



**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration**

September 8, 2003

Advisory -- Security Information for General Aviation Pilots/Airports

EXPIRATION: December 5, 2003

The following Department of Homeland Security Advisory information is forwarded for your consideration.

The Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration continue to monitor reports on potential terrorist threats in the United States. Based on a recent interagency review of available information, we remain concerned about Al-Qaeda's continued efforts to plan multiple attacks against the United States. These attacks may involve aviation. However, at this time, we have no specific information on individual targets or dates for potential attacks.

Arrests over the past several months of key Al-Qaeda operatives around the world may have delayed or disrupted some plans. We do know, however, that operatives still at large view attacks on US territory as a priority. Therefore, the aviation community is encouraged to continue the same level of vigilance in following security procedures.

TSA wants to remind general aviation aircraft and airport operators to review the security measures contained in the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's [Airport Watch Program](#) materials. These may be accessed at www.aopa.org/airportwatch.

In addition, general aviation aircraft and airport operators are encouraged to consider the following:

- Secure unattended aircraft to prevent unauthorized use.
- Verify the identification of crew and passengers prior to departure.
- Verify that baggage and cargo are known to the persons on board.
- Where identification systems are in place, encourage employees to wear proper identification and challenge persons not wearing proper identification.
- Direct increased vigilance to unknown pilots and/or clients for aircraft or helicopter rental or charters – as well as unknown service/delivery personnel.
- Be alert to aircraft with unusual or unauthorized modifications.
- Be aware/alert of persons loitering in the vicinity of aircraft or air operations areas – as well as persons loading unusual or unauthorized payload onto aircraft.
- Be aware/alert of persons who appear to be under stress or the control of other persons.
- Be aware/alert of persons whose identification appears altered or inconsistent.

Persons should report suspicious activity immediately to local law enforcement and the TSA General Aviation Hotline at 866-GASECUR (866-427-3287).