



TSA: 'That's fine, you're OK. Go ahead.'

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One would expect the above headline to occur after an airline passenger successfully made it through the security gauntlet run by the US Transportation Security Administration. Unfortunately, a TSA agent at JFK airport [made the statement to a passenger on an international flight](http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/jfk-allowed-passengers-exit-customs-article-1.2507437) (<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/jfk-allowed-passengers-exit-customs-article-1.2507437>) where the passenger, along with 150 other passengers, managed to avoid the US Customs and Border Patrol customs process.



http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/RTX18ULJ_jfk-e1453739178204.jpg

Travelers wait in line at John F. Kennedy International airport.
REUTERS/Eric Thayer.

More shocking is that the TSA agent made the statement after learning from the passenger that all of the passengers on the flight from Mexico had avoided CBP. This is the second time since November this security mishap has occurred. Well, it is the second time that we know about, that is.

As I wrote earlier this month, the [airport security in at least one Central American country](https://www.aei.org/publication/how-do-you-solve-a-problem-like-tsa/) (<https://www.aei.org/publication/how-do-you-solve-a-problem-like-tsa/>) is far below that of American or European airports. If security at the foreign departure airport contains vulnerabilities and the security at the domestic arrival airport also has vulnerabilities, then our security really becomes one based upon luck, which isn't what American taxpayers expect after spending tens of billions of dollars on security after the September 11 attack.

The US already is resting on a knife's edge between continued recovery and recession. A successful terrorist attack, especially on or using an airplane, will send us over that edge. It's not fine and it's not OK that CBP again allowed an entire airplane's passengers to skip the customs check and that a TSA agent did nothing about it upon learning the error. It is time heads roll, especially at JFK.

This article was found online at:

<http://www.aei.org/publication/tsa-thats-fine-youre-ok-go-ahead/>