



**STATEMENT OF LOS ANGELES MAYOR JAMES HAHN, CHAIRMAN,  
U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS TASK FORCE ON AIRPORT SECURITY,  
ON REMOVAL OF NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS FROM U.S. AIRPORTS**

May 9, 2002

“The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Task Force on Airport Security met today via conference call to discuss tomorrow’s replacement of National Guard soldiers by local police at U.S. airports.

“Above all, we want to assure the flying public that we are committed to ensuring the safety and security of airports. Therefore, we will take whatever steps are necessary to make this change seamless and effective. We will continue to work closely with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) toward that end. Travel is a basic American freedom and we are all fully committed to protecting it.

“At the same time, however, it is important to point out that we are about to enter uncharted waters – and we do so with some trepidation. We must make certain that local law enforcement receives the tools and funding necessary to take on this important responsibility. We hope that the TSA will work with us on flexible, longer-term security agreements that reflect the needs of individual airports and cities. We also must make sure that federal liability protection is extended to local law enforcement securing our airports.

“Mayors and local law enforcement will continue to work closely with the TSA to make this transition smooth. But we also hope TSA will work with us to resolve critical funding and liability issues.”

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*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.*

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