



# National Safe Skies Alliance

## Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

### Project Statement

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#### PARAS 0051 Table-Top Exercises for Airport Security

**Funds:** Up to \$100,000  
**Contract Time:** 10 Months  
**Staff Responsibility:** Jessica Grizzle  
**Fiscal Year:** 2022

*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 2022.*

Thorough planning is a key component of a successful table-top exercise. The exercise design process, in particular, should facilitate conceptual understanding of the problem being addressed, identify strengths and weaknesses in the functions or processes being examined, and ultimately generate reasonable solutions for security problems or vulnerabilities. While there are guidebooks and tools available for conducting table-top exercises, resources focused on aviation security-specific needs and requirements are not as readily available or well-known. In addition, security-specific scenarios for exercises must continue to adapt to the evolving threat. As such, relying on well-known or typically used scenarios may not lead to relevant or actionable results.

The objective of this research is to produce guidance detailing best practices, considerations, and lessons-learned for conducting an effective aviation security table-top exercise. The guidance should address gaps in existing resources and provide updated, relevant exercise scenarios based on current and evolving threat conditions.