



NATIONAL SAFE SKIES ALLIANCE

Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

PARAS 0045 Project Summary

Project Title:	Guidance for Biometric Technology at Airports
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BACKGROUND

Many airports and their stakeholders have adopted or are considering biometric technology for identity verification in various activities, such as credentialing and access control, check-in, checked bag drop, security screening, and passenger boarding. Biometric technology has evolved and modality options have expanded in recent years, making biometric systems a more accessible option. In addition to cost, there are many other factors to weigh before selecting and implementing a system. Detailed guidance is needed to assist stakeholders in determining how using biometric technologies may enhance their security and operations. If adopted, additional information is needed to ensure informed decision-making for implementation.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to develop comprehensive guidance to assist airports and their stakeholders in making informed decisions regarding the potential use of biometrics for various functions at airports. At a minimum, the guidance should address:

Access Control for Airport Workers

- Needs assessment
- Current biometric modalities that are viable for use in aviation, including considerations for processing time, environmental/weather, user acceptance, demonstrated performance, and cost
- Components required and associated considerations, including badge compatibility, infrastructure (new and existing facilities), system interoperability, expandability, data storage needs, etc.
- Deployment and user training strategies, including procedure changes and alternative access methods
- Privacy/PII considerations, including federal, state, and local restrictions
- Additional cybersecurity implications

Stakeholder Processes for Passenger Experience

- Opportunities for biometric use in passenger processing, including check-in, bag drop, security checkpoint, and boarding
- Impact to airport, including considerations for space requirements, infrastructure, operations (airport and tenant), wayfinding, shared spaces, alternative lease agreements, etc.

The guidance should include considerations for airports of all sizes.