FBI deputy director, said that DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano had asked him to review the issue and that he needed to talk to

all stakeholders in order to come up with a recommendation. He said whatever the outcome will be, it will not negatively affect the safety and security of the flying public. Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Rockefeller, D-W.Va, said committee vote on Pistole's nomination will occur next week. Pistole's second confirmation hearing is scheduled June 16 with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

**AFGE Calls for Transfer of TSOs to GS:** Calling the current pay system overly complex, arbitrary, and discriminatory, the American Federation of Government Employees once again called on TSA to end the notorious Performance Accountability and Standards System (PASS) and place TSA employees under the General Schedule system, which covers most federal employees. In a June 9 letter to TSA Acting Administrator Gale Rossides, AFGE President John Gage said PASS suppresses the workers' wages and pensions, which is contrary to congressional mandate that TSOs be fairly compensated for their important duties. AFGE's review of the 2008 PASS ratings also reveals that PASS discriminates based on gender, disability, and race. The largest and most significant disparities in performance ranking and the size of pay adjustments and bonuses occur between white and African-American TSOs. PASS evaluations are based on the subjective perceptions and decisions of managers, yet unlike other workers in the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies, TSOs cannot appeal an unfair rating to an independent, objective third party. A copy of the letter was sent to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano.



**Boston TSOs Diagnosed with Cancer Call for Better Protection:** At Logan Airport in Boston, there are a growing number of TSOs who have been diagnosed with cancer. The TSOs believe that the x-ray screening technology is to blame. AFGE and the officers want TSA to provide them with radiation monitor dosimeters, which can be worn by TSOs at each checkpoint and baggage work location. The officers also would like the dosimeters to go to a medical facility for data results gathering. AFGE Local 2617 is meeting with Deputy Federal Security Director Heather Callahan to discuss these issues.



For more information about AFGE representation, go to [www.tsaunion.net](http://www.tsaunion.net) or call AFGE TSA Hotline at (866) 392-6832. AFGE 80 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 \* Tel. (202) 737-8700 \* Fax (202) 639-6492 \* [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org)