



Transportation Security Administration

General Aviation Security

European Business Aviation Conference and Exposition

21 May 2008

Geneva, Switzerland



Transportation
Security
Administration

TSA Strategy

TSA has developed, and is in the process of executing, a strategy to ensure effective, efficient, and standardized operations within all modes of transportation.

In short, the strategy calls for:

- **Completion of industry threat, vulnerability, and consequence assessments**
- **Development of baseline security standards**
- **Assessment of existing operator security status versus baseline standards**
- **Development of plan to close gaps in security standards**
- **Enhancement of systems of security**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Goal

Address and improve the overall security posture of general aviation aircraft operating to, from, and within the United States.

- **TSA uses a threat-based, risk management approach to further enhance GA security:**
 - ✓ **GA Security Action Items**
 - ✓ **Positive Pilot Identification**
 - ✓ **Secure Fixed Base Operator Program**
- **TSA is also looking to enhance security of international operations in a transparent and non-burdensome manner to industry**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Office of General Aviation

Responsibilities include:

Using a *threat based, risk management approach* to develop strategies, policies, and programs to reduce the security risks and vulnerabilities associated with GA operations;

Recognizing the diversity that exists in the industry and that "*one size*" *security does not fit all stakeholders*;

Working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop creative methods to enhance security and develop, disseminate, and consistently apply a framework of appropriate Federal security standards;

Understanding the global impact of TSA security initiatives, and, where applicable, *harmonizing* with international industry best practices and security measures.



Transportation
Security
Administration

GA Definition and U.S. Population

GA: all operations other than regularly scheduled airlines or military aviation (*definition is unique to TSA*)

Order of magnitude U.S. statistics:

- ✓ **Over 200,000 aircraft**
- ✓ **Over 600,000 pilots**
- ✓ **Over 19,000 airports, heliports, and landing strips**

Represents 77% of all flights in the United States



Transportation
Security
Administration

Primary Scenarios

- **Aircraft used as a weapon (direct to target)**
- **Transport of malefactors**
- **Transport of potentially harmful materials**



Transportation
Security
Administration

GA Security Action Items

- **TSA continues to work with industry to enhance GA security through the development of various voluntary security action items:**
 - ✓ **In the process of developing security action items, similar in nature to the GA Airport Security Guidelines, for aircraft and fixed based operators**
 - ✓ **The baseline standards will include findings from an ongoing scientific study of weight thresholds, as well as stakeholder input**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Positive Pilot Identification

- **TSA is in the process of developing a method(s) to positively link the pilot with the aircraft they are operating.**
- **This will enhance our situational awareness of who or what is operating in the U.S. National Airspace System.**
- **TSA requests input and feedback from the stakeholder community on potential solutions.**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Secure Fixed Base Operator Program

- **TSA is engaged in proof-of-concept project with Fixed Base Operators at domestic and foreign airports**
 - ✓ **Identification checks of passengers and crew prior to boarding**
 - ✓ **Enhanced security and situational awareness**
- **Two locations currently operational; three more in coordination**
- **For valid proof-of-concept analysis, TSA intends to establish SFBOs at a variety of sites within the next 18 months**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Concept

- **Voluntary program**
- **Public-private partnership**
- **Confirmation of identities of persons traveling onboard GA aircraft**
- **Enhanced security awareness at site**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Approach

- **Host government concurrence is crucial first step**
- **Partnership**
 - ✓ **Currently with Signature Flight Support**
- **Site survey and training**
- **Minimal impact to operations**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Implementation

- **FBO Security Coordinator**
 - ✓ **Compares crew and passenger passports to APIS filings (commercial operators) or manifests (private operators)**
 - ✓ **Submits *flight* information to TSA**
 - ✓ **No personal data is transmitted to TSA!**

- **FBO staff trained to increase awareness**
 - ✓ **Incidents, threats, suspicious activity**
 - ✓ **Following initiation of appropriate local response, report called in to TSOC**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Near Term Evolution

- **Biometric card readers**
 - ✓ **Positive identification of pilots (both prior to departure and in-flight)**
 - ✓ **Card, fingerprint, and PIN**
 - ✓ **Small number for proof-of-concept**
- **Expansion to other countries/airports for better evaluation of effectiveness**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Next Steps

- **TSA Continues to engage government and industry stakeholders to:**
 - ✓ **Execute the strategy for general aviation security**
 - ✓ **Incorporate enhanced security measures to improve overall security for general aviation**



Transportation
Security
Administration

Points of Contact

Vicki Reeder

International activities

Vicki.reeder@dhs.gov

(w) 571-227-2790

(c) 571-344-5025

Lindsey McFarren

Program management

Lindsey.mcfarren@dhs.gov

(w) 571-227-5168

(c) 202-689-4190



Transportation
Security
Administration



Transportation Security Administration



Transportation
Security
Administration