

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of Inspector General

**Audit of Implementation of Aviation
Security Requirements at Foreign
Airports**

(Unclassified Summary)



OIG-07-64

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**Homeland
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Preface

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) was established by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (*Public Law 107-296*) by amendment to the Inspector General Act of 1978. This is one of a series of audit, inspection, and special reports prepared as part of our oversight responsibilities to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within the department.

This report addresses the implementation of aviation security requirements at foreign airports. It is based on discussions with Transportation Security Administration Representatives, foreign government officials and airport authority representatives, U.S. aircraft operator representatives, and companies providing contracted screening services at those locations, direct observation, and a review of applicable documents.

The recommendations in the report have been developed to the best knowledge available to our office, and have been discussed in draft with those responsible for implementing them. It is our hope that this report will result in more effective and efficient program management and operation. We express our appreciation to all of those who contributed to the preparation of this report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard L. Skinner".

Richard L. Skinner
Inspector General

*Department of Homeland Security
Office of Inspector General*

Background

We conducted this review in response to congressional concerns regarding the security of international flights to the United States. These concerns surfaced as a result of Richard Reid's failed attempt to explode an improvised explosive device (IED) concealed in his shoe on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami. Our objective was to assess TSA's efforts to address the threat from terrorists attempting to carry an explosive device on their persons or in their carry-on items at a foreign airport.

Results of Audit

To meet the threat from terrorists attempting to carry an explosive device on their persons or in their carry-on items at a foreign airport, TSA has relied on strengthened U.S. and international civil aviation security requirements and processes, and has continued to manage active foreign airport assessment and aircraft operator inspection programs. In addition, TSA has security specialists assigned to overseas locations to serve as the principal representatives of TSA in all matters relating to transportation security in their designated areas of responsibility.

As a result of our audit activities we concluded that the foreign airports visited and the aircraft operators that use them comply with applicable U.S. and international civil aviation regulations and requirements. However, we made three recommendations to TSA, which, if implemented, should improve aviation security at foreign airports.

TSA's Response

TSA concurred with each of our recommendations and has taken or is continuing to take action to implement them.

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