



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Make Drones Safe Again

With the holiday season upon us, experts are predicting drones will again be a favorite gift and the American Alliance of Airport Police Officers (AAAPO) reiterates its calls for airports to have access to proactive counter-drone technology to ensure the safety of airports and surrounding airspace.

The growth in sales of both commercial and recreational drones, coupled with the current unsettled global climate, creates a unique and opportune environment for those who seek to disrupt air travel and/or impose severe harm to America. Language supporting counter-drone technology at critical infrastructure is included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which just passed Congress and heads to the President for his signature. The AAPO hopes similar language will be included in any future FAA Reauthorization bill to ensure that airports and their surrounding airspace have the capability to prevent intentional and unintentional drone incursions.

Given the numerous drone sightings and near misses at and around airports, particularly at LAX, which has been ground-zero for sightings, it is fortunate that something more serious has not yet happened. Given the confluence of more drones in our skies, and more planes and travelers in the air, we must take more seriously the increasing interference drones are having with airplanes and airports. Thus, airports must be prepared to protect their airspace with technology that can identify a drone, as well as its ground-controller, so that we can protect the traveling public. We commend Congress for including this important language in the bill and we encourage similar strong language focused on airports.

"We have seen it numerous times at LAX and around the country—near misses between drones and planes—and the time is now, for airports to be able to implement capabilities that will prevent drones from entering our airspace," said Marshall McClain, President of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association, and co-founder of the AAPO. "Drones are unlocking new and fascinating capabilities for all facets of our economy, however, they pose a serious and challenging threat to our airports that can and must be resolved immediately."

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*The American Alliance of Airport Police Officers (AAPO) is comprised 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 comprised 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.*