



## **AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY**

Airport perimeter security involves multiple layers of integrated processes, procedures and technologies to detect and mitigate breaches. Although perimeter fencing and controlled access gates are the most outwardly visible features, numerous other systems, both conspicuous and inconspicuous, are in place at airports to bolster perimeter security.

ACI-NA member airports are committed to ensuring effective security and continue to implement measures that further augment perimeter security. Airport operators, in coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), routinely conduct risk and vulnerability assessments to identify potential weaknesses and guide the application of resources to further enhance perimeter security.

### **AIRPORT ACTIONS FOR SECURING PERIMETERS**

Airports have established systems, independently and in compliance with TSA Security Regulations in Title 49 CFR 1542.201 and 1542.203, to prevent, detect and respond to the unauthorized entry, presence, and movement of individuals and vehicles in secure airport areas. Examples of these systems include:

- Fencing and other barriers serve as the most readily visible perimeter intrusion prevention systems that may include passive barriers such as bollards, reinforced structures or fencing and controlled access gates.
- Active perimeter intrusion detection systems, measures and technologies are currently utilized by many airports, both large and small, to monitor airport perimeters, detect and alert personnel to unauthorized access by unauthorized persons or vehicles.
- Airports conduct frequent patrols of perimeters in the public and secure areas using airport personnel, law enforcement officers and other representatives. In addition to patrols, employees are trained to identify and immediately report suspicious activities.
- Although not outwardly visible, but as a security enhancement, many airport operators have deployed closed circuit television, video analytics and other systems such as “smart” fencing to immediately identify potential intrusions. Some airports have incorporated systems that leverage ground radar to readily identify unauthorized individuals or vehicles.

In the event of a potential breach, these systems immediately identify the location of an intruder, allowing operations center representatives to assess the situation and dispatch law enforcement or other resources to protect aircraft, employees and facilities.

## **AIRPORT INITIATIVES**

With the assistance of ACI-NA, TSA developed a report titled, "Commercial Airport Innovative Security Measures." This confidential report is available to all airport operators and contains a compilation of perimeter security applications in place at airports across the country. The report serves as a reference to assess creative operational, procedural and technological solutions that are currently being used by airports to further strengthen perimeter security.

The National Safe Skies Alliance, in partnership with airports, and funded through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), conducts testing and operational evaluations of security technologies designed to further enhance perimeter security. Many airports have deployed the systems tested and evaluated by the National Safe Skies Alliance. The reports, which are available to all airports through postings to the TSA secure Web board, provide specific details about the application and functionality of technologies tested under the program and contain incredibly valuable information for airports as they make decisions on which technologies may work best at their facility.

Airports always look for new and creative methods to enhance security. In addition to presenting their security initiatives to their colleagues at industry forums, airports routinely hold security peer reviews through which their counterparts are invited to participate in discussions and provide feedback on security programs in place at the host airport. Such initiatives facilitate an unbiased evaluation of existing systems as well as opportunities to benchmark on processes, procedures and technologies in place at other airports.

Recently, TSA, in partnership with airports, conducted risk assessments to evaluate current security measures and systems to evaluate their ability to detect and mitigate breaches. The results, along with the latest intelligence information, will be discussed with commercial airports so any identified vulnerabilities can be addressed.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Ongoing research and development (R&D) of promising technology is essential. To evaluate their effectiveness in the operational environment, TSA should commission the National Safe Skies Alliance to pilot test promising technologies identified through the R&D process at airports. These pilot programs would provide valuable information about additional cutting-edge technologies that could be used to by airports to further enhance perimeter security.