

**House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
**Subcommittee on Aviation**  
**Hearing on “Aviation Security: An Update”**  
**July 24, 2008**

**Testimony of Steven Brill, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Clear | Verified Identity Pass, Inc.**

Chairman Costello, Ranking Member Petri, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for inviting me here today to talk about the Registered Traveler (RT) program, a partnership between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and private sector companies like Clear, which operates the RT program in 16 of 18 RT airports. RT members are pre-screened and provided with a biometric card which allows them to access designated security lanes at RT airports nationwide. In the last year, RT has gathered critical mass across the country.

I believe the program is emblematic of the promise of public-private partnerships to protect our homeland and make travel more convenient – which is what impelled Clear to start this enterprise in the first place.

It’s a particular pleasure to be testifying together with Assistant Secretary Kip Hawley. He was present from the beginning of RT, and under his leadership (as well as that of Secretary Chertoff), TSA has now helped ensure that the partnership is a success.

TSA has worked closely with us and our fellow service providers in the last year in efficiently processing all of the applicants who have become Registered Travelers. In just the last year, well over 100,000 **new** fliers have signed up for Clear alone, with as many as 1,000 **additional** new sign-ups now coming every day. The TSA process has been fast and effective, and the cooperation of TSA’s RT office has been consistently excellent. The American Association of Airport Executives’ Transportation Security Clearinghouse has also done an exemplary job.

RT members have already passed through RT verification lanes more than 1.3 million times, and monthly lane usage has increased nearly 300% in the last six months.

The typical RT member is a road warrior – a sales person or a contractor who flies three to six round trips a month for business. They love RT for the speed and predictability it offers, which allows them to spend an extra hour at home in the morning with their kids or an extra hour during the day at a meeting.

Since we started in Orlando three years ago last week, 90% of our members have renewed their annual subscriptions. And, lately, our renewal rate has actually been increasing above that level. At a time when air travel is an increasing source of frustration for many people, RT is making a real difference, while also adding to security.

TSA has also worked closely with us and our fellow service providers in carefully reviewing and approving applications from the new airports and airlines that have chosen to implement RT. In just the last year, nine new airports (including Reagan National, Dulles, San Francisco, Denver, Salt Lake City, New York/LaGuardia, Oakland, Westchester, and Little Rock) have added RT programs, joining Orlando, Newark, JFK, San Jose, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Albany, Reno and Jacksonville, and bringing the total number of RT airports to 18, with Atlanta opening shortly. TSA's turnaround time in approving these programs has been impressive. Airlines, too, are now becoming RT sponsors and marketing partners, with Delta having signed a milestone partnership with us just last month (joining British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Air France, AirTran and Frontier). Under the new Delta partnership, Delta will add numerous RT lanes to its key terminals. (See Appendix A for descriptions of our airline partnerships.)

By the end of this year, we expect the RT program to increase to over 250,000 people. We expect that they will have used their RT cards more than two million times at about two dozen airports. Each of those numbers – volunteer members, participating venues, and use of the cards – are poised to multiply in 2009 and beyond, now that RT's premise has been proven and its momentum is snowballing. TSA deserves much credit for that.

Here's what all of this means for the topic of today's hearing – aviation security. Quite simply, **RT helps TSA to manage risk. After all, TSA now knows that the frequent travelers going through RT lanes are the only travelers whose identities are assured through biometric verification every time they go through an RT airport.** And, thanks to TSA's leadership, RT members will soon be carrying RT cards that not only require biometric verification but also feature additional state-of-the-art security features. In short, RT helps fulfill one of the 9/11 Commission's key recommendations. The Commission said: "Secure identification should begin in the United States... At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists." That's what RT is all about.

In addition, the road warriors going through our lanes are the only travelers who have been the subject of security threat assessments. And our estimate is that because RT members travel so frequently and, therefore make up such a disproportionate share of the flying public, once RT is rolled out, 30-50% of those moving through a big airport on a weekday morning will be pre-screened, biometrically verified RT members. That takes a lot of hay out of TSA's proverbial haystack – at zero cost to the taxpayer.

**RT also makes the checkpoints more efficient for all travelers.** Thus, on a busy weekday morning in Orlando we will often process up to 15 percent of the passengers using just 10 percent of the TSA lanes. We can do that because our concierges, both before and after the magnetometer, have been shown to speed throughput by as much as 30 percent at our lanes. So Clear not only gives its members a predictably fast – one to four minutes – experience; we also make the lines shorter for everyone else. This faster throughput, I should add, is what makes RT much more than a

so-called “front of the line” program. It’s a common sense way to achieve both security and efficiency at no cost to the taxpayer. It’s a good bargain all around – which is why it has enjoyed such bi-partisan support on this Committee and across Capitol Hill.

Now that we have achieved critical mass, customer and airport satisfaction, and an effective collaboration with TSA, we are ready to move RT to a new level by working with TSA and the Department, for example, on the development of an enhanced voluntary background check for RT members and the continuing development of new, enhanced screening technologies at RT lanes, all at no cost to the taxpayer. The goal is additional enhanced throughput benefits at our lanes – beyond what our concierges already provide. This has long been part of Assistant Secretary Hawley’s risk management vision for RT. We share his vision and appreciate his invitation to work with him on realizing it.

We are also eager to work with the Department on leveraging the power of RT’s biometric platform. We will work with DHS to harmonize trusted traveler programs across the Department. Moreover, RT’s networked, DHS-approved, biometric capture capacity already in place at the security checkpoint of many of the nation’s largest international gateway airports, could be a powerful, cost-effective option for US-VISIT Exit implementation at airports.

I’ll close with this note on the relevance of RT to a topic – resilience – that is being much discussed these days, with good reason. Ensuring that our Nation’s critical infrastructure systems can resume their normal functions – or “bounce back” – in the face of a disruption, or an attack, is vital. RT is just the sort of public/private partnership that can promote such increased resilience. Imagine the benefits of an installed base of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people who have volunteered to be prescreened and have their identities verified and have the biometric credentials in their wallets to prove it. In the case of a future disruption or attack, for example, RT could rapidly be deployed for use in other venues where increased security and identity verification became essential.

Members of the Committee, thank you for your interest in Registered Traveler. We ask for your continued support and engagement as we pursue the promising initiatives that I’ve described in order to make RT one of the most valuable security and facilitation programs developed to respond to the challenge of 9/11.