



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

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Aviation Security Round Table 1

## **Mitigating Aviation Threats, Risks and Vulnerabilities**

Submitted by: Australia



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## Mitigating Aviation Threats, Risks and Vulnerabilities

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Tony Beard  
Office of Transport Security  
Department of Transport and Regional Services  
Australian Government

## Resolution of Suspicious Activity

APEC STAR II Chile, March 2004, the Working Group on Air Transportation Security discussed *Threats to Civil Aviation and Security Measures*.

It was agreed that:

*An effective approach to air transportation security calls for training of personnel, in order for them to be able to **monitor suspicious activities and report incidents**.*



## Nature of the Threat

- Trans-national terrorism is the primary security threat
- Some APEC countries interests are a target of terrorist activity
- Places of mass gathering are a potential target
- Terrorist groups have demonstrated intent and capability
- There is constant heightened level of threat
- Nature and level of threat means we **Must Expect the Unexpected**
- There is likely to be no prior warning of attack
- Criminal activity highlights vulnerabilities



## The Threat to Aviation Security

- The aviation sector is a target for terrorists because it concentrates people:
  - in large numbers;
  - at high density;
  - in accessible places; and
  - at regular, predictable times
- Forms of attack against the aviation sector have included:
  - Aircraft hijack or theft;
  - Improvised explosive devices;
  - Assaults by commando-style teams;
  - The use of "stand-off" weapons (eg mortars and missiles) to attack aircraft or infrastructure



## The Threat to Regional Aviation

- Primary threat is from unlawful activity:
  - Deranged or emotionally disturbed persons
  - Air rage
  - Drunkenness
  - Hoax activity
- Regional and general aviation may be attractive to terrorists if it is seen to be a "softer" target
  - Flight schools
  - Hiring or theft of light aircraft or crop dusters
- Identification and Resolution of Suspicious Activity is essential



## Criminality and Aviation Security

- Terrorism is a crime – not all crime is terrorism
- Professional organised criminals utilise vulnerabilities in aviation security regimes
- Their actions highlight vulnerabilities that may facilitate a terrorism
- Criminals want to preserve the transport system for their own ends
- Terrorists want to destroy the transport system for their own ends



## Vulnerabilities

- Vulnerabilities potentially amplify terrorist capabilities and therefore increases the chance of a risk eventuating
- Vulnerabilities must be prioritised to focus and ensure proportional targeting of risk mitigation strategies there by best utilising resources
- Vulnerabilities should be prioritised through an intelligence led assessment of likelihood and an understanding of the local security context.



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## Vulnerabilities in the Aviation Sector

- Aviation operations gather people together in large groups and at regular, predictable times
- Aviation operations have inherent vulnerabilities
- Terrorists have demonstrated the intent and capability to exploit vulnerabilities in aviation systems
- Failing to identify risk and vulnerabilities in aviation operations changes the risk context
- Good security is both:
  - Effective physical measures
  - Creation of an environment and culture hostile to terrorist activity



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## Points to Consider

- Terrorists plan and prepare to exploit security vulnerabilities
- They are expert in concealing knowledge of their plans
- They give no warning of an attack
- They have a demonstrated capacity and intent to attack transport infrastructure
- They focus on mass casualties and traumatic effects
- Almost anything is possible – expect the unexpected
- Their planning is thorough – pre-attack trial runs have been discovered after the fact
- Intelligence agencies and police uncover some plans but will never be able to uncover all



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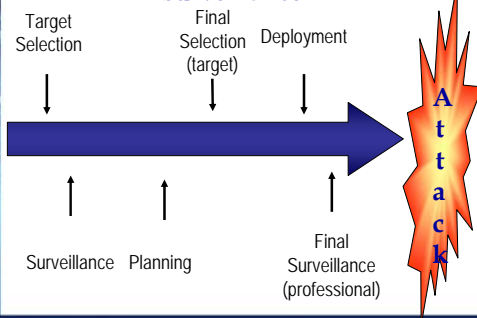
## What To Do About It

- Security responses must be based on risk management that is informed by threat information and security vulnerabilities
- There is a need to address the security challenges in a nationally consistent manner to ensure that:
  - The nature of the terrorist threat is recognised
  - Effective counter measures are developed which are relevant and proportional to the known threat
  - We develop an awareness and an ability to harness the capacity of the public, staff and officials to counter terrorism
  - All resources are harnessed to create a security environment that is 'hostile' to terrorists and facilitates the identification and resolution of suspicious behaviour



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## Terrorists conduct pre-operational surveillance



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## Review & Conclusion

- APEC Chile 2004 - It was agreed that: *An effective approach to air transportation security calls for training of personnel, in order for them to be able to monitor suspicious activities and report incidents*
- What have we done about this agreement?
- Have we included the Business-Government partnership?



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