



NATIONAL SAFE SKIES ALLIANCE

Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

PARAS 0051 Project Summary

Project Title:	Guidance for Airport Security Exercises
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BACKGROUND

Thorough planning is a key component of successful tabletop exercises and drills. The 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 tabletop exercises and drills, resources focused on aviation security-specific needs and requirements are not as readily available or well known. In addition, security-specific scenarios and design criteria must continue to adapt to emerging threats.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to produce practical guidance for conducting effective aviation security tabletop exercises and drills. The research should address:

- Pre-planning considerations, including engaging stakeholders and establishing a knowledge base
- Planning considerations, including establishing scope and goals, communication needs, and required stakeholder participation
- Potential scenarios and design elements
 - Security-specific incidents based on current and emerging threats
 - Security components of other incidents (e.g., fire and natural hazards)
 - Objectives and associated functions
 - Associated capability targets for incident response and recovery
- Evaluation of results
- After-action report and improvement planning
- Long-term goals (i.e., program building)

The resulting guidance should be comprehensive and scalable to commercial airports of all sizes and resource levels.