

# Behavior Detection and Analysis Program Overview

Presented by the Behavior Detection and Analysis  
(BDA) Program Office

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# Background

- Behavior Detection and Analysis is the theory that an individual attempting to circumvent security processes will exhibit behavior(s) subconsciously and inconsistent with a predetermined environmental behavior baseline
- The TSA BDA Program is based on practices used by FBI, NYPD, CBP, ICE, USSS, DEA, and ATF



# Racial Profiling

- BDOs do not profile on the basis of race, religion, or ethnicity that violate, federal law, and DHS regulations
- BDOs may not rely on generalized stereotypes.
- BDOs are required to complete the TSA Pledge Against Profiling each year.



# BDA Methodology

- Behavior Detection and Analysis uses behavioral cues and (b)(3); 49 U.S.C. § 114(r) observation and analysis to identify potentially high-risk individuals who may pose a threat to transportation security
- TSA will allocate 2750 Behavior Detection Officers (BDO)s and Security Managers at 87 airports, 35 fewer airports than FY14 allocation of 122 airports



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# BDA Characteristics

- BDOs typically work in teams of two
- BDOs use behavioral and (b)(3);49 U.S.C. § 114(r) indicators that are assigned varying point values to identify suspicious behavior
- If the passenger exhibits behaviors that meet the BDA threshold during referral screening, he/she is then referred to law enforcement (LE)
- If BDOs identify suspicious activity in the public area or in secure locations, they may engage individuals in conversation
- BDOs will be deployed primarily in an overt manner, however they may be deployed in a covert manner



# BDA Behaviors

BDA uses an extensive list of indicators with a clustering of behaviors to identify suspicious behavior. Examples include:

(b)(3);49 U.S.C. § 114(r)



# BDO New-Hire Training

- The BDA National Training Team (NTT) is responsible for all New-Hire training initiatives
- Includes 5 days of classroom courses, followed by 3 days of on-the-job training
- Applicants must pass a job knowledge test prior to the OJT process
- BDOs must undergo annual certification



# The BDA Process

BDOs resolve behaviors by combining layers of security

- BDOs conduct casual conversation
- BDOs conduct accessible property search
- Transportation Security Officer (TSO) performs x-ray screening
- TSO performs pat down (person search)



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# The Referral Report

The Referral Report records program-centric information

- Lists and categorizes all BDA behaviors
- Includes the point structure.
- Completed for every LEO and Non-LEO referral
- Used in program analysis



# BDA Activities Beyond the Airport

- Special Events
- National Special Security Event (NSSE) (DHS sponsored)
- Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR)



**Questions?**



# BDA Status of Critical Projects

## Risk-Based Initiatives:

**Risk Based Allocation and Scheduling:** Allocation model is under executive review; next step is a risk-based scheduling tool leveraging Playbook's Airport Risk Evaluation model.

**Assessor:** Re-working initial Concept of Operations created by OSC; objective is concept that can be rolled out without support of contractor at all large airports. Working with OTWE on a targeted conversation module.

**BEAM:** BDO Efficiency and Accountability Metrics tool monitors BDO activity ensuring that efficient and effective use of BDO resources: Tool is currently deployed at 30 airports as part of a pilot; national roll-out scheduled for January, 2014.

**International Cooperation:** Working with OGS leveraging other BDO global initiatives to validate concept. Work streams with UK measuring BDO deterrence; with Israel on covert testing; and with ECAC on building model program. Planning on leveraging IATA and ACI to survey country and air carrier use of behavior detection in coordination with OSPIE.

**Program Compliance Visits:** BDA conducted 9 Program Compliance visits to date with 10 additional visits scheduled for the remainder for FY2013; Airport Self-evaluation tool will also be deployed within the next month. Program did not deploy any standardization teams in FY2011-FY2012.



# BDA Status of Critical Projects

## Organizational Efficiency

**Encounter Management:** Awaiting results on TSDB vetting of approximately 8100 historical BDO LEO referrals against TSDB; working with OIA and FAMs on encounter management concept with a goal of better tracking final disposition of BDO referrals.

**Data Accuracy:** New PMIS module released May, 2013 suspending auto-promote function; audit and remediation of common areas in PMIS records from 2010-2012 completed July 2013; as part of larger OSO initiative, working on new data system.

**Strategic Planning:** TSA finalized a strategic plan on Dec 2012; Program is working on revised plan with estimated completion (including AA signature) by Sept. 31, 2013.

**Standardization of Policies:** Revised SOP currently in agency-wide routing; working with OHC on standardized EPMPs for BDO managers; BDO Admin Hiring guide, which has not been updated since 2008; new JATs.



# BDA Status of Critical Projects

## **Workforce Engagement:**

**Training:** In FY13, BDA accommodated 47% more BDOs than FY12 while reducing costs by 75% session. The Program is working with OTWE on BDO training strategy, which includes the NTT Academy scheduled for September, 2013. Approval package for academy is currently with DHS.

**Employee Engagement:** ten tools available to engage with BDO and STSM workforce; draft of communications plan is complete. New Idea Factory challenge drafted and in agency-wide clearance.

## **Other:**

OIG recommendations: 90-day update in agency-wide clearance

GAO recommendations (2010): GAO reports it will close all recommendations

GAO Audit (2013): One recommendation anticipated pertaining to scientific validation

