



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
July 5, 2017

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AAPO Denounces Attacks Against Police Officers

This morning, Officer Miosotis Familia, a 12-year NYPD veteran, former Red Cross worker and mother of three, was ambushed, shot and killed by a parolee while sitting in her police vehicle in the Bronx.

Today's incident comes on the heels of last week's shooting of San Antonio Police Officers Miguel Moreno and Julio Cavazos as they exited their patrol car to speak with the shooter and another man about a vehicle break-in. Officer Moreno died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head, and Officer Cavazos underwent surgery for his gunshot wounds and has been released from the hospital.

As the details of these tragic events continue to unfold, what is known is that the last several years have seen a surge of violence targeted toward law enforcement. All violence must be condemned, including violence against police officers whose job it is to protect and serve the public. Those who attack police seek to instill fear and create division, but these incidents often have the opposite effect — they unite police and civilians against senseless acts of hate and violence.

“We send our thoughts and prayers to these officers and their families, friends and colleagues,” says Marshall McClain, co-founder of AAPO and president of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association. “Police officers go to work every day with the sole focus of protecting and defending our communities, and it is truly tragic when an officer is killed for doing a job they love. These heartbreaking incidents, which are happening all too often, remind us that we must end this wave of hate against law enforcement, and I hope elected leaders and policymakers will rise up and speak out in support of the men and women who wear the uniform.”

“Attacks against police are attacks on all of us and all of our freedoms,” says Paul Nunziato, co-founder of AAPO and president of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Benevolent Association. “Police will not be intimidated by the cowardly actions of a few. The deaths of Officers Familia and Moreno are not in vain. What these attackers do not get is that incidents like this will not divide us but only make us stronger.”

AAPO sends condolences to the families of Officers Familia and Moreno, and wishes Officer Cavazos a speedy recovery.

The American Alliance of Airport Police Officers (AAPO) is composed of rank-and-file airport police officers (including many dual police/aircraft rescue firefighters) who stand as the first line of defense against terrorist attacks, hijackings and other criminal activity at our nation's airports. We seek to promote security and safety for the traveling public, visitors and airport employees by highlighting best practices and identifying areas for improvement and proposed solutions for our nation's airport security deployment. AAPO focuses on regulatory issues that promote our efforts to provide the most advanced and cutting-edge service innovations and security processes in our nation and the world. Our organization represents thousands of sworn law enforcement officers across the United States beholden only to this mission. We are unencumbered by neither political nor managerial constraints that would prevent us from promoting sound public safety policy.

The founding members of the American Alliance of Airport Police Officers are composed of numerous rank-and-file airport police officers from John F. Kennedy International Airport; LaGuardia Airport; Los Angeles International Airport; Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport; LA/Ontario International Airport; Newark Liberty International Airport; Van Nuys Airport; Stewart International Airport; and Teterboro Airport.