

Behavioural Detection as a Security Measure

One of aviation security's main challenges is to adapt to new threats and develop new methods to mitigate them. There is a wide consensus on the need for risk-based security measures. In this context, new methods ideally focus on dangerous people instead of focusing on dangerous objects regardless of who carries them. One promising technique is Behavioural Detection, a method which works in addition to existing aviation security measures. It uses trained analysts in the airport environment to identify individuals who may represent a threat. It focuses exclusively on a person's intent and is independent of any new product emerging as a threat to aviation security.

BACKGROUND

Over the last decades, States have developed an array of security procedures to prevent acts of unlawful interference against civil aviation. Likewise, new technologies have emerged, such as new generation metal detectors and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) equipment. However, these systems remain very costly and time-consuming when applied to *all* passengers. Some of the most efficient methods are actually applied to only a selection of persons, usually selected on a random basis. Alongside such selection, it is also possible to apply a system based on analyzing behaviour to categorize passengers. This allows baseline measures to be applied to some passengers, and additional measures to others.

THE TECHNIQUE

Behavioural Detection exclusively concentrates on the observation of specific suspicious behaviour which may indicate a possible threat. The technique is based on the premise that individuals attempting to evade security measures typically display signs of suspicious behaviour compared to the behaviour of the legitimate travelling population. The technique can disrupt and deter activities that are either precursors to attack (e.g. hostile reconnaissance or dry runs), or actual attacks on aircraft or airport.



Behavioural Detection can take various forms and be applied at various levels. It can include overt and covert techniques, as well as engaging passengers in short conversations to resolve concerns. The technique can be performed by dedicated Behavioural Detection officers, or by selected airport or airline personnel who are properly trained to interact with passengers in such a manner.

Behavioural Detection techniques are already implemented successfully worldwide, for example by police forces, and customs and immigration officers. In a number of States, they are also fully integrated into the airport security chain.

ADVANTAGES / BENEFITS

Some advantages of the techniques include:

- Identification of bad people and bad intent
- Proactiveness rather than reactiveness
- Emphasis on risk-based philosophy
- Enhancement of the unpredictability aspect of security measures
- "Out of the box" thinking and observations
- Efficiency and performance improvement of the security checkpoint
- Introduction of a more direct involvement by security staff, which has proven to enhance motivation

IMPORTANT ASPECTS

As with all new security measures, there are many important aspects to consider with the implementation of Behavioural Detection techniques. In particular:

- Terrorists and other individuals representing a threat can come from a variety of backgrounds. They can be of any nationality, age, sex, race, religion and social background, and can even be fully integrated into the communities they live in. Behavioural Detection therefore does not involve any sort of discrimination and only targets behaviour.
- Behavioural Detection requires psychological skills, attention to details, good social interaction and appropriate personality and mindset. Personnel involved in Behavioural Detection are usually selected using stringent selection procedures, trained to a high standard and accredited by the appropriate Authority. Their competency and motivation is normally assessed regularly, ideally with re-current/refresher training. As they are part of the security chain, personnel involved in Behavioural Detection are also given a certain level of security clearance.
- Behavioural Detection is a risk-based philosophy where security measures are directed to where they are most needed. Therefore, implementation of Behavioural Detection ideally aims at a more efficient allocation of existing security resources, contrary to requiring more of them.

CONCLUSION

Behavioural Detection is an innovative and proactive approach to aviation security which has a lot of potential. Provided the above considerations are taken into account, the implementation of this new and promising technique could be an integral part of the aviation security chain.



©2016 The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations

IFALPA provides this data for information only, in all cases pilots should follow their company's guidance and procedures. In the interests of flight safety, reproduction of this publication in whole or in part is encouraged. It may not be offered of sale or used commercially.

All reprints must credit IFALPA.