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From: TSA Broadcast
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2009 12:01 PM
Subject: 100 - End of Year Message
Date: December 24, 2009
To: All Employees
From: Gale Rossides, Acting Administrator
Subject: 100 – End of Year Message

As 2009 comes to a close, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy and safe New Year.

For those of you in the field, at the TSOC, the Intel Watch and coordination centers around the country, it is not lost on me that while many of our colleagues in government and private industry enjoy holiday mornings with their families, thousands of TSOs, FAMs, management teams and operations officers are on duty – on watch – as throngs of passengers take to the skies for the holidays.

Your dedication is second to none, and your professionalism will be on display once again as you ensure that passengers get to their destinations safely. Thank you for all you will do in the coming days to keep operations running smoothly.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on our successes in 2009, because it was a very good year for TSA. Here are just a few highlights:

- Secure Flight is now operational, bringing watch list matching responsibilities back to TSA. Along with many smaller airlines, American Airlines and AirTran are participating, with more major airlines to come on board early in 2010.
- We've completed the heavy lift of getting TWIC cards to port workers and those who need access to ports.
- Our front line has screened more than 570 million people and more than 420 million bags. This year, our officers found more than 830 guns and prevented them from getting on planes.
- We completed the Evolution training of the entire TSO, LTSO and STSO workforce.

- FAMS have flown more than a billion miles in this past year, keeping the skies safe.
- 518 people were arrested as a result of BDO and TDC referrals.
- We've reduced the Toxic Inhalation Hazard risk in the rail mode by 80 percent.
- Our IdeaFactory is being rolled out DHS-wide and to other government agencies and it has also received White House recognition.
- Our blog got its one millionth hit in September, and played a key role in busting a myth raised by a mother who said her child was taken out of her sight during secondary screening.
- Our team has brilliantly obligated more than 60 percent of the \$1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds given to TSA, which will provide additional screening technology to airports.

We've come a long way in just the eight years since TSA was created. Our stakeholder and Congressional relationships are strong, we are respected internationally for our security work, and we are on the cutting edge with our technological advancements. For this, we can all be proud.

Our people are our greatest resource, and I would like to thank each and every one of you who have played a part in getting us to where we are today.

In these ever-changing times, challenges will continue to come up and I am confident we will rise to meet them. Whether you're on the front line, at headquarters or stationed throughout the world, I ask that you all remain vigilant this holiday season and in the year to come. The security of our transportation systems depends on *you*.

So again, thank you all for the work you've done in 2009, and best wishes for a great 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.