NATIONAL SAFE SKIES ALLIANCE

Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

PARAS 0071 Project Summary

Project Title:	Integrating ICS Within the Airport Environment
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BACKGROUND

The Incident Command System (ICS), as outlined in FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS), provides a standardized framework for managing resources, communication, and operational decision-making during high-impact events, particularly events requiring multi-agency response and coordination. ICS can also provide a framework for decision-making outside of emergency response scenarios to enhance coordination and mitigate disruptions to airport operations.

FEMA's independent study courses are available to provide foundational understanding of ICS principles and structure. However, it can be difficult to understand the applicability of general ICS principles and how to implement the framework in an airport environment, particularly for staff without a law enforcement or emergency response background.

Airport-specific guidance, including relevant tools and templates, are needed to help airport security and operations staff understand and effectively apply ICS in the airport environment.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to create comprehensive guidance for implementing the ICS framework at airports, with a focus on security and operations. At a minimum, the final deliverable should address:

- Applicability of ICS at airports for incident response and daily operations
- Impact of airport governance, size, and operational structures
- Incident scalability (e.g., single command vs. unified command)
- Aligning ICS roles and airport day-to-day structures
- Strategies for stakeholder communication and training
- Scenario-based examples for implementation
- Operations Center structure and interfacing with the Incident Command Post

The resulting deliverables should include relevant templates and tools for implementation.