

**INSIDER THREAT** 

# **ACI-NA TALKING POINTS**

May 2017

#### **ACI-NA POSITION**

Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is the top priority for airports. Airports, in full compliance with federal requirements, continually work with their federal government, law enforcement and airline partners to examine, test, and improve upon the multi-layered, risk-based security system to provide for the safety and security of travelers.

### **HIGH LEVEL POINTS**

- Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is the top priority for airports.
- On a daily basis, airports work collaboratively with their TSA, law enforcement, and airline partners to ensure the risk-based security system effectively addresses potential concerns.
- Although significant progress has been made in recent years, airports continue to work to enhance intelligence and information sharing.

#### **SUPPORTING POINTS**

- Over the past two years airports, airlines, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) have developed relationships by working collaboratively to identify security enhancements and mitigate concerns about access controls, potential insider threats, and checkpoint wait times.
- Aviation workers are extremely engaged on security issues at airports and understand the responsibility they have in the helping to secure sensitive areas of airports.
- In order to maximize risk reduction by applying limited resources where they can be most effective, Congress required TSA to establish a risk-based security model for screening in the FAA Extension Act of 2016.

#### **OPPOSING VIEWS**

• The recent report by the House Homeland Security Committee related to insider threat show a significant gap in airport security.

Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is a top priority for airports. On a daily basis, airports work collaboratively with their TSA, law enforcement, and airline partners to ensure the risk-based security system effectively addresses potential concerns.

This new congressional report does not address the significant progress airports, airlines, and TSA have taken in recent years to further enhance measures to mitigate concerns about the insider threat and provide for the safety and security of the traveling public.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

• Is the issue of insider threat a major issue or is it a minor issue?

Mitigating insider threat is certainly something that airports focus on, but it is one of a number of things that airports do to provide the highest level of safety and security for the passengers, airport employees, and airport facilities.

• Should passengers be worried about the security of airports in the United States? Should passengers be worried that airport security is inadequate in the United States?

No. Airports have taken considerable steps to enhance security through a multi-layered, risk-based approach.

Is there a challenge to obtain funding for airport security?

Airport operators have limited funding available that must be prioritized across a multitude of safety, security and operational projects. Although the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through its Homeland Security Grant Program, dispenses billions of dollars annually for systems and technology to bolster state, tribal and local preparedness and improve security and resilience, such a robust program is not currently available to airports. To provide readily available funding to support security enhancements at airports, ACI-NA recommends that DHS and TSA establish an airport security-focused grant program.

• While it is difficult to break out specific funds spent to enhance security, is there federal money available? Has more money been made available?

Unfortunately, no new money has been designated for airport security. Airport operators have limited funding available that must be prioritized across a multitude of safety, security and operational projects. Although the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through its Homeland Security Grant Program, dispenses billions of dollars annually for systems and technology to bolster state, tribal and local

preparedness and improve security and resilience, such a robust program is not currently available to airports. To provide readily available funding to support security enhancements at airports, ACI-NA recommends that DHS and TSA establish an airport security-focused grant program.

## **CONTACTS**

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