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TSA's Michael Irwin Earns Port of Portland Compass Award

The Transportation Security Administration's Michael Irwin is this year's recipient of the Port of Portland Compass Award, as announced today at the Port's annual "Gateway to the Globe" meeting.



Since 2005, Irwin has served as federal security director for the state of Oregon at Portland International Airport and other Oregon airports. The team of 700 he manages is responsible for fulfilling the TSA's mission of ensuring the security of the nation's transportation system to maintain freedom of movement for people and commerce.

Irwin's responsibility includes passenger and baggage screening operations, as well as airport and air carrier regulatory compliance. The Oregon TSA team has received more national honorary awards than any other TSA operation in the past 11 years, and earned PDX distinction as the TSA Airport of the Year for the West in 2007.

"Mike and his team are fantastic partners for Portland International Airport, and they are a big reason that customer service is cited so often when our airport wins awards year after year," said Bill Wyatt, Port of Portland executive director. "We know that Mike and his team have a tremendously important responsibility, and that they go the extra mile every single day to make sure that our PDX passengers have a positive experience while at the same time keeping us safe."

Irwin has also contributed significant time advocating for PDX at the state and federal level in support of local businesses and travelers. That includes multiple pilot programs that enhanced both passenger and baggage screening in Portland, and simultaneously established findings that benefited aviation security across the nation.

Instituted in 2006, the Compass Award recognizes the contributions of community individuals and entities that have demonstrated exceptional support for the Port. Compass Award recipients serve as civic and/or corporate role models through their outstanding contributions to the Port and the communities it serves. Recipients can be recognized for overall support of the Port's strategic mission or any of the Port's individual business units including aviation, marine, properties, and environmental affairs. Some 400 business leaders, elected officials and community stakeholders attended this year's Gateway to the Globe event.

Irwin: Native Oregonian; Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel; White House Military Office Director of Operations During 9/11

Irwin began his career with the TSA in August 2002 as the deputy federal security director at San Francisco International Airport, and also served as the deputy assistant administrator for aviation operations at TSA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining TSA, Irwin served 25 years in the U.S. Air Force where he retired as a Colonel. He has a unique perspective on transportation security as he was the director of operations in the White House Military Office on Sept. 11, 2001. He has served in multiple senior staff positions, including time on the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Irwin is the senior U.S. Department of Homeland Security representative for the state of Oregon. With state, local and regional partners, he also oversees security for ports, highways, railroads, buses, and mass transit systems.

Irwin is a native Oregonian. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering from the University of Portland; a master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Illinois; an MBA from Eastern Illinois University, and a master's degree in national security studies from the National War College.

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