

Contact: Jay Farrar 202-775-3141 (jfarrar@csis.org)
Mark Schoeff Jr. 202-775-3242 (mschoeff@csis.org)

CSIS PUTS AVIATION SECURITY ARTICLE IN CONTEXT Topic Studied as Part of Larger Homeland Security Effort

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26, 2004--An article in the August 26, 2004, edition of the *Boston Globe* that suggests that the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is scheduled to release soon a report on aviation security that has reached conclusions regarding the general aviation industry is incorrect.

CSIS has a number of efforts underway in the homeland security arena, including examining transportation systems. However, CSIS has not yet drawn any conclusions regarding the current vulnerability of, or recommendations to benefit, the entire transportation industry or general aviation in particular.

In addition, personal statements made before a study's completion -- including by CSIS staff or associates and, particularly, those that, in this case, do not place into context the full range of threats against the transportation system of the United States -- cannot be fully representative of the final conclusions of a CSIS study report.

"As a result, the *Globe* article is incomplete and does not take into account a broad range of findings that are still under development," said Jay Farrar, CSIS vice president for external relations. "We are not faulting the *Globe* reporter. We simply want to put the article into the appropriate context."

Over the past few years, CSIS has examined a broad range of issues in the area of homeland security. All forms of transportation have been examined, and in fact continue to be examined, as part of our work on homeland security. Among those issues are transportation methods, including ocean shipping, overland vehicles, rail, scheduled airlines and cargo aircraft, and general aviation assets. CSIS study methodology always looks at the full spectrum of possible scenarios in order to assess the range of probable outcomes and policy responses.

In 2002, CSIS conducted a threat scenario exercise called SILENT VECTOR that examined the policy fault-lines in countering a terrorist attack that made use of transportation assets. It was posited along the track that credible but imprecise intelligence reporting indicated a transportation-based terrorist threat against energy infrastructure in the United States.

CSIS work in the transportation area of homeland security is ongoing, and the Center will release reports as and when final conclusions are reached.

CSIS is an independent, nonpartisan policy research organization.