

COMISSÃO LATINO-AMERICANA
DE AVIAÇÃO CIVIL



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COMISIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE AVIACIÓN CIVIL

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**Cuestión 11 del
Orden del Día:**

Other subjects

- **Risk-based security (TSA/USA)**

(Working paper presented by the Department of Homeland Security,
Transportation Security Administration of the United States of America)

Background

1. Since its inception, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has consistently evolved to stay ahead of the threat to civil aviation. As part of this evolution, TSA is currently undertaking efforts to focus its resources and improve the passenger experience at security checkpoints by applying new risk-based, intelligence-driven screening procedures and enhancing its use of technology. All passengers must still pass through a physical screening checkpoint, but by having passengers voluntarily provide information about themselves, TSA can better segment the population in terms of risk. With this understanding, TSA is examining how to expedite the screening process for known and trusted passengers, while increasing security by focusing resources on those of whom little is known.

2. The overarching mission of Risk-Based Security (RBS) is to improve security effectiveness through the RBS deployment of screening resources. TSA has developed various conceptual screening processes as part of the RBS portfolio, which the agency began testing at airports in August 2011. RBS utilizes key components of TSA's current screening infrastructure. In particular, pre-screening, real time threat assessments, and physical screening are the foundations of RBS.

Analysis

3. RBS is currently utilized to some degree at all U.S. airports and is comprised of many different initiatives that are currently embedded in the numerous layers of aviation security, from pre-flight activities to airport physical security programs. RBS is based on the following premises: the

majority of airline passengers are low risk; through voluntary submission of information, TSA can better segment the population in terms of risk; and behavior detection and interviewing techniques should be strengthened in the security process.

3. Expedited screening at the screening checkpoint is a major pillar of RBS, the most visible of which is the TSA Pre™ initiative. TSA Pre™ is currently deployed on domestic flights with five airlines in 26 airports, with expansion underway to several other of the nation's busiest airports throughout calendar year 2012. TSA Pre™ enhances aviation security by placing more focus on pre-screening individuals who volunteer to participate in order to expedite their travel experience at the checkpoint. In expedited screening, all passengers still must pass through a security checkpoint, but may not be required to remove their shoes, 3-1-1 compliant bag from a carry-on, laptop from a bag, light outerwear/jackets, and a belt. At no point is any passenger guaranteed expedited screening; TSA's random and unpredictable screening procedures may require that a randomly selected passenger undergo certain elements of the screening process. TSA Pre™ currently includes U.S. citizens who are members of existing Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler programs, including Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI programs, as well as eligible airline frequent flyers. In March 2012, TSA began testing on how to incorporate active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces into TSA Pre™ and that is now offered at four airports (DCA, IAD, SEA, CLT) and includes reservist and National Guard members who possess a valid, military-issued identification card.

4. In September 2011, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced revised security screening protocols for children age 12 and under. These new procedures reduced, though not eliminated, pat-downs that would have otherwise been conducted to resolve alarms. Passengers 12 and under are now allowed to leave their shoes on during screening, are permitted multiple passes through the metal detector and advanced imaging technology, and may be subject to a greater use of explosives trace detection technology to clear any alarms. These new procedures ensure effective security and allow TSA to focus its resources on individuals the agency knows less about while improving travel experiences for younger travelers.

5. In March 2012, TSA announced expedited security screening protocols for passengers 75 and older that also were designed to reduce, though not eliminate, pat-downs that would have otherwise been conducted to resolve alarms. This program works similarly to the one for passengers 12 and under.

6. Real time threat assessments are an integral part of RBS, and begin to occur once an individual arrives at the airport. To enhance real time threat assessments, TSA is currently piloting an expanded Behavior Detection program at select airports. As part of this pilot, Behavior Detection Officers (BDOs) employ specialized behavioral analysis techniques to determine if a traveler should be referred for additional screening at the checkpoint. BDOs initiate a casual conversation with all passengers in the screening line as they go through identity verification and analyze the mannerisms and behavior of each passenger to determine if additional screening is necessary. Additional programs for real time threat assessments include the use of canines at passenger checkpoints, and behavior detection training for the nationwide field workforce.

Conclusions

8. This paper presents an overview of risk-based security initiatives being piloted and/or implemented by the United States for passengers of civil aviation.

9. The United States is undertaking efforts to focus its resources and improve the passenger experience at domestic security checkpoints by applying new intelligence-driven, risk-based screening procedures and enhancing its use of technology.

10. Under this risk-based approach, all passengers must undergo physical screening, but by having passengers voluntarily provide more information about themselves, the U.S. can better segment the population in terms of risk.

11. This approach allows the United States to deliver the most effective security in the most efficient manner, focusing resources on lesser known populations.

Action by the Assembly

12. The Assembly is invited to take note of the information provided and issue any comments it deems relevant.