

# TSA's Risk-Based Security Initiatives



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

# Inception of TSA

TSA was created in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to strengthen the security of the nation's transportation systems.

The Aviation and Transportation Security Act established our agency and gave it three major mandates:

- Responsibility for security for all modes of transportation;
- Recruit, assess, hire, train, and deploy Security Officers for 450 commercial airports from Guam to Alaska in 12 months; and
- Provide 100 percent screening of all checked luggage for explosives by December 31, 2002



**Transportation  
Security  
Administration**

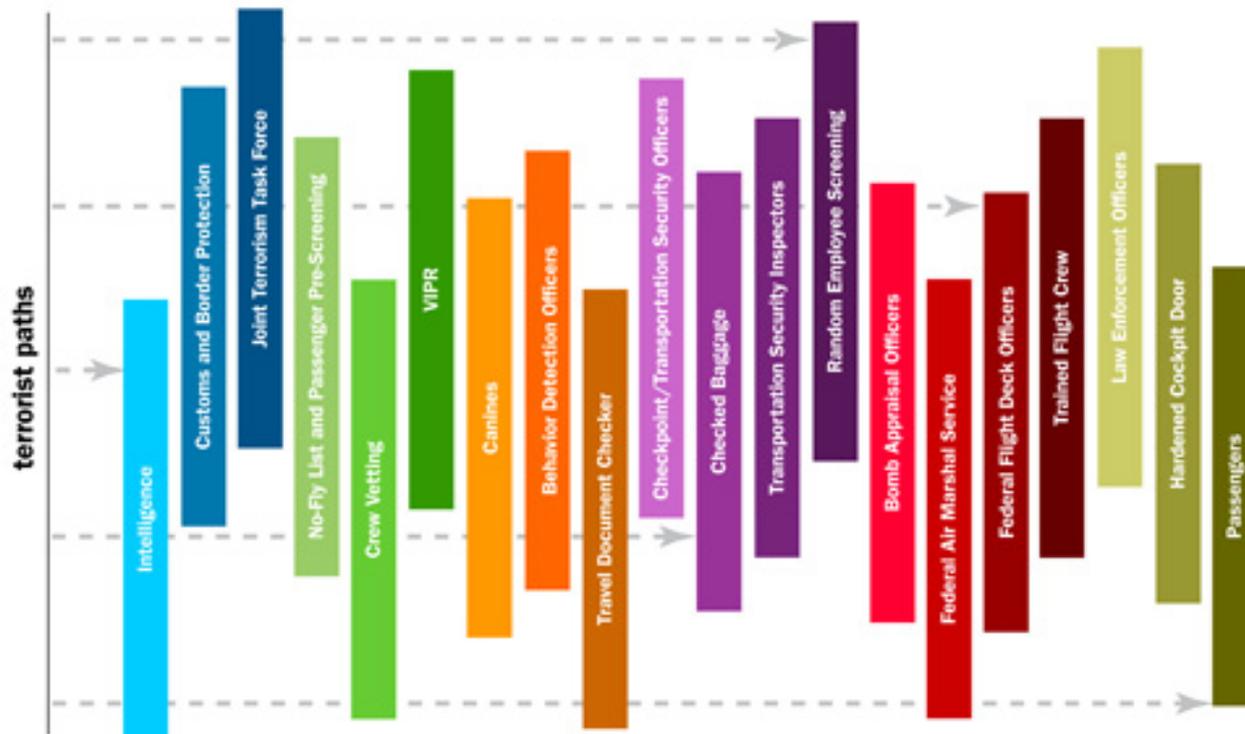
The Transportation Security Administration's mission is to protect the Nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

# Layered Security Approach

TSA uses layers of security as part of a risk-based approach to protecting passengers and our Nation's transportation systems. Each layer alone is capable of stopping a terrorist attack, but in combination, defenses compound to create a much stronger system.

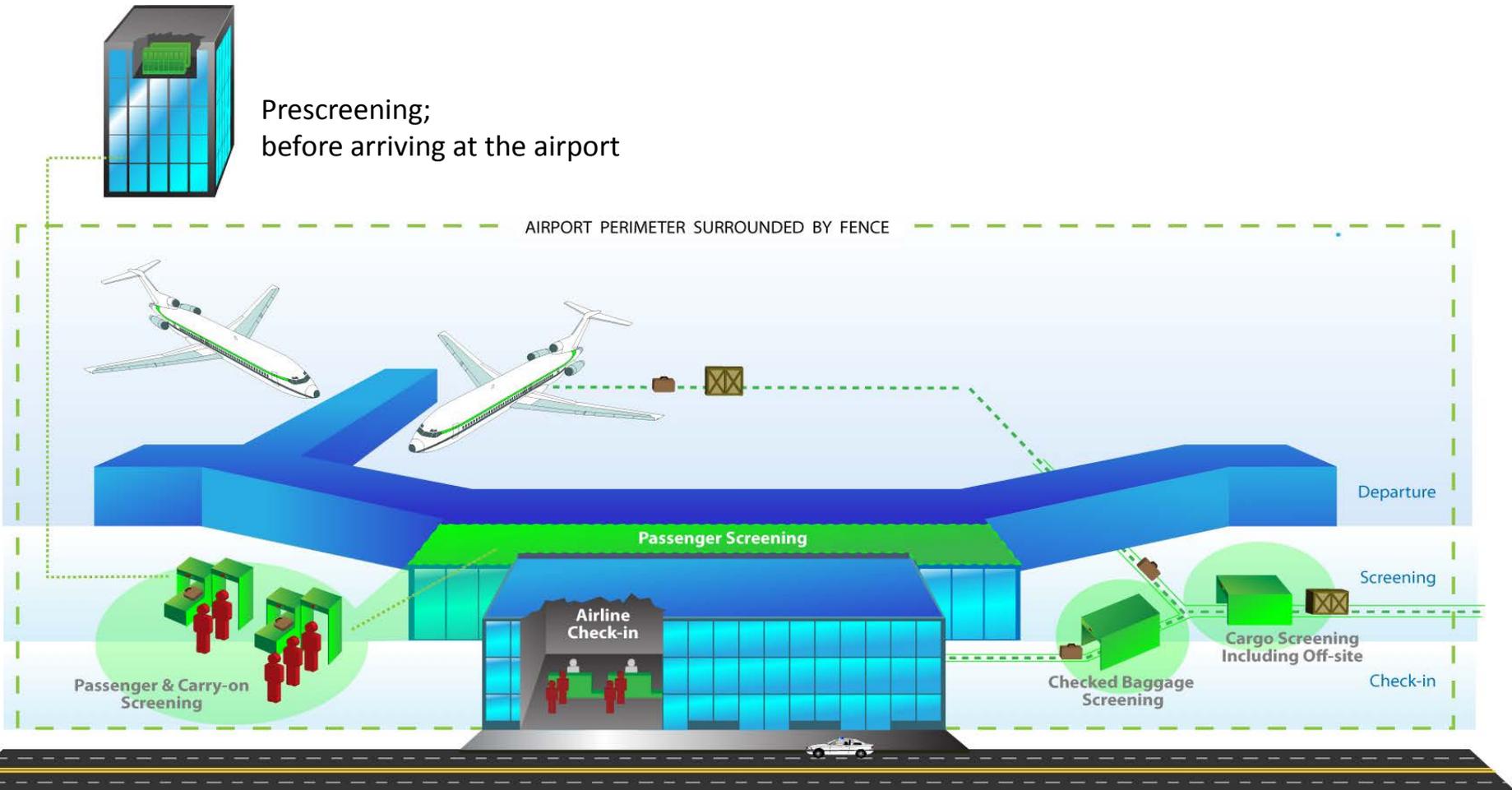
Although checkpoint operations are the most visible layer, they represent just one part of TSA's security system.

## Layers of U.S. Aviation Security



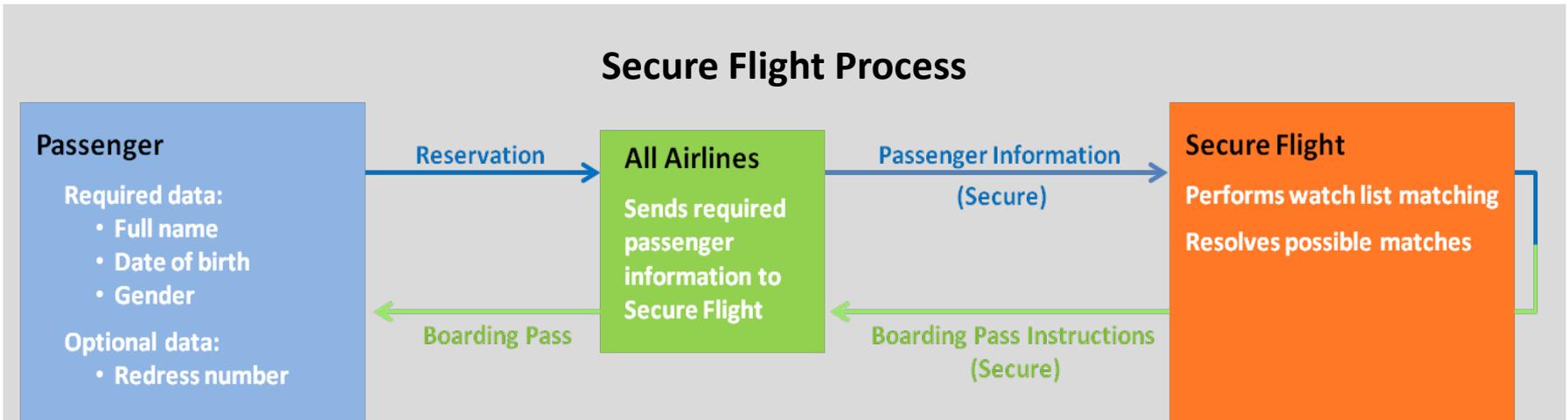
# Context of a Layered Approach to Aviation Security

If TSA can confirm a person's identity and learn more about them through information they opt to provide, in combination with our other layers of security, physical screening can be expedited for many people.



# Passenger Prescreening

Secure Flight is a behind the scenes program that enhances the security of domestic and international commercial air travel through the use of improved watch list matching.



Passengers making a reservation are required to provide their full name, date of birth, and gender. TSA matches this information against government watch lists to:

- Prevent individuals on the No Fly List from boarding an aircraft.
- Identify individuals on the Selectee List for enhanced screening.
- Facilitate passenger air travel.
- Protect individuals' privacy.

After matching passenger information against government watch lists, Secure Flight transmits the matching results back to airlines.

# Checkpoint Operations

Approximately 50,000 Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) serve on TSA's frontline at more than 450 airports nationwide.

Our highly trained and professional workforce are an integral part of TSA's layered approach to security, which includes measures both seen and unseen.

TSOs use their training, experience and checkpoint technologies to effectively and efficiently screening more than 1.7 million passengers a day.

TSA's technology capabilities have expanded considerably and currently include:

- Explosives Trace Detection
- Imaging Technology
- Advanced X-Ray
- Walk Through Metal Detector
- Bottle Liquids Scanners
- CastScope
- Paperless Boarding Pass



# Risk-Based Passenger Security Overview

TSA is undertaking efforts to focus its resources and improve the passenger experience at airport security checkpoints by applying new intelligence-driven, risk-based screening procedures and enhancing its use of technology.

## Guiding Principles of Risk-Based Security

1. The majority of airline passengers are low risk.
2. The more information available on each passenger, the easier it is to assess risk.
3. Behavior detection and interviewing techniques should be strengthened in the screening process.
4. TSA must accelerate its efforts to optimize screening processes and use of technology to gain system-wide efficiencies.
5. Increase security by focusing on unknowns; expedite known/trusted travelers.

# Risk-Based Security Initiatives

As these initiatives prove successful, these changes could allow officers to better focus their efforts on passengers who are more likely to pose a risk to transportation. TSA evaluates data from all initiatives towards the ultimate goal of delivering the most effective security in the most efficient manner.

Initiative	Description	Status as of February 2012
<b>Honor Flight Network</b>	Policy decision to exempt Veterans on chartered Honor Flights from physical screening.	Nationwide implementation completed in 2011
<b>Under 12</b>	Modified procedures enabling children who appear to be 12 years of age and younger to keep shoes on. Procedures provide officers additional options to resolve alarms for children.	Nationwide implementation completed in 2011
<b>Known Crew Member</b>	Enables officers to positively verify the identity and employment status of airline pilots and forgo physical screening at designated access points.  Proof of Concept data collection is complete. Seven sites will continue operation as TSA evaluates the feasibility and resource impacts of expanding to additional locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 28 Airlines Participating</li><li>• 7 Proof of Concept Airports , 25 Access Points</li><li>• Approximately 2,500 pilots screened per day</li></ul>

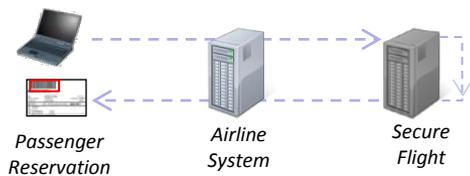
# Risk-Based Security Initiatives, Continued

Initiative	Description	Status as of February 2012
<b>BDO / Assessor</b>	<p>Specialized training and deployment of Behavior Detection Officers (BDOs) to enhance real-time threat assessment capabilities. Assessors and BDOs interact with passengers to further assess risk.</p> <p>PoC operations are ongoing at Boston Logan Airport and Detroit Metro Airport. Additional implementation scenarios are under evaluation for 2012.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 airports</li> <li>• 2 checkpoints</li> <li>• Over 900,000 travelers interactions to date</li> </ul>
<b>TSA Pre✓™</b>	<p>Passengers become eligible for expedited screening at TSA Pre✓™ lanes through membership in U.S. Customs and Border Protection Trusted Traveler programs (i.e, Global Entry) or through partner airlines by meeting eligibility and opt-in criteria. If TSA determines a passenger is low-risk, information is embedded in the passenger's boarding pass.</p> <p>By the end of calendar year 2012, TSA Pre✓™ will expand to the nation's busiest airports and expand to additional airlines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 400,000 TSA Pre✓™ passengers screened to date</li> <li>• 2 airline partners, additional to follow</li> <li>• 8 airports, additional to follow               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta- ATL, DTW, LAS, MSP, SLC</li> <li>• American- DFW, MIA, MSP, LAS, LAX</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# TSA Pre✓ Expedited Passenger Screening Concept

By placing more focus on pre-screening, TSA is able to expedite physical screening for known passengers while also increasing system-wide effectiveness.

## Expanded Prescreening



- Passengers provide data to TSA Secure Flight through airline systems
- Secure Flight conducts watch list matching and analyzes passenger risk
- Airline places risk designation in boarding pass

## Real Time Threat Assessment



- Behavior detection
- Identity document verification
- TSO directs passenger to screening lane

## Risk-Based Physical Screening



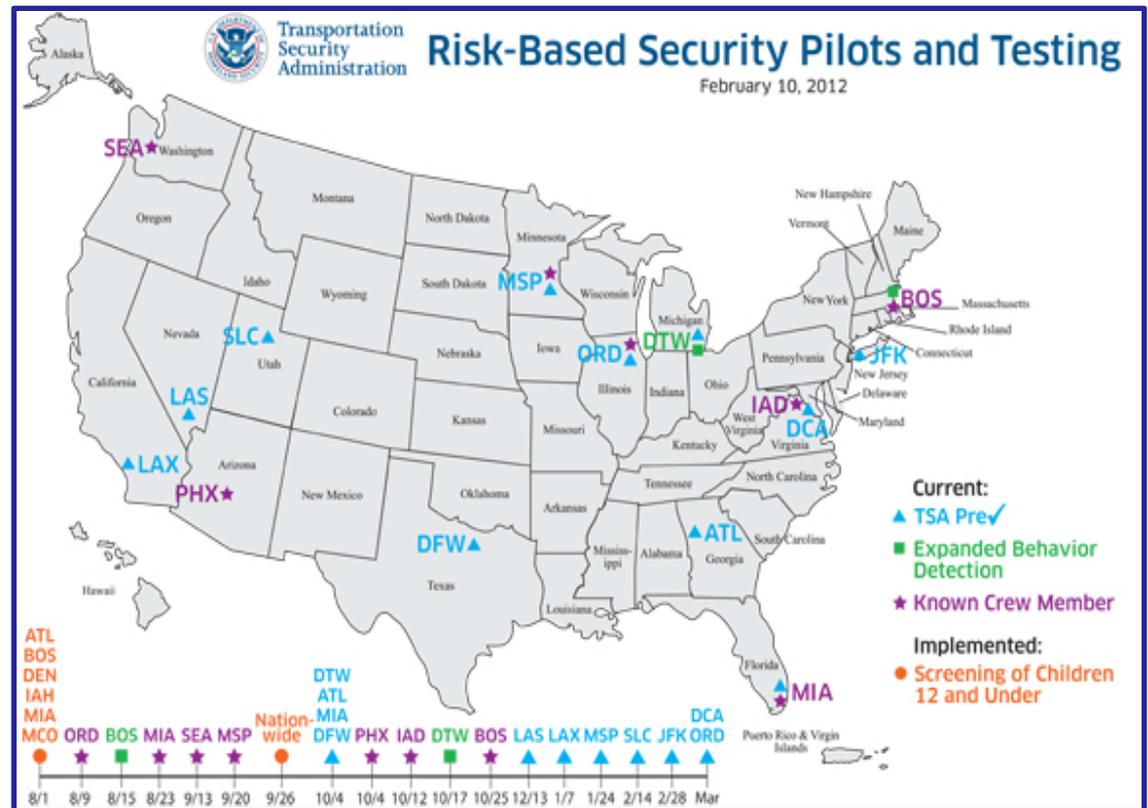
- Differentiated screening procedures and technology application

**Random and Unpredictable Screening Procedures**

# Key Enablers

This transformational effort is dependent on several key enablers.

- Professional Workforce
- Advanced Technologies
- Behavior Detection
- Secure Flight
- Industry and Government Partnerships
- Informed Passengers



View the latest map on [www.tsa.gov/what\\_we\\_do/rbs.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/rbs.shtm)

# Risk-Based Security: Longer-Term, Strategic Objectives

TSA is continuing to explore new procedures, new technologies and new ways to help us learn more about the individuals who fly, analyze these changes, and tailor security accordingly while balancing five overarching objectives.



*“The key is to find common solutions to common challenges in partnership with airports in an open, frank dialogue.”*  
– Administrator John Pistole