Armed Assault at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

On Nov. 1, 2013, a gunman opened fire at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), reportedly motivated by anti-government sentiment and targeting Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers. To provide context for this attack, START has compiled relevant facts and figures from the Global Terrorism Database.

- **Since 1970 there have been four terrorist attacks at LAX:**

  - **07/04/2002:** Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, an Egyptian-born man, opened fired at the El Al Israeli Airlines ticket counter, killing two people and wounding four others before he was killed by security personnel.

  - **05/30/1982:** The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) planted an explosive device at the Air Canada freight terminal. The device was defused and no casualties were reported.

  - **01/22/1980:** Unknown perpetrators bombed the China Airlines luggage area. No casualties were reported.

  - **08/06/1974:** Muharem Kurbegovic, also known as "Isak (Isaac) Rasim" or the "alphabet bomber," detonated explosives the Pan American terminal, killing three people, injuring 36 others, and causing considerable damage.

- **There have been more than 2,600 terrorist attacks in the United States between 1970 and 2012.** More than half of these attacks took place in the 1970s.

- **Only 72 terrorist attacks in the United States (2.7%) targeted airports and airlines.** The vast majority of the attacks targeting airports and airlines were bombings or attempted bombings (72.2%), 19.4 percent were hijackings or attempted hijackings, and only three of these attacks were classified as armed assaults like the one at LAX on Nov. 1.

- **Since 1970, relatively few terrorist attacks in the United States (13.0%) have involved firearms.** However, of those attacks that involved firearms, 46 percent resulted in at least one fatality, compared to only 6.7 percent of attacks that did not involve firearms.

- **Worldwide, 74 terrorist attacks classified as armed assaults against airports and airlines were carried out between 1970 and 2012**, 1.8 per year on average.

- **Armed assaults against airports and airlines took place in 42 different countries**, most commonly in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Western Europe. The most lethal of these attacks took place on 02/17/2002 in Nepal, when Maoist rebels attacked an airport in Sanphebaga, killing 27 Nepalese policemen.