



# National Safe Skies Alliance

## Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

### Project Statement

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PARAS 0032

#### **Cargo Security and Third-Party K9 (3PK9)**

<p><b>Funds:</b> Up to \$200,000 <b>Contract Time:</b> 12 Months <b>Staff Responsibility:</b> Jessica Grizzle <b>Fiscal Year:</b> 2020</p>
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*The Project Statement below has been selected by the Safe Skies Oversight Committee and will be the starting point for a panel of experts to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP is expected to be available in early 2020.*

In 2021, all air cargo in the United States will be required to be screened prior to being placed on any type of aircraft for transport. As a key element in the movement of air cargo, airports play an important role. Therefore, it is imperative that airports understand the intricacies of cargo security, the risk it poses at their facilities, and mitigation measures in place.

Additionally, Congress has authorized the use of third-party K9 providers, certified by an approved TSA certifying organization, to provide K9 explosive detection screening as a more efficient and effective method for inspecting air cargo shipments. Subsequently, the 3PK9 program is an emerging market for the air cargo industry, without precedents for regulators or operators to use for guidance. There are few available resources to assist airport operators in understanding how the 3PK9 program is structured or which organizations/entities have responsibilities for certification, implementation, training, compliance, airport communication/coordination, and other activities associated with the program.

The objective of this research is to produce holistic guidance that details the state of cargo security and screening at airports, with an emphasis on the fundamentals of and considerations for the 3PK9 program.