

“(f) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Apr. 5, 2000], the Attorney General shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on whether or not the Attorney General intends to establish the program authorized by this section.”

DEVELOPMENT OF AVIATION SECURITY LIAISON
AGREEMENT

Pub. L. 104-264, title III, §309, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3253, provided that: “The Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall enter into an interagency agreement providing for the establishment of an aviation security liaison at existing appropriate Federal agencies’ field offices in or near cities served by a designated high-risk airport.”

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS IN PUB. L. 107-71

For definitions of terms used in sections 104, 106(b), (e), 117, 121, 128, and 132(a) of Pub. L. 107-71, set out above, see section 133 of Pub. L. 107-71, set out as a note under section 40102 of this title.

§ 44904. Domestic air transportation system security

(a) ASSESSING THREATS.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation jointly shall assess current and potential threats to the domestic air transportation system. The assessment shall include consideration of the extent to which there are individuals with the capability and intent to carry out terrorist or related unlawful acts against that system and the ways in which those individuals might carry out those acts. The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Director jointly shall decide on and carry out the most effective method for continuous analysis and monitoring of security threats to that system.

(b) ASSESSING SECURITY.—In coordination with the Director, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall carry out periodic threat and vulnerability assessments on security at each airport that is part of the domestic air transportation system. Each assessment shall include consideration of—

- (1) the adequacy of security procedures related to the handling and transportation of checked baggage and cargo;
- (2) space requirements for security personnel and equipment;
- (3) separation of screened and unscreened passengers, baggage, and cargo;
- (4) separation of the controlled and uncontrolled areas of airport facilities; and
- (5) coordination of the activities of security personnel of the Transportation Security Administration, the United States Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and air carriers, and of other law enforcement personnel.

(c) MODAL SECURITY PLAN FOR AVIATION.—In addition to the requirements set forth in subparagraphs (B) through (F) of section 114(s)(3), the modal security plan for aviation prepared under section 114(s) shall—

(1) establish a damage mitigation and recovery plan for the aviation system in the event of a terrorist attack; and

(2) include a threat matrix document that outlines each threat to the United States civil aviation system and the corresponding layers of security in place to address such threat.

(d) OPERATIONAL CRITERIA.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall issue operational criteria to protect airport infrastructure and operations against the threats identified in the plans prepared under section 114(s)(1) and shall approve best practices guidelines for airport assets.

(e) IMPROVING SECURITY.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall take necessary actions to improve domestic air transportation security by correcting any deficiencies in that security discovered in the assessments, analyses, and monitoring carried out under this section.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1207; Pub. L. 107-71, title I, §101(f)(1), (7), (9), Nov. 19, 2001, 115 Stat. 603; Pub. L. 108-458, title IV, §4001(b), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3712; Pub. L. 115-254, div. K, title I, §1991(d)(4), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3632.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
44904(a)	49 App.:1357 (note).	Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101-604, §106(a), (b), 104 Stat. 3075.
44904(b)	49 App.:1357 (note).	Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101-604, §106(c), 104 Stat. 3075.
44904(c)	49 App.:1357 (note).	Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101-604, §106(e), 104 Stat. 3075.

In subsection (a), the words “domestic air transportation system” are substituted for “domestic aviation system” for consistency in this section.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the word “Director” is substituted for “Federal Bureau of Investigation” because of 28:532. In clauses (1) and (3), the word “mail” is omitted as being included in “cargo”.

In subsection (c), the word “correcting” is substituted for “remedying” for clarity.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(D), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(A), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary of Transportation for Security” in first sentence.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(B), substituted “section 114(s)(3)” for “section 114(t)(3)” and “section 114(s)” for “section 114(t)” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-254, §1991(d)(4)(C), substituted “The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Not later than 90 days after the date of the submission of the National Strategy for Transportation Security under section 114(t)(4)(A), the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration)” and “section 114(s)(1)” for “section 114(t)(1)”.

2004—Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 108-458 added subsecs. (c) and (d) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (e).

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(7), (9), substituted “Under Secretary” for “Administrator” in two places and “of Transportation for Security” for “of the Federal Aviation Administration”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(7), substituted "Under Secretary" for "Administrator" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(1), substituted "the Transportation Security Administration" for "the Administration".

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-71, §101(f)(7), substituted "Under Secretary" for "Administrator".

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107-296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114-125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

REGULAR JOINT THREAT ASSESSMENTS

Pub. L. 104-264, title III, §310, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3253, provided that: "The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall carry out joint threat and vulnerability assessments on security every 3 years, or more frequently, as necessary, at each airport determined to be high risk."

§ 44905. Information about threats to civil aviation

(a) PROVIDING INFORMATION.—Under guidelines the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration prescribes, an air carrier, airport operator, ticket agent, or individual employed by an air carrier, airport operator, or ticket agent, receiving information (except a communication directed by the United States Government) about a threat to civil aviation shall provide the information promptly to the Administrator.

(b) FLIGHT CANCELLATION.—If a decision is made that a particular threat cannot be addressed in a way adequate to ensure, to the extent feasible, the safety of passengers and crew of a particular flight or series of flights, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall cancel the flight or series of flights.

(c) GUIDELINES ON PUBLIC NOTICE.—(1) The President shall develop guidelines for ensuring that public notice is provided in appropriate cases about threats to civil aviation. The guidelines shall identify officials responsible for—

- (A) deciding, on a case-by-case basis, if public notice of a threat is in the best interest of the United States and the traveling public;
- (B) ensuring that public notice is provided in a timely and effective way, including the use of a toll-free telephone number; and

(C) canceling the departure of a flight or series of flights under subsection (b) of this section.

(2) The guidelines shall provide for consideration of—

- (A) the specificity of the threat;
- (B) the credibility of intelligence information related to the threat;
- (C) the ability to counter the threat effectively;
- (D) the protection of intelligence information sources and methods;
- (E) cancellation, by an air carrier or the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, of a flight or series of flights instead of public notice;
- (F) the ability of passengers and crew to take steps to reduce the risk to their safety after receiving public notice of a threat; and
- (G) other factors the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration considers appropriate.

(d) GUIDELINES ON NOTICE TO CREWS.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop guidelines for ensuring that notice in appropriate cases of threats to the security of an air carrier flight is provided to the flight crew and cabin crew of that flight.

(e) LIMITATION ON NOTICE TO SELECTIVE TRAVELERS.—Notice of a threat to civil aviation may be provided to selective potential travelers only if the threat applies only to those travelers.

(f) RESTRICTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—In cooperation with the departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government that collect, receive, and analyze intelligence information related to aviation security, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop procedures to minimize the number of individuals who have access to information about threats. However, a restriction on access to that information may be imposed only if the restriction does not diminish the ability of the Government to carry out its duties and powers related to aviation security effectively, including providing notice to the public and flight and cabin crews under this section.

(g) DISTRIBUTION OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines developed under this section shall be distributed for use by appropriate officials of the Department of Transportation, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and air carriers.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1207; Pub. L. 107-71, title I, §101(f)(7), (9), Nov. 19, 2001, 115 Stat. 603; Pub. L. 115-254, div. K, title I, §1991(d)(5), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3632.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
44905(a)	49 App.:1358d(a).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, 72 Stat. 731, §321; added Nov. 16, 1990, Pub. L. 101-604, §109(a), 104 Stat. 3078.
44905(b)	49 App.:1358d(b).	
44905(c)(1) ..	49 App.:1358d(c)(1), (d).	
44905(c)(2) ..	49 App.:1358d(e).	
44905(d)	49 App.:1358d(c)(2).	
44905(e)	49 App.:1358d(f).	
44905(f)	49 App.:1358d(h).	