

## CASTLE, AMTRAK, POLICE HIGHLIGHT NEW SECURITY MEASURES -- MARCH 20, 2008

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle was joined by officials from Amtrak and the Wilmington and Delaware State Police this morning at the Wilmington Train Station to highlight Amtrak's new random baggage screening procedures that are being implemented at train stations across the country. Last month, Amtrak deployed its Mobile Security Team, which will consist of Amtrak police, Amtrak counter-terrorism agents, and K-9 patrols, to conduct these screenings to supplement ongoing patrols already in place to enhance passenger safety and minimize the risk of security threats. This is another step in Amtrak's and Rep. Castle's ongoing efforts to strengthen rail security, while ensuring the new procedures are unobtrusive for passengers. Today, Amtrak's Mobile Security Team was on hand to demonstrate the new security procedures, which will ultimately be put into practice nationwide.

"I have fought for crucial rail and transit security funding," Rep. Castle said. "Since the attacks on our country in 2001, I have been pushing for greater attention to foreign rail security practices, and last summer the President signed key provisions of my rail security bill into law as part of legislation to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Now we are finally seeing all of this work come to fruition through Amtrak's Mobile Security Teams. Random screening of rail passengers is just one of several techniques that have proven effective both overseas and in the New York subway system; however, as this is implemented, it is critical that we make certain these new techniques do not cause long lines or security delays."

Amtrak President and Chief Executive Officer, Alex Kummant said, "Keeping our customers and employees safe remains our priority. These new procedures will strengthen Amtrak's overall security, and they are vital in our efforts to deter, detect, and prevent a terrorist incident on the rail system."

Additionally, Rep. Castle highlighted how rail stations and commuter lines are under-funded. Last week, Rep. Castle sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee asking for more adequate funding for rail and transit security grants, which he believes are under-funded in the President's Budget Request.

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