



NATIONAL SAFE SKIES ALLIANCE

Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

PARAS 0056 Project Summary

Project Title:	Guidance for Developing and Maintaining an Airport Security Program
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Research Agency:	The Aviation Planning Group, LLC
Principal Investigator:	Donald DeGraw
Effective Date:	May 15, 2023
Contract Time:	12 Months
Funds:	\$174, 970

BACKGROUND

Airports subject to 49 CFR § 1542 must adopt and carry out an Airport Security Program (ASP) that has been approved by TSA. The ASP is specific to each airport and describes how the airport will comply with federal security regulations. Airports with an established ASP encounter many challenges in maintaining, amending, and modernizing their program over time. Changes to an ASP are often required for reasons such as a National Amendment, Security Directive, newly discovered vulnerability, operational change, or facility modification. In addition, airports that are establishing or increasing commercial service must develop a new ASP or expand from a partial to a full program. Guidance is needed to help airports overcome these challenges.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to create practical guidance to assist airports in developing and maintaining ASPs. At a minimum, the guidance should address:

- Developing content, including:
 - Considerations for the level of detail
 - Options for content flow and grouping
 - Supplemental, non-regulatory documents
- Approaches to writing a new program, revising an existing program, and transitioning to/from a partial or full program
- Implementing changes, including:
 - Catalysts for change
 - Impact assessments
 - Approval processes
 - Communication with affected entities
- Maintaining the program, including:
 - Administrative processes
 - Change documentation
 - Review processes
- Managing relationships with stakeholders
- Determining access levels
- Considerations for hard copy vs. electronic format
- Relevant templates and sample language

The resulting research should be scalable to airports of all sizes and resource levels.