

December 28, 2010

The TSA developed the Screening Partnership Program, or SPP, to meet mandates outlined in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 (ATSA). Congress mandated SPP to provide airports a viable option to federally provided services in order for airports to benefit from private-sector expertise, best business practices and innovation. Airports work in tandem with the TSA to hire a qualified private screening company to provide these services under federal oversight. There are currently 16 airports participating in SPP and it is available to all commercial airports at no cost or liability to participating airports.

The program is based on the operational experience gained from a pilot program known as PP5, which launched at five different airports, of all categories, across the nation. Using key lessons learned, private sector know-how, stakeholder input and direction from Federal Security Directors, the TSA further improved this vital Program before allowing all airports to participate. Since November 19, 2004 all airport authorities are eligible under SPP to submit an application to the TSA to utilize private contract screeners. The TSA provides regulatory oversight and manages the use of private vendors to perform the screening of passengers and baggage at airports participating in the Program.

SPP ensures a transition process that is fair, cost-effective and operationally seamless. All TSA security mandates and services are managed and provided for by the private screening company under the oversight of the TSA.

Frequently asked questions:

What liability is incurred by a SPP airport? An airport is not liable per Section 44920 of title 49, United States Code; amended by adding at the end the following language: (g) Operator of Airport – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an operator of an airport shall not be liable for any claims for damages filed in State of Federal court (including a claim for compensatory, punitive, contributory, or indemnity damages).



Liability limitations are controlled by the SAFETY Act. Covenant Aviation Security and all private vendors operating under the provisions of the Program are SAFETY Act certified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

What costs are incurred by the airport? None. All funding for SPP comes from the same budget line items as Federal screening operations and are borne by the TSA as authorized by Congress. There is no cost for services or equipment borne by the participating airport.

What happens to the incumbent workforce? The TSA and private security companies believe it is in everyone's best interest to leverage the experience of the current work force, both for security and cost effectiveness. All qualified incumbent workers will be offered priority employment with the private contractor. There are also measures to facilitate movement to either TSA or other



federal positions. In a recent TSA study, outlined on their website, wages and benefits at SPP airports were found to meet and or exceed those at federal airports.

What are the benefits of SPP? SPP offers airports the immediate responsiveness and innovation available to the private sector where federal protocol and bureaucratic processes can often logjam flexibility by the TSA. Private security companies can immediately address specific needs of the airport or its stakeholders. Through innovative staffing, progressive discipline and best business practices a private company can aggressively address any operational, personnel or performance concerns. Issues of absenteeism, poor customer service, inadequate staffing, and inflexibility have been nonissues for the private sector.

How can an airport apply? The application process is simple; the form is available by contacting us or on the TSA's SPP website link at <http://www.tsa.gov>. The application is three pages of general airport information and can be submitted via facsimile, electronic or postal mail.

The Screening Partnership Program is an important and viable option available to your airport. Participating airports are the strongest testimony to its benefits and effectiveness. Please contact any of our airport partners or us for further information and examples of our commitment to effective, customer service focused vigilant security.

Covenant Aviation Security is committed to supporting the TSA and its privatization Program. We are available to answer any questions, present informational briefings or visit with you regarding your airport's interest in SPP. Please feel free to contact me at any time for clarification, questions or further details about Covenant Aviation Security, our services and commitment to aviation security. With great appreciation, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Berry", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Brett S. Berry
Director, Business Services
Covenant Aviation Security