BDA Program – Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

Summary: Below are some of the most commonly asked high level questions regarding the BDA Program and its various initiatives.

Q: What information can you provide about the longevity and sustainability of the BDA Program on a National level and Local level?

> **A:** BDA has just completed a significant year focused on securing the foundation of the BDA Program. This included finalizing and closing out GAO/OIG recommendations, revising initial new hire and recurrent training, releasing a new SOP, and revitalizing compliance visits to ensure ongoing assessment of SPOT implementation. These efforts have focused on securing the foundation of the BDA Program and the Program Office is now moving forward with working with the field and OSC to optimize the program in 2014. Program Optimization will focus on people, process, performance, and integration.

Q: With the added duties and responsibilities of BDOs with MI, Playbook, and SPOT requirements, is the BDA Program Office looking at increasing the number of BDOs at each airport?

> **A:** No. The Program Office is focused on developing and deploying tools to enable the efficient deployment of BDA assets in support of TSA's Risk Based Strategy as well as increases the security footprint at the airport. This work is being done in alignment with other offices, i.e., Playbook.

Q: I don't believe my checkpoint configuration and passenger flow warrants (b)(3):49 , am I allowed to only utilize (b)(3):49 U.S.C ?

> (b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

> BDA TSMs and BDA Coordinators should coordinate with their FSDs and RBS Coordinator to determine if the identified criterion is applicable to their airport. Should (b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r) (b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r) , the BDA Program Office must be notified via email at BDA.mailbox@tsa.dhs.gov for required tracking.

Q: If I have either a NTT or PCA team member at my airport, do I get an additional allocation?

> **A:** Not necessarily. Due to the limited number of backfill allocations, PCA and NTT have outlined criteria for backfilling certain airports that provide a balanced approach focused on the overall impact of team membership both at the individual, the national, and local airport level. Backfill allocations will be granted based on airport size, program impact, and a broad as possible.

Q. Are BDA TSMs included in the BDO FTE allocation for playbook/ARE hours needed?

    A: BDA TSMs are included in the total number of BDO FTE for FY14; the Playbook FTE is based on a percentage of that total allocation.

Q: What new training initiatives are being developed for the BDOs?

    A: The BDA Program Office is working closely with OHC and OTWE to enhance the training available to BDOs and BDA TSMS. At the same time, the Program Offices is focused on program optimization in 2014 pursuing initiatives that

Q: How doe new BDOs get enrolled in a new hire class, and is there a backlog right now?

    A: Yes, due to the hiring freeze that was implemented in the fall and that being lifted, there is a backlog to get into new hire training classes. The Program Office is working with OTWE to determine how best to accommodate this influx of need for new hire training. This backlog has also impacted the availability and scheduling of recurrent training although those classes are still continuing.

    For a list of new hire and recurrent training schedules, please go to the Training Section of the BDA HQ IShare page at: https://team.ishare.tsa.dhs.gov/sites/OpsNet/BDA/default.aspx

    In order to enroll in new hire training, Selecting officials must e-mail a copy of their Certificate list, recommended selections and interview selection spreadsheet with all candidate scores to the **BDO HR POC, at Erica.Peters@tsa.dhs.gov or OSOBDOHR@tsa.dhs.gov**, for approval prior to informing the tentative selectee. Once a positive response is granted by the BDO HR POC, the approved candidates may be schedule for a training class.

Q: If I do not want to hire at the allocated band, what can I do?

    A: Human Resources questions should be directed to Erica Peters via e-mail or to the BDO HR mailbox OSOBDOHR@tsa.dhs.gov

Q: Where can I find out information on the BDO or BDA TSM hiring process? Who can I contact if I have questions?

    A: Human Resources questions should be directed to Erica Peters via e-mail or to the BDO HR mailbox OSOBDOHR@tsa.dhs.gov