Advisory -- Security Information for General Aviation Pilots/Airports

The following general information is being generated in conjunction with a Department of Homeland Security Advisory that was issued on September 8, 2003.

In the wake of the recent terrorist bombings overseas, the Department of Homeland Security continues to receive and evaluate reports of possible terrorist attacks which continue to flow into the U.S. Government at a high rate. These significant terrorist related activities have created an atmosphere in which increased vigilance is prudent and may be key to deterring or disrupting terrorist attacks against U.S. interests at home and abroad.

This Advisory is intended to raise the security awareness of recipients based on recent terrorist attacks overseas and information suggesting Al-Qaeda continues to plan attacks against U.S. targets. 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.

Recipients are also encouraged to review the recommendations in the September 8, 2003, advisory. In addition to the recommendations contained in the September advisory, DHS is recommending that general aviation aircraft and airport operators consider the following measures:

- Passenger-Carrying General Aviation
  - Verify identity of all individuals allowed near or on aircraft
  - Search all aircraft prior to loading of cargo to ensure no unauthorized persons are on board
  - 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.
- All-Cargo General Aviation
  - Verify identity of all individuals allowed near or on aircraft
  - Search all aircraft prior to loading of cargo to ensure no unauthorized persons are on board
  - Do not transport persons not required for the safe operations of the flight
  - Search all cargo capable of concealing individuals—pay particular attention to cargo that has unusual holes or openings that may have been installed to allow free flow of air,
  - 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.

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