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NomineeAlert

WITHDRAWN 01/20/10



Southers' Background

Assistant Chief for Homeland Security and Intelligence, Los Angeles World Airports Police Department

Associate Director, Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events, University of Southern California

Deputy Director of the Office of Homeland Security, State of California

Assistant Vice-President, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Layne Consultants International

Faculty Rio Hondo Police Academy

Detective, Santa Monica Police Department

Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

EDUCATION

B.A., Brown University

M.P.A., University of Southern California

this issue:

Erroll Southers, Nominee for Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration

Who is Erroll Southers?

On September 17, 2009 President Obama announced nominated Erroll Southers to be the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

After significant questions were raised regarding Southers' past actions he withdrew from consideration on January 20, 2010.

Accessing Confidential Files

In testimony before Senate committees Mr. Southers claimed that while at the FBI he had asked a San Diego police officer to access

confidential records on his then-estranged wife's new boyfriend, with whom his wife had recently moved in with their (Southers and his wife) daughter. He acknowledged it as a mistake and claimed that it had never happened again. After he had been voted out of committee and after reviewing documents

See no terrorists...

from the time he wrote a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Joseph Lieberman and

Susan Collins, informing them that he had on a few occasions personally accessed these files and downloaded information and then passed it on to the aforementioned police officer.

"It is a violation of the federal Privacy Act to access such information without proper cause. The law says that 'any person who knowingly and willfully requests or

obtains any record concerning an individual from an agency under false pretenses shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.'

"Southers' views and past actions coupled with his inability to be honest with Congress demonstrate that he should never have been nominated. There are obviously holes in the White House vetting process for nominees."

-Bill Wilson, President, Americans for Limited Government

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What you really need to know about Southers

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In his letter, Southers said he simply forgot the circumstances of the searches, which occurred in 1987 and 1988 after he grew worried about his wife and their son, who had begun living with the boyfriend. The letter said: 'During a period of great personal turmoil, I made a serious error in judgment by using my official position with the FBI to resolve a personal problem.' He did not specify the data system he accessed.

'I am distressed by the inconsistencies between my recollection and the contemporaneous documents, but I assure you that the mistake was inadvertent, and that I have at all times taken full responsibility for what I know to have been a grave error in judgment,' the letter said. 'This incident was over twenty years ago, I was distraught and concerned about my young son, and never in my career since has there been any recurrence of this sort of conduct.'" Fn.1.

Opinions about Terrorism

In 2008 Erroll Southers gave an interview to VideoJug on the subject of terrorism. Answering the question "Are there groups inside the United States that pose danger to our security?", Mr Southers said that most of the groups we have to worry about inside the United States are white supremacist groups that are anti-abortion, anti-government and have a Christian identity.

"Domestically speaking, in large part the groups we have working in the United States are white supremacist groups... What's interesting about those groups is that you find that they are either Christian identity groups, and/or groups that really have a foothold in our correctional or prison systems in the way of radicalization and recruiting."

"Most of the domestic groups that we have to pay attention to here are white supremacist groups, they're anti-government, in most cases anti-abortion, usually survivalist type in nature... Those groups are groups that claim to be extremely anti-government and Christian identity oriented." Fn.2.

Southers dismisses as small the threat of nuclear terrorism. Fn.3.

Southers claims that global warming and counter-terrorism efforts should be given parity on our list of national priorities. Fn.4.

Sources for further reading:

Fn.1. Robert O'Harrow, Jr., *TSA Nominee misled Congress about accessing confidential records*, THE WASHINGTON POST, January 1, 2010, at A01. Available online at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/31/AR2009123102257.html>. (Accessed January 20, 2010.)

Fn.2. Erroll Southers interview, uploaded April 18, 2008. Available online at: <http://www.videojug.com/interview/terrorist-groups-2#which-home-grown-terrorist-groups-pose-the-greatest-danger-to-the-us>. (Accessed January 20, 2010.)

Fn.3. Erroll Southers interview, uploaded April 18, 2008. Available online at: <http://www.videojug.com/interview/truth-about-terrorism-2#can-military-groups-be-terrorists>. (Accessed January 20, 2010.)

Fn.4. Erroll Southers interview, uploaded April 18, 2008. Available online at: <http://www.videojug.com/interview/the-war-on-terror-2>. (Accessed January 20, 2010.)

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