Surface Operations

Structured Oversight Programs

Transportation Security Administration







Follow your company guidelines for reporting emergency or security related incidents.

If applicable, report non-emergency suspicious activity to TSA at 1-844-TSA-FRST (1-844-872-3778).

First Observer Plus™ is a transportation security awareness program administered by TSA.

Additional information available at tsa.gov/firstobserver

FIRST OBSERVER PLUS™

tsa.gov



First Observer Plus™

Safeguarding America's Surface Transportation Systems

Surface Structured Oversight Programs

Assessment Based

- Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement (BASE)
- Exercise Information System (EXIS)
- Security Enhancement Through Assessment (SETA)

Training Based

- Risk Mitigation Activities for Surface Transportation (RMAST) and First Observer Plus



Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement

- Free and voluntary program
- Comprehensive security assessment
  - 4 General Areas:
    - Management and Accountability
    - Personnel Security
    - Vehicle Security
    - Facility Security
  - General Areas divided into 20 Security Action Item (SAI) categories
  - SAI categories divided into 100 specific security line elements/questions
    - Questions developed from industry standards and security best practices with input provided from industry stakeholders
- Foundation for all TSA Surface Security Outreach Programs



Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement

- Supports DHS goals to:
  1. **ESTABLISH** a baseline of the surface transportation stakeholder's internal security processes, procedures and policies against industry standards and security best practices.
  2. **IDENTIFY** security program strengths and weaknesses.
  3. **ELEVATE** the surface transportation stakeholder's overall security environment through development of corrective action recommendations to mitigate any security program weaknesses detected during the review.
  4. **ENHANCE** security partnership between TSA and surface transportation stakeholders through ongoing engagement.

- Results provided through an Executive Summary Report
  - Provides non-legally binding corrective action recommendations that may increase the surface transportation stakeholder's overall security posture

Exercise Information System

- Free and voluntary program
- Prepares a surface transportation stakeholder to effectively respond to security incidents
- Discussion-based exercises
- Multi-agency
- Security measures:
  - Prevention
  - Protection
  - Mitigation
  - Response
  - Recovery



Exercise Information System

- EXIS Workshop
  - Small group (8 – 10 participants)
  - Single scenario
- Exis Tabletop
  - Large group (15 – 20 participants)
  - Multi-scenario



Security Enhancement Through Assessment

- Free and voluntary program
- Collaboration between TSA and a surface transportation stakeholder
- Evaluates and improves vehicle inspection procedures
  - Pre-Trip Inspection
  - In-Service Inspection
  - Post-Trip Inspection
- Tactical level assessment
  - Covert placement of unattended bags on multiple vehicles simultaneously





Security Enhancement Through Assessment

- Phase I: Identify and Assess
  - Identify vulnerability
  - Initial assessment to establish a security baseline
- Phase II: Mitigate
  - TSA-provided security briefings/trainings to frontline employees
- Phase III: Reassess and Sustain
  - Follow-up assessment measuring programmatic changes in security posture
  - Sustainment plan to maintain an increased level of security



Risk Mitigation Activities for Surface Transportation

- Free and voluntary program
- Assists surface transportation stakeholders in mitigating risks identified through participation in other TSA programs, such as BASE
- Provides tools to respond to current threats and vulnerabilities



Risk Mitigation Activities for Surface Transportation

- Stakeholder Engagement:
  - Formal Training
    - General Security Awareness
    - Explosive Hazard Recognition and Safety Awareness
  - Familiarization Briefings
    - TSA Highway and Motor Carrier Modal Intelligence Briefing
    - Vehicle Security Inspections
    - Recognizing and Responding to Unattended and Suspicious Items
    - Identifying and Responding to Suspicious Behavior
  - Security Resources
    - Counterterrorism Guide

Surface Structured Oversight Programs

Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement (BASE)

- **Strategic Level**
  - Assessment of security policies and procedures

Exercise Information System (EXIS)

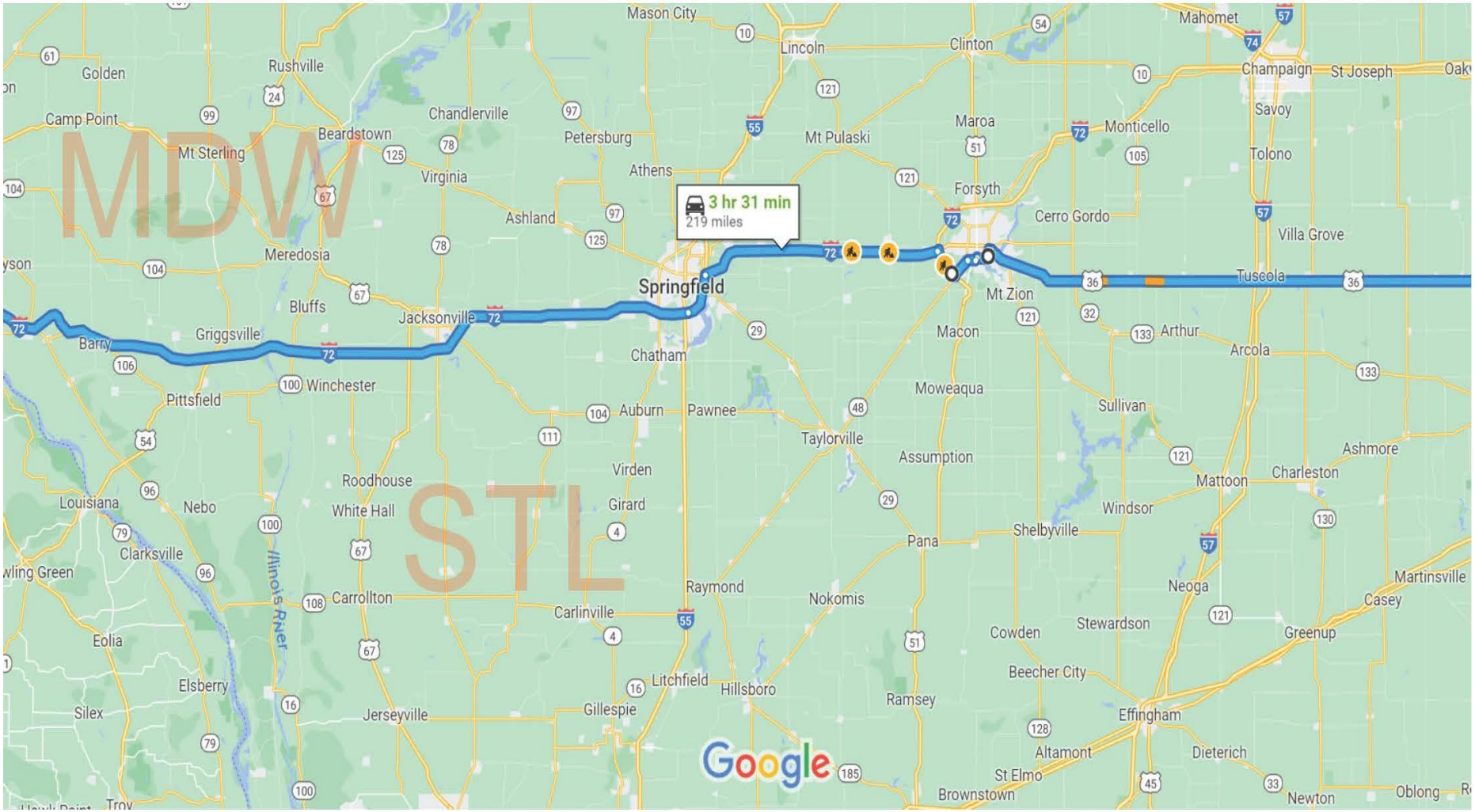
Risk Mitigation Activities for Surface Transportation (RMAST)

- **Operational Level**
  - TSI-facilitated, stakeholder-specific security tabletop exercise
  - TSA-provided security training

Security Enhancement Through Assessment (SETA)

- **Tactical Level**
  - Collaborative front line employee assessment

MAP – MDW vs STL



Transportation Security Administration

Questions

Paul Lloyd or Rich Purdom
Transportation Security Inspector
773-498-1375 / 314-656-1170
Paul.Lloyd@tsa.dhs.gov
Richard.Purdom@tsa.dhs.gov

Transportation Security Administration