

# Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



## Office of Inspector General

December 2012 OIG-13-14

### Why This Matters

Congressman John Mica requested that we provide updated information on our 2008 National Deployment Force (NDF) report. NDF officers support airport screening operations in situations requiring personnel above those normally available to airports.

We assessed (1) NDF deployment costs, (2) when, where and why NDF is deployed, (3) NDF standard operating procedures, (4) the NDF Transportation Security Officer selection process, (5) the frequency of NDF supervisory deployments, and (6) the status of recommendations from our 2008 report.

### DHS Response

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) concurred with the five recommendations in our report.

TSA's responses need to incorporate additional actions that fully address the intent of each recommendation.

### For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at [DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov](mailto:DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov)

## TSA's National Deployment Force - FY 2012 Follow-Up

### What We Determined

Since our 2008 report, Transportation Security Administration's National Deployment Force, TSA has: developed a financial system to track and document program-related costs; established processes to determine the criteria and priority for deployment decisions; implemented procedures that facilitate documentation needed to support deployment decisions; and either established or updated standard operating procedures relating to key deployment functions.

We determined that TSA was overly reliant on its deployment force to fill chronic staffing shortages in airports in Alaska. We also found that: screening equipment certifications were not updated; requests for NDF support did not always include screening equipment in use at the requesting airport; procedures for performing and documenting cost-benefit analyses had not been established; and assessments of alternatives to hiring shortages were not routinely conducted and documented as part of the deployment decision-making process.

### What We Recommend

Our recommendations to the Assistant Administrator for Security Operations are intended to assist TSA in (1) developing and implementing a strategy to minimize the use of NDF staff for hiring shortfalls, (2) developing a process for maintaining current and accurate screening equipment certifications, (3) designating a section on request forms for NDF support to identify screening equipment used at the requesting airport, and (4) developing procedures for conducting and documenting cost-benefit analyses and alternative hiring assessments as part of the decision-making process for deployment requests.