

Office of the Assistant Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
601 South 13th Street
Arlington, VA 22202-4270



Transportation
Security
Administration

JUN 25 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

FROM: Kip Hawley 
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Transportation Security Administration Response to Congressman Mica
Regarding the Screening Passengers by Observation Technique Program

Forwarded for your approval and signature is the Transportation Security Administration's response to Congressman John L. Mica concerning implementation of the Screening Passengers by Observation Technique (SPOT) Program in Screening Partnership Program (SPP) airports, particularly Kansas City International Airport.

The proposed response addresses Congressman Mica's suggestion that SPP airports be included in the rollout of the SPOT Program. This response also describes other types of behavior recognition training currently in place.

This response has been reviewed and coordinated in TSA with the Office of Security Operations (Morris McGowan), the Office of Legislative Affairs (Jeffrey Sural), and the Office of Chief Counsel (Margot Bester).

Recommendation:

I recommend that you sign the attached letter.

Attachment

Executive Secretariat Clearance:

Fred L. Schwien

Date

The Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member, Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Aviation
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mica:

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 2007, regarding implementation of the Screening Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) program by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

As you are aware, TSA has developed a highly successful and proven SPOT program that serves as the standard for all behavior detection training and activities in TSA. TSA has just completed the roll out of the program to the nation's highest risk airports, and this deployment schedule used a risk-based approach to maximize security efforts at the highest risk airports while concurrently making the best use of TSA resources.

San Francisco International Airport (SFO), a Screening Partnership Program (SPP) airport, completed SPOT training in February 2007. Kansas City International Airport (MCI) is not one of the 40 highest threat airports and, therefore, is not included in the initial SPOT deployment. However, because of the program's success, TSA plans to expand the SPOT program as swiftly as possible to other airports, including SPP airports.

TSA does provide behavior awareness training for all of its Transportation Security Officers, including staff at SPP airports. In addition, TSA conducts behavior recognition training for all Transportation Security Inspectors, and an Aviation Industry Watch is being developed for all air carrier and airport employees.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If your staff needs further information or assistance, they are requested to call Mr. Donald H. Kent, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

Michael Jackson
Deputy Secretary