Complex Operating Environment–Airports
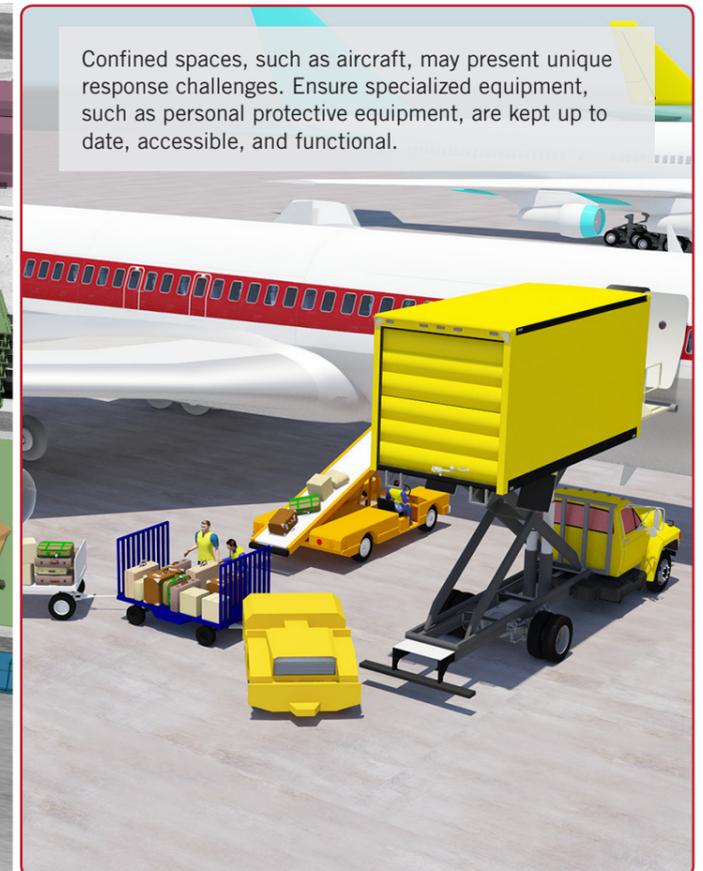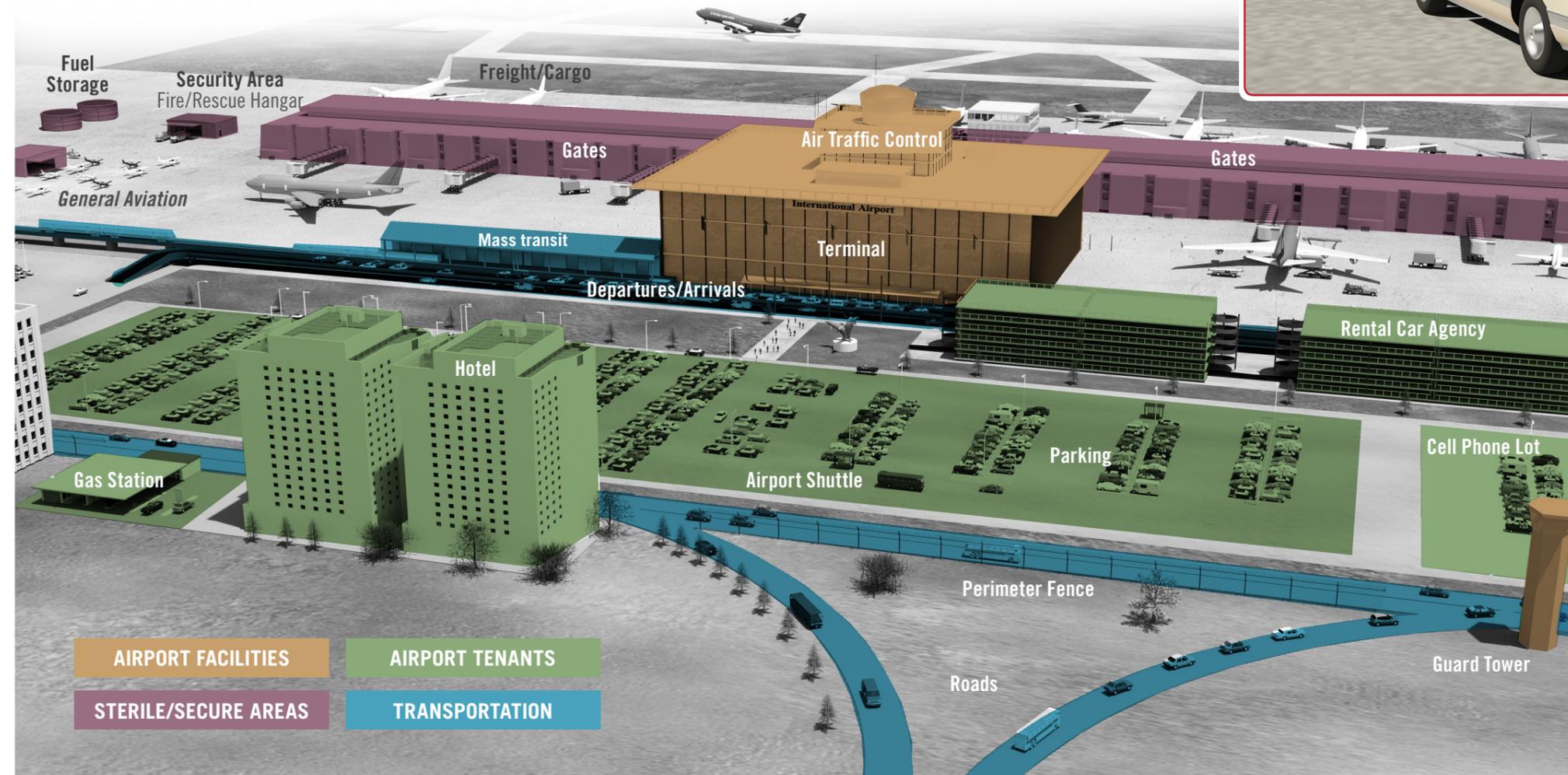
Terrorists remain interested in attacking aviation targets due to their symbolic value, garnered media attention, accessibility, and the presence of large crowds. An airport's publically accessible area represents an attractive target, and US airport attacks have involved the use of knives, guns, and explosive devices. These and more diverse weapons, including complex attack scenarios, remain a concern. As a result, this product is intended to provide awareness and security considerations for airport stakeholders, including first responders, public safety personnel, airport owners, airport operators, and security personnel, especially since airports throughout the US differ in size, physical layout, and organizational structure, creating a complex scenario during an incident response. This product is a follow-up to First Responder's Toolbox, Terrorist Threats to Airports, 21 March 2017.

In an effort to account for jurisdictional requirements and establish familiarity with each airport's individual infrastructure, first responders are encouraged to become familiar with the airport footprint, controlled access points, and security protocols, to help ensure the incident response is unified and rapid. Familiarity with infrastructure and operating and response protocols for publically accessible structures and facilities, such as parking lots, hotels, roads, ticketing, and baggage claim, is critical. Law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, airport and tenant owners/operators, hospitals, and transportation staff may play a role during incident response and as a result, should conduct full-scale and tabletop exercises, training, and information-sharing exchanges on a routine basis.

Physical security includes strict enforcement of parking restrictions and ordinances and strategically located vehicle bollards.

Confined spaces, such as aircraft, may present unique response challenges. Ensure specialized equipment, such as personal protective equipment, are kept up to date, accessible, and functional.

Fuel Storage

Security Area
Fire/Rescue Hangar

Freight/Cargo

General Aviation

Gates

Air Traffic Control

International Airport

Gates

Mass transit

Terminal

Departures/Arrivals

Hotel

Rental Car Agency

Gas Station

Airport Shuttle

Parking

Cell Phone Lot

Perimeter Fence

Guard Tower

Roads

AIRPORT FACILITIES

AIRPORT TENANTS

STERILE/SECURE AREAS

TRANSPORTATION

Complex Operating Environment–Airports *(continued)*

While each airport is unique and may require a tailored approach to its security planning and response, the following measures may help detect, deter, and respond to potential security threats or concerns. Planning, training, response, collaboration, and coordination between federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government partners, airport officials, and other private sector representatives remains a critical element to security of the airport, surrounding infrastructure or other facilities.

POTENTIAL TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

(A) **SCREENING PROCEDURES:** Officials continue to assess the security environment as terrorist tactics evolve and terrorists attempt to artfully conceal weapons or explosives in an effort to circumvent and defeat established screening measures. Concealment of items, such as baggage, or on persons allows unauthorized items to be transferred to secure areas of the airport or onto an aircraft.

(B) **PUBLIC AREAS:** Public areas outside airport-secure zones where crowds may gather, including ticket counters, baggage claim, and security checkpoints, remain easier to target than other areas beyond the secure zones. Providing training to include active shooter and defensive tactics may increase employee awareness and preparedness.

(C) **SECURITY OPERATIONS:** Communicating current threats, security challenges, and indicators of suspicious behavior to employees provides an opportunity to detect and mitigate threats.

Address specialized access. Restrict access to sterile (secure) and other sensitive areas. Routinely audit access-control records. Collect uniforms, badges (including Security Identification Display Area badges), and other credentials when an individual is no longer employed by the airport and when new uniforms, badges, or credentials are issued.

Integrate available technology to the widest extent. Incorporate closed-circuit television into the airport operations center, and use it on a routine basis to ensure operational readiness. Also consider using license plate readers at key locations, such as departures, arrivals, and parking garages, and instituting random vehicle checkpoints at key access points.

Maintain highly visible law enforcement and security officer presence, particularly in public areas of airports using static- and random-roaming patrols, including deploying K-9 units to act as a visible deterrent and to address bags, persons, and vehicles.

INFORMATION SHARING

(D) **AMENITIES:** Provide training to employees and staff, including transportation service personnel, for example, shuttle, taxi and limousine drivers; maintenance, lodging, restaurant employees; and vendors; and other tenants on recognizing and reporting behaviors that may be indicative of terrorism or other criminal activity. Training should highlight that some behaviors may be constitutionally protected, and any determination of possible illicit intent should be supported by additional facts. A behavior may be insignificant on its own, but when observed in combination with other suspicious behavior—particularly advocacy of violence—may constitute a basis

for reporting. Leveraging public/private partnerships by expanding education and awareness programs and suspicious activity reporting about new or updated processes can encourage incident reporting.

Become familiar with jurisdictional government resources through routine and regular liaison, meetings, briefings, and other information exchanges, such as the local FBI Airport Liaison Agent, TSA Field Intelligence Officer, Assistant Federal Security Director for Law Enforcement, and state and major urban area fusion centers.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTIFICATIONS

(E) **DISSEMINATION PLATFORMS:** Communicating appropriate and timely public information may require using various dissemination platforms. Consider other methods of relaying information during an incident, such as megaphones and terminal monitors.

Establish an airport-wide system to provide immediate notification across multiple platforms to key personnel throughout the airport, including management, law enforcement, security, and operations.

JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM ASSESSMENT TEAM | JCAT

PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

NAME and/or ORG:

DISCIPLINE: LE   FIRE   EMS   HEALTH   ANALYSIS   PRIVATE SECTOR   DATE:

PRODUCT TITLE:

POOR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ GREAT

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS. HOW DOES JCAT MAKE PRODUCTS BETTER?

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?