

## **General Aviation Security Suggestions**

This list represents some suggestions prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation to aid airports in reviewing their security measures. There are two principle security objectives for general aviation: (a). protecting air passengers and aircraft from attack, and (b). preventing aircraft from being used as weapons directed at sensitive targets on the ground. We strongly encourage all airports to conduct a security audit of their facilities and review or develop an Airport Security Plan (ASP) to secure your facilities. An ASP should be tailored for each airport based on your operations. Security is everyone's responsibility. You need to involve airport tenants, local law enforcement, public safety/emergency services agencies, pilots/aircraft owners and airport employees. The following "laundry lists" of aviation security potential practices were compiled from best practices that many airports in the Commonwealth and other states have implemented. The information is not all-inclusive but rather a starting point. The Bureau encourages each Airport Sponsor to review these security suggestions and apply them as appropriate for your airport:

**Airport Security Plan (ASP)** Written document, detailing an organization's proactive procedures and responsibilities for protecting employees, facilities, equipment, customers, and operations from harm brought on by the intentional actions:

- Each Airport Sponsor should review or develop an ASP. An ASP should be tailored for each airport and implementation of any security measures should be considered in the context of your operations.
- Security plans should identify and assess potential vulnerabilities and risks.
- Recommend tenants develop their own security plans and comply with the sponsor's ASP.
- Flight schools and FBOs should evaluate their operations from a security standpoint and institute policies and procedures commensurate with their specific business.
- Conduct a physical and policy/procedures security audit to determine security deficiencies.
- Involve local public safety and law enforcement agencies in developing your security plan, utilize state and federal authorities where appropriate.
- Request increased/comprehensive airport security inspections by local law enforcement and state and federal authorities where appropriate.
- Update, as needed or develop a vehicle/ pedestrian ordinance.
- Develop communications procedures to disseminate security information to airport tenants, the flying public and local public safety agencies.
- Implement, or update an airport key control plan.
- Develop or update access plan to operations areas.

## **Suggested Airport Security Measures**

- Institute frequent patrols of the airport by local enforcement agencies include state and Federal enforcement agencies where appropriate.
- Provide 24-hour FBO service.
- Keep all hangars closed and locked.
- Identify an area that would be used to disarm bombs or ordinance.
- If warranted, employment of local law enforcement officers on a regular or part time basis.
- Install sufficient lighting equipment.
- Keep all airport access gates locked 24-hours a day.
- No curbside terminal building auto parking.
- Clear perimeter fence line of obstructions.
- Conduct random and schedules hangar inspections.
- Limit the size of the airport operations area and access points.
- Create airport buffer zones.
- Create and/or review HAZMAT plan.
- Conduct background checks of employees and tenants.
- Install locks on airfield electrical vaults and other electrical systems.
- Install Security Fencing.
  - Install security fencing if none exists.
  - Install combination locks to airport through pedestrian gates.
  - Permanently secure all gates not in daily use.
  - Install or utilize a gate card system for tracking airport access.
- Issue airport identification credentials.
  - Issue Identification cards to all airport employees.
  - Issue Identification cards to all airport tenants.
  - Issue Identification cards to all airport contractors.
  - Identify airport employees with uniforms.
- Use signage to control airport operations area access.
  - Ensure you have adequate no trespassing signs installed along perimeter fencing.
  - Ensure you have signs on all gates and access points.
  - Signs restricting apron access to pilots and escorted passengers only.
  - No smoking signs around aircraft operations areas.
  - Post emergency numbers at airport businesses.
- Secure Fuel Farm(s) and refueling trucks.
  - Lock refueling trucks in the fuel farm at night.
  - Do not park refueling trucks near buildings or fences when not being used.
  - Secure fuel farms and secure access when possible.
- Keep all airplanes locked and secured.
  - Encourage transient aircraft operators to lock their aircraft.
  - Require the FBOs to keep all airplanes locked and secured on the transient and based aircraft parking line and conduct aircraft counts each morning and evening.

### **Watch For**

- Aircraft with unusual or unauthorized modifications.
- Persons or vehicles loitering for extended periods in the vicinity of the airport, parked aircraft and especially people in the airport operations area.
- Pilots who appear to be under the control of other persons.
- Persons with above average interest in aircraft and their performance capabilities.
- Persons wishing to obtain aircraft without presenting proper credentials.
- Persons who present apparently valid credentials but do not have corresponding level of aviation knowledge.
- Witnessing deadly or dangerous weapons or explosives being loaded onto an aircraft.
- Any person who makes threats or statements inconsistent with normal activity at your airport.
- Stolen or missing aircraft.
- Anything that appears unusual or does not fit the pattern of lawful, normal activity at your airport.
- If you see something highly dangerous, such as weapons or explosives, being loaded on an aircraft; or if you believe that a serious crime or sort of attack is about to occur, immediately your local law enforcement authorities! **And call your nearest FBI office.**

### **Disseminate Security Information to the Public and Airport Users**

- Conduct regular meetings with airport tenants and the flying public to discuss the airport security plan.
- Establish a security information bulletin board.
- Increase signage defining access points and areas of no trespass.
- Post vehicle/pedestrian ordinances.
- Develop an emergency contact plan.
- Establish a transient aircraft log.
- Display aerial photo of airport access points.
- Post copy of security plan.
- Post copy of emergency contact plan.
  - Airport Manager.
  - Local Police Department.
  - Pennsylvania State Police.
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation.
  - FAA, Eastern Region Security Office.
- Circulate copy of reporting procedures to all tenants and others who have a regular presence on the airport.
- Encourage pilots to file flight plans for all flights-VFR and IFR.
- Involve your local media contacts for security news releases.
- Use airport web site to post security information.