



AIRPORT SECURITY

Each day, airports work to ensure that air travel is safe and secure. Partnering with airlines; tenants; the Transportation Security Administration (TSA); and federal, state and local law enforcement, airports have developed a comprehensive security system that can quickly respond to new and evolving threats.

Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) airport members meet or exceed federally mandated security requirements under programs managed by individuals with extensive experience in security and airport operations. These multi-layered programs focus on intelligence, infrastructure, personnel and technology.

INTELLIGENCE

Airports receive and share intelligence information from several sources, including federal, state, and local governments; industry associations; and other industry stakeholders, including airlines. In fact, great strides have been made in sharing intelligence with airports, especially with government agencies. An example of this improvement is the nationwide expansion of the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), which is made up of federal, state and local law enforcement officers that share threat information to combat terrorism.

While information sharing has expanded, more can be done. Of most concern to ACI-NA is inadequate airport-specific information which is useful in dealing directly with the threats posed to the respective airports and deficiency of timely intelligence information which is especially helpful in conducting vulnerability analyses, where thorough knowledge of threats helps produce a more effective security system. Proactive security coordinators realize the importance of preparedness; information outlining threats to airports can help reduce identified risks.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Many airport facilities were originally designed and built prior to the threats we face from terrorist activities today. Airport operators have undertaken major renovations to accommodate new technology and respond to threat information while continuing to transfer passengers, luggage, equipment and supplies. Airport security programs cover access to various restricted areas, such as concourses, and immediate ramp areas, passenger terminals, cargo facilities and runways. Current security measures are customized to take into account the unique characteristics of the airport, such as proximity to national monuments, government offices, parking and fuel storage facilities and/or public transportation facilities and water borders.

Securing the perimeter of the airport is a critical part of the security program. Airports use multiple methods for effective perimeter security, including physical barriers such as fencing, access controls and active surveillance using both people and technology. The systems, which are constantly evaluated for improvements, ensure that airports can quickly respond to evolving threats. Airport managers know their facilities and the appropriate security measures to best

address any threat. ACI-NA believes it is important that they maintain the primary responsibility for developing and maintaining their perimeter security program.

PERSONNEL

There is a multi-layered system in place for airport employee screening. Airport personnel must pass extensive criminal history record checks prior to being permitted access to secure areas and are constantly checked against the federal terrorist watch list. Many U.S. airports also participate in TSA's Aviation Direct Access Screening Program (ADASP), which subjects employees and their property to random screening as they enter the security identification display area (SIDA). ACI-NA believes that this random screening makes airport security more effective and less predictable, ultimately thwarting threats of terrorism.

Additionally, airport and tenant employees undergo initial and recurrent security training, specifically tailored to the airport, including challenge procedures and the importance of quickly contacting airport authorities of unusual activities or possible threats.

TECHNOLOGY

From closed circuit television (CCTV) monitoring to sophisticated biometric access systems, airports are using technology to enhance airport security. ACI-NA participated with member airports and the airlines in the Aviation Security Advisory Council (ASAC) Baggage Screening Investment Study (BSIS), which provides an investment strategy for TSA's electronic baggage screening program to accelerate the deployment of Explosives Detection System (EDS) equipment. More automated checked baggage screening systems which will improve security, produce significant budget savings for the federal government to use on other security initiatives and enhance traveler convenience at U.S. airports. In fact, the EDS Letter of Intent Program, which was spearheaded by ACI-NA with coordination from the TSA, made investments in in-line systems at nine airports and estimates that TSA would recover its initial investment in just over a year and save upwards of \$1.3 billion over the course of seven years. ACI-NA believes that, with support from Congress, this program will be a successful model to enhance security and achieve budget savings.

ACI-NA member airports continue to participate in pilot technology programs at airports, testing information systems, detection equipment, throughput models and other enhancements to the current screening standards. Further work in the area of detecting weapons and explosives through less intrusive and time-consuming methods is the goal.

