



NATIONAL SAFE SKIES ALLIANCE

Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

PARAS 0026 Project Statement

Project Title:	Insider Threat Mitigation at Airports
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BACKGROUND

Insider threat mitigation is a large focus of the aviation community. The TSA Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC) Insider Threat Subcommittee has defined insider threat as:

Individuals with privileged access to sensitive areas and/or information, who intentionally or unwittingly misuse or allow others to misuse this access to exploit vulnerabilities in an effort to compromise security, facilitate criminal activity, terrorism, or other illicit actions which inflict harm to people, an organization, the air transportation system or national security.

There have been many attempts to gather information and explore ways to mitigate this threat, including the TSA ASAC Working Group on Airport Access Control final report issued in April 2015. This report provided recommendations to the TSA to help mitigate insider threat. While some of the recommendations have been put into practice, there is still significant progress to be made.

The Insider Threat Subcommittee is continuing to formulate recommendations related to insider threat mitigation. However, practical guidance is still needed to assist airports with identifying and utilizing available resources to deter, detect, and mitigate insider threats.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to create holistic guidance to assist the aviation industry in using tools, resources, and strategies to deter, detect, and mitigate insider threats at airports. At a minimum, the guidance should include:

- Risk indicators, including behavioral indicators and motivating factors
 - Detection strategies, including technology, people, and processes
 - Training and awareness strategies, including topics, content examples, frequency, and delivery method
 - Internal and external information sharing among airports, airlines, law enforcement agencies, and stakeholders
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- Employee inspection considerations
- Employee vetting considerations, including identifying patterns of unsuitability for issuance of airport ID media
- Strategies for creating a security-minded culture that supports:
 - Effective reporting mechanisms and strategies
 - Engagement programs, i.e., awareness, recognition, and rewards
- Related airport rules and regulations, including best practices for sanctions (e.g., escorting requirements, challenge procedures, circumvention of security, and badge holder responsibilities)
- Summary of relevant reference materials

The guidance should be practical and scalable to all airports.