Strategic Aviation and Airport Security Operations Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Boston

7500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global aviation industry operates within a complex and ever-evolving threat landscape, demanding a proactive and strategic approach to security management. This course provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and mastering the intricacies of modern aviation and airport security operations. Moving beyond mere regulatory compliance, the program delves into the strategic implementation of robust security systems, risk management protocols, and crisis response mechanisms. In line with the principles discussed by experts like Andrew R. Thomas in his work "Aviation Security: A Primer," this training emphasizes the integration of technology, intelligence, and human factors to create a resilient security posture. Participants will explore everything from international regulatory frameworks, such as ICAO Annex 17, to the practical challenges of managing passenger screening, cargo security, and insider threats. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this course to empower security professionals with the foresight and leadership skills necessary to protect critical aviation infrastructure, ensure passenger safety, and maintain operational continuity in the face of emerging challenges like cybersecurity and drone incursions. This is an A-to-Z journey into the world of aviation security leadership.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airport Security Managers and Supervisors.
- Airline Security Directors and Personnel.
- Civil Aviation Authority Officials and Regulators.
- Law Enforcement and Border Control Agents assigned to airports.
- Airport Operations and General Management Staff.
- Security Consultants specializing in aviation.
- Intelligence Analysts focused on transportation security.
- Emergency and Crisis Management Planners.
- Cargo and Freight Forwarding Security Managers.
- Corporate Security Managers of airport-based companies.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Aviation and Aerospace.
- Airports and Air Traffic Control.
- Commercial and Cargo Airlines.
- Transportation and Logistics.
- Private and Corporate Security Services.
- Governmental bodies, including Ministries of Interior, Defense, and Transportation.
- Travel and Tourism.
- Critical Infrastructure Protection.
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Security and Asset Protection.
- Operations Management.
- Risk Management and Compliance.
- Emergency Response and Crisis Management.
- Corporate Safety and Security.
- Regulatory Affairs.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Security.
- Information Security and IT.
- Human Resources (for insider threat programs).
- Facilities and Infrastructure Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive Security Management System (SeMS).
- Analyze and interpret international and national aviation security regulations.
- Conduct thorough threat assessments and risk analyses for airport environments.
- Master the principles of passenger and baggage screening technologies and procedures.

- Design effective access control and perimeter security strategies.
- Manage and mitigate insider threats through robust internal controls.
- Formulate and execute effective airport emergency and crisis response plans.
- Evaluate and integrate new security technologies, including biometrics and AI.
- Strengthen cargo and mail security protocols against illicit activities.
- Foster a positive security culture throughout the airport organization.
- Address emerging threats such as cybersecurity and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).
- Prepare for and manage security audits and regulatory inspections.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and directly applicable to the professional challenges faced by participants. This course moves beyond traditional lecture-based learning by integrating a dynamic blend of expert-led presentations, in-depth case study analyses of real-world aviation security incidents, and collaborative group workshops. Participants will engage in practical exercises, such as developing a risk mitigation plan for a hypothetical airport scenario or designing a security checkpoint layout to optimize flow and effectiveness. Interactive sessions will encourage debate and knowledge sharing, allowing attendees to learn from the diverse experiences of their peers. The curriculum incorporates simulation exercises to test decision-making skills under pressure in a controlled environment. Continuous feedback from the instructor ensures that learning is reinforced and that complex concepts are fully understood. This hands-on, problem-solving approach guarantees that participants leave not just with theoretical knowledge, but with the confidence and practical skills to implement advanced security strategies within their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of International Aviation Security

- The historical context of aviation security threats.
- International regulatory frameworks: ICAO, Annex 17, and security manuals.
- National civil aviation security programs (NCASP).
- The roles and responsibilities of states, airports, and airlines.
- Understanding the principles of a Security Management System (SeMS).
- Legal aspects and compliance in aviation security.
- Human factors and the importance of a positive security culture.

Unit Two Threat Assessment and Risk Management

- Principles of threat identification and intelligence analysis.
- Conducting comprehensive airport security risk assessments.
- Passenger profiling and behavioral detection techniques.
- Methodologies for mitigating risks to an acceptable level.
- Understanding the nature of insider threats and prevention programs.
- Terrorist tactics, techniques, and procedures in the aviation context.
- Information sharing and collaboration with national security agencies.

Unit Three Airport Security Operations and Control

- Mastering landside, terminal, and airside security principles.
- Advanced access control systems and perimeter intrusion detection.
- Management of security screening checkpoints for passengers and cabin baggage.
- Technology in screening: X-ray, Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT), and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD).
- Procedures for hold baggage screening and reconciliation.
- Security measures for catering, cargo, and airport supplies.
- Patrolling, surveillance, and incident response protocols.

Unit Four Specialized Security and Emergency Response

- Developing and implementing a robust airport cargo security program.
- Strategies for managing unruly passengers and air rage incidents.
- Introduction to aviation cybersecurity threats and countermeasures.
- Protecting critical information and communication technology systems.
- Developing the Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) for security incidents.
- Crisis management, communication, and media relations during a security event.
- Post-incident analysis and organizational learning.

Unit Five Future of Aviation Security and Leadership

- Leading and managing an effective airport security team.
- Quality control, audits, and performance monitoring in security operations.
- The impact of emerging technologies: AI, biometrics, and data analytics.
- Countering the threat of Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones).
- Balancing security effectiveness with passenger facilitation and customer experience.
- Building effective public-private partnerships in airport security.
- Capstone exercise: Developing a strategic security plan for a major international airport.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

In an era of rapidly advancing technology and asymmetric threats, how can airport security leaders balance stringent security protocols with the need for a seamless and positive passenger experience?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a strategic leadership perspective on aviation security, moving beyond the standard operational and compliance-focused training. While other programs may concentrate on procedural adherence, this curriculum is built around the core challenge of developing foresight and strategic decision-making capabilities. It uniquely integrates modules on emerging threats like cybersecurity and drone incursions with advanced concepts in risk management and crisis leadership. The content is deeply rooted in the analysis of complex, real-world case studies, forcing participants to grapple with the nuances of balancing stringent security with operational efficiency and passenger facilitation. Furthermore, the course places a significant emphasis on the human element, exploring how to cultivate a resilient security culture and mitigate insider threats—topics often treated superficially elsewhere. By focusing on the "why" behind the "what," it equips leaders not just to manage current security protocols, but to anticipate future challenges, innovate security solutions, and build a truly proactive and intelligent security ecosystem for their organization.