TSA's Risk-Based Security Initiatives

December 15, 2011

Transportation Security Administration

Inception of TSA

TSA was created in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to strengthen the security of the nation's transportation systems.

The Aviation and Transportation Security Act established our agency and gave it three major mandates:

- Responsibility for security for all modes of transportation;
- Recruit, assess, hire, train, and deploy Security Officers for 450 commercial airports from Guam to Alaska in 12 months
- Provide 100 percent screening of all checked luggage for explosives by December 31, 2002

Transportation Security Administration Mission	The Transportation Security Administration protects the Nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

Risk-Based Passenger Security Overview

TSA is undertaking efforts to test new security protocols to improve the passenger experience at aviation security checkpoints by:

- Applying new risk-based, intelligence-driven screening procedures.
- Enhancing the use of technology.

During implementation, TSA will maintain its multi-layered approach to transportation security combined with random and unpredictable screening across all layers.

Risk-Based Passenger Security Overview

Guiding Principles of Risk-Based Security

1) The majority of airline passengers are low risk.

2) The more information available on each passenger, the easier it is to assess risk.

3) Behavior detection and interviewing techniques should be strengthened in the screening process.

4) TSA must accelerate its efforts to optimize screening processes and use of technology to gain system-wide efficiencies.

5) Increase security by focusing on unknowns; expedite known/trusted travelers.

Security and operational gains will support TSA's mission as a national security counterterrorism organization; engage external stakeholders; and support the workforce.

Risk-Based Security: Longer-Term, Strategic Objectives

TSA will explore new procedures, new technologies and new ways to help us learn more about the individuals who fly, analyze these changes, and tailor security accordingly while balancing five overarching objectives.

Security Foundations

Post-9/11 Foundation

Risk-Based Security Capability Building

> *Innovation within universal screening "box"* ➡ *Screening based on intelligence and assessed risk level, inserting unpredictability and randomness*

People

- Screener-to-Officer
- Behavior Detection Capability and other Functional Tracks
- Coach/Engage

Processes

- Secure Flight watch list matching
- VIPR teams, etc.

Technology

- Replaced every piece of equipment with advanced technologies at checkpoint and baggage locations

People

Align workforce with risk-based strategy, including:
- Identify training required to fill gaps
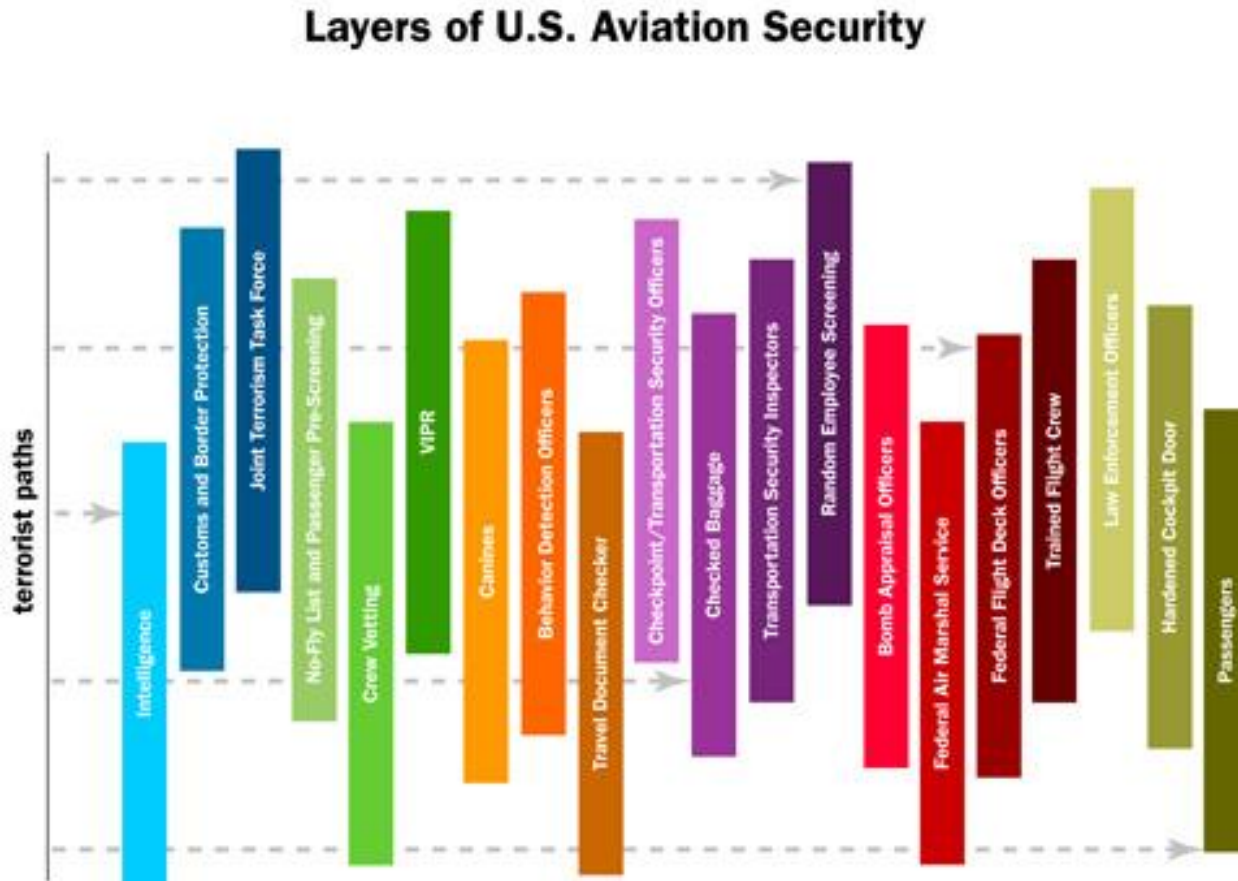- Scope areas requiring additional study and work

Capabilities

- Use of intelligence-driven rules to assess passenger risk
- Configurable rules
- Authenticate individual's identity and documentation
- Increased behavior detection capability
- Assess intent through real-time interaction
- Differentiated screening protocols based on passenger risk
- Insert random and unpredictable measures

Layered Security Approach

TSA uses layers of security as part of a risk-based approach to protecting passengers and our Nation's transportation systems. Each layer alone is capable of stopping a terrorist attack, but in combination, defenses compound to create a much stronger system.

Although checkpoint operations are the most visible layer, they represent just one part of 20 different layers.

Layers of U.S. Aviation Security

terrorist paths

Intelligence · Customs and Border Protection · Joint Terrorism Task Force · No-Fly List and Passenger Pre-Screening · Crew Vetting · VIPR · Canines · Behavior Detection Officers · Travel Document Checker · Checkpoint/Transportation Security Officers · Checked Baggage · Transportation Security Inspectors · Random Employee Screening · Bomb Appraisal Officers · Federal Air Marshal Service · Federal Flight Deck Officers · Trained Flight Crew · Law Enforcement Officers · Hardened Cockpit Door · Passengers

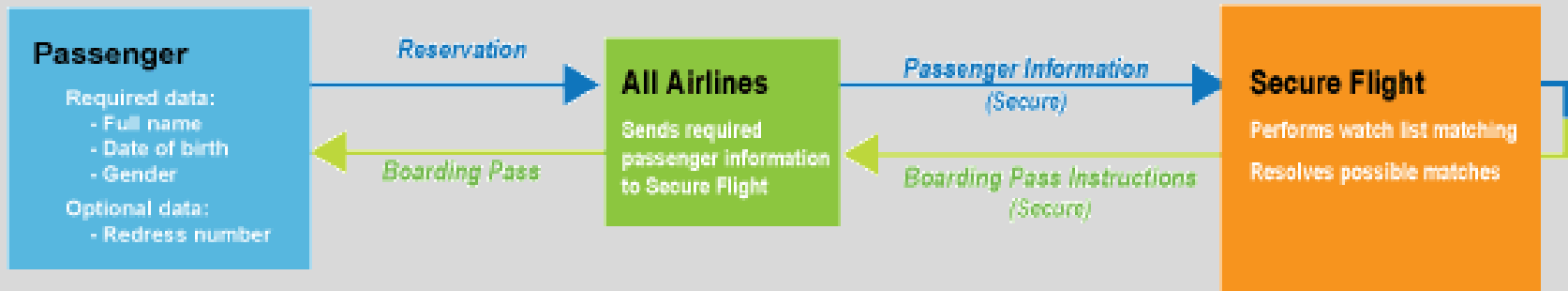# Context of a Layered Approach to Aviation Security

If TSA can confirm a person's identity and learn more about them through information they opt to provide, in combination with our other layers of security, physical screening can be expedited for many people.

Prescreening;
before arriving at the airport

AIRPORT PERIMETER SURROUNDED BY FENCE

Departure

Passenger Screening

Screening

Airline
Check-in

Passenger & Carry-on
Screening

Cargo Screening
Including Off-site

Checked Baggage
Screening

Check-in

Passenger Prescreening

Secure Flight is a behind the scenes program that enhances the security of domestic and international commercial air travel through the use of improved watch list matching.

Secure Flight Process

Passenger

Required data:
- Full name
- Date of birth
- Gender

Optional data:
- Redress number

Reservation →

← *Boarding Pass*

All Airlines

Sends required passenger information to Secure Flight

Passenger Information (Secure) →

← *Boarding Pass Instructions (Secure)*

Secure Flight

Performs watch list matching

Resolves possible matches

Passengers making a reservation are required to provide their full name, date of birth, and gender. TSA matches this information against government watch lists to:

- Identify known and suspected terrorists.
- Prevent individuals on the No Fly List from boarding an aircraft.
- Identify individuals on the Selectee List for enhanced screening.
- Facilitate passenger air travel.
- Protect individuals' privacy.

After matching passenger information against government watch lists, Secure Flight transmits the matching results back to airlines.

TSA Pre✓ **Pilot**

This pilot will test the feasibility of placing more focus on pre-screening to expedite physical screening for known passengers while also increasing system-wide effectiveness.

Expanded Prescreening

Passenger Reservation — *Airline System* — *Secure Flight*
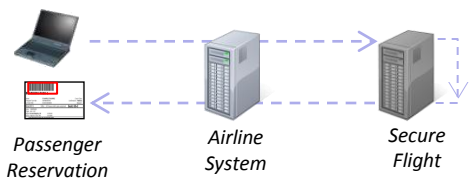
- Passengers provide data to TSA Secure Flight through airline systems
- Secure Flight conducts watch list matching and analyzes passenger risk
- Airline places risk designation in boarding pass

Real Time Threat Assessment

K-9 and BDO — *TDC*

- Behavior detection
- Identity document verification
- TSO directs passenger to screening lane

Risk-Based Physical Screening

Security Checkpoint

- Differentiated screening procedures and technology application

Random and Unpredictable Screening Procedures

Intelligence-driven and random prescreening

Unpredictable behavior detection and K-9 screening

Random and unpredictable screening for all travelers

TSA Pre✓ **Participants**

TSA will build on its pilots by adding more airlines and airports once operationally ready. TSA will continue to work with CBP and airlines to determine passenger eligibility for the pilot, which is entirely voluntary. Eligible passengers must be U.S. citizens taking domestically-bound flights.

	Phase 1	**Phase 2**
Airports	Selected checkpoints in: ▪ Atlanta (ATL) ▪ Dallas Fort-Worth (DFW) ▪ Detroit (DTW) ▪ Miami (MIA) ▪ Las Vegas (LAS)	Additional airports will be selected in conjunction with airlines and airport authorities
Airlines	Airlines include: ▪ American Airlines ▪ Delta Air Lines	TSA's airline expansion plan discussions include: ▪ Alaskan Airlines ▪ Southwest ▪ Hawaiian Airlines ▪ United Airlines ▪ JetBlue ▪ US Airways
Populations	Populations include: ▪ Certain Customs and Border Protection – Trusted Travelers ▪ Certain Frequent Flyers	Eligible populations will be expanded to include: ▪ Certain Frequent Flyers from the additional participant partner airlines

Other Risk-Based Security Initiatives

TSA is simultaneously piloting and evaluating several other initiatives under the risk-based security umbrella.

Initiative	Description	Population Segment
Honor Flights	Policy decision to exempt Veterans on chartered Honor Flights from physical screening.	Veterans on Honor Flight Network charter flights
Children 12 and Under	Updated SOP permitting children who appear to be 12 years old and younger to keep their shoes on through screening; also provides more options to resolve alarms that may occur during the screening process.	Children 12 and under, nationwide
Known Crew Member	A new screening system that enables TSOs to positively verify the identity and employment status of flight-crew members and forgo physical screening at designated access points.	Pilots working for 13 participant airlines
BDO / Assessor	Specialized training and deployment of BDOs to allow for increased real time behavior detection. Assessors and BDOs engage passengers with questions to further assess risk.	Passengers at single checkpoint in BOS and DTW
TSA Pre✓	Low risk passengers receive indication of risk level in boarding pass through Secure Flight. TSOs use scanners to read passenger risk designation, then route them to a dedicated low risk lane.	• CBP Trusted Traveler participants • Delta and AA frequent flyers, additional airlines and airports to follow

Key Enablers

This transformational effort is dependent on several key enablers.

- Professional Workforce

- Behavior Detection

- Advanced Technologies

- Secure Flight

- Industry and Government Partnerships

- Informed Passengers