

Aviation Security and Emergency Management Committee (AV090)

Strategic Plan

March 2011

Introduction

In response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) initiated several efforts led by the Critical Transportation Infrastructure Protection Committee (ABE40) of the Policy and Organization Group (ABE00) to identify and address the needs of the transportation community in their efforts to prepare for and respond to emergencies of this magnitude. Substantial contributions have been and continue to be achieved by the Committee including the identification of the complex nexus of factors involved in detecting and deterring threat, identifying vulnerability and criticality, determining risk, and developing, implementing, and evaluating response capabilities, including pandemic initiatives.

Three years ago, the TRB Aviation Group Executive Board approached the Technical Activities Council regarding the creation of the Aviation Security and Emergency Management Task Force as it became evident that even though there was excellent work being done by the ABE40 committee, a need existed within the aviation committees to have a modal-specific resource for them to look to on issues of security and emergency planning. Security and emergency issues pervade every aspect of the aviation industry and experts with specific knowledge of these issues as they relate to the aviation industry were needed to help inform and act as a resource for the Aviation Group committees, who did not have the relevant expertise. While there are commonalities of issues among all modes that are successfully addressed within the ABE40 committee, the distinctive aspects of the aviation sector needed more focused attention and the Task Force was created to fill that void.

Over the past three years, the Aviation Security and Emergency Management Task Force (AV090) has become the resource it was intended to be for the Aviation Group committees. Professionals from airlines, general aviation operators and airports; the intelligence community and academia; emergency responders in the public health field as well as fire fighting, security and police; logistics coordinators and system planners have joined together through this Task Force to provide the resources sought by the Aviation Group. Because of this, as of early 2010, the Task Force was authorized to be reconstituted as AV090 Committee.

Mission

In coordination with the Critical Transportation Infrastructure Protection committee (ABE40) and in support of the Aviation Group committees, the Aviation Security and Emergency Management committee identifies the enterprise-wide Aviation Security and Emergency Management response to natural and man-made disruptions to aviation transportation business continuity.

Scope

The committee is concerned with the synergies among integrated security, intelligence, and emergency capabilities for aviation and for other associated transportation modalities and their effects on aviation planning, design, operation, management, financing, and

institutional/organizational issues. A focus is maintained on applied research related to the capabilities of the major entities involved in commercial and general aviation to detect, deter, minimize impact, respond to, recover from, and learn from system disruption created by terrorist and non-political criminal activity and natural disasters including pandemic events.

Goals:

1. **Foster Research:** To enhance the TRB's role in fostering and contributing significantly to research, development, implementation, and evaluation of new technologies and innovative practices dealing with the nexus of aviation, security, intelligence, and emergency management.
2. **Promote National and International Collaboration:** To create and promote intermodal and cross-aviation collaboration, synergy, and syncretism throughout the TRB community, government, the business sector, and academia addressing and identifying common areas of concern and interest regarding the nexus of aviation, security, intelligence, and emergency management. Of special import is the context of globalization.
3. **Improve Communication:** To contribute significantly to improved communication and awareness of issues concerning the security, intelligence, and emergency management impacts of aviation, disseminate research and ideas, and to solicit opinion broadly and globally.
4. **Provide an Independent Resource:** To make available objective information based on applied research on the security, intelligence, and emergency management challenges and related findings related to aviation.
5. **Encourage Optimal Practices:** To support applied research-based technology, plans, and programs that will reduce operational and economic impediments and maximize security, intelligence, and emergency management benefits for aviation.
6. **Identify Emerging Trends:** To create a forum for identifying and addressing emerging trends within applied research and needing applied research.

Strategies:

- A. Approach all security, intelligence, and emergency management issues founded on continuing assessments of threat, vulnerability, and risk.
- B. Coordinate with and include members of other TRB committees and other stakeholders in planning annual meeting sessions and other activities.
- C. Adopt state-of-the-art applied research methodologies matched with evolving threat, risk, and vulnerability.

- D. Confront the intelligence and operations security challenges of sharing applied research on security, intelligence, and emergency management.
- E. Develop a list of priorities for cross-enterprise research in aviation and security, intelligence, and emergency management.
- F. Create and facilitate national and international fora for cross-enterprise communication.
- G. Help ensure that relevant applied research is significant in national and international funding decisions for future research on aviation and security, intelligence, and emergency management.

Action Plan:

In each of the next three years, AV090 will:

- a. Sponsor at least three sessions at the Annual TRB Meeting, addressing aviation, and security, intelligence, and emergency management issues from a cross-enterprise perspective. (Strategy B)
- b. Solicit co-sponsors from other committees in the Aviation Group and across TRB groups in developing the Annual TRB Meeting. (Strategy F)
- c. Hold quarterly teleconferences to further the AV090 missions and scope. (Strategies F)
- d. Extend invitations to annual AV090 committee meeting and sessions to other TRB committees with shared interests; and identify AV090 members and friends to act as liaisons to these committees. (Strategies B, C, E, F)
- e. Develop and refine a series of social-network spaces [Twitter, texting, Facebook, MySpace] for the purposes of information dissemination and the exchange of ideas among both professional and non-professional (students, youth, and laypersons). (Strategies D, F, G)
- f. Issue a call for papers and sponsor a session highlighting cross-modal security metrics. (Strategy A)

Over the next three years AV090 will:

- a. Follow up on past sessions with more in-depth or broader explorations of the issues through papers, additional sessions and/or workshops. (Strategy D)
- b. Sponsor or co-sponsor at least one full-day workshops on broad issues of major interest in aviation and security, intelligence, and emergency management. (Strategies A, B)

- c. Disseminate information about and provide input as appropriate to the Airport Cooperative Research Program (Strategy B)
- d. Coordinate with ABE40 (Critical Transportation Infrastructure Protection Committee) and other TRB entities on ways to promote the development and use of state-of-the-art threat, vulnerability, and risk assessment and evaluation methodologies. (Strategy B, E)
- e. Identify and publicize research gaps in aviation and security, intelligence, and emergency management. (Strategy A, C, E)
- f. Publicize the work of AV090 electronically through TRB online venues and online government, business, and academic sites. (Strategies F, G)

Other Targets of Opportunity:

- Upgrade the TRB Research Needs Database.
- Secure venues for intelligence sharing and analysis.
- Upgrade security, intelligence, and emergency management applied research supporting continuity of aviation operations.
- Review emergency support roles and opportunities; regulatory relief with safety and security; financial impacts and alternative resources; records retention and access; human factors in aviation accidents and incidents; applied technologies for airline passenger screening options.
- Enhance participation in activities of the Transportation Hazards and Security meetings of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program; and of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials involving Transportation Security and Emergency Management.