



Program Overview

First Observer Plus™ is a security awareness training program managed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to promote surface transportation security within the United States. Its mission is to increase security awareness of frontline transportation professionals by providing training to recognize suspicious activity that may be related to terrorism, to assess what they see, and methods for reporting their observations. Its message is simple: “**Observe, Assess, and Report** suspicious activities.” Just by being aware of their surroundings within the work environment, transportation professionals can be the eyes and ears to observe activities that “don’t look right.”

Through First Observer Plus™, participants receive an understanding of what may constitute a terrorist threat within their transportation work environment. The training program explores the justifications and motives offered by terrorists; identifies various stages and processes often employed in the planning and execution of a terrorist act; and teaches the participant to recognize and report potential indicators. Participants are instructed not to intervene or engage suspicious persons or items, but to follow company reporting policies, which may include contacting local law enforcement and TSA.



To obtain further information on our security programs and how we can help your organization enhance its security posture, Please contact your local TSA Representative listed below.

Contact Us

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Transportation
Security
Administration

*Protect the nation's
transportation
systems to ensure
freedom of
movement for people
and commerce.*



BASE

Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement

Modal Assessments

TSA has five assessments based on mode of transportation:

- Mass Transit**
 - Large System
 - Small System
- Highway Motor Carrier**
 - Motor Coach
 - Trucking
 - School Bus

TSA's **Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement (BASE)** is a no-cost, voluntary, risk-based program that evaluates the security posture of **200+ surface transportation systems** annually. BASE aids Mass Transit and Highway Motor Carrier systems in elevating their security posture by implementing and sustaining baseline security measures applicable to their operating environments and specific system characteristics.

Industry Focus

- Developed the BASE in partnership with:**
 - An Industry Working Group
 - The Department of Transportation
- Designed by Industry for Industry:**
 - SAI questions incorporate industry stakeholder feedback and best practices from MT and HMC organizations of all sizes.

SETA

Security Enhancement Through Assessment


Phase I 

Identify

TSA Inspectors and the participating stakeholder will jointly discuss and decide which vulnerability fits within the SETA assessment capabilities.

Assessment


TSA inspectors conduct the initial assessment in collaboration with the stakeholder, establishing a security baseline. Following the completion of Phase I, inspectors will provide a debriefing to discuss the results of the assessment.

Phase II 

Mitigate

TSA Inspectors will provide frontline employees with security briefings or security training. The options will be tailored to the stakeholder, focusing directly on the area that was assessed.

Phase II is recommended to be completed within 30 to 60 days from the completion of Phase I.

Phase III 

Reassessment

TSA inspectors conduct a follow-up assessment, measuring programmatic changes in security posture.

Sustain

TSA and the stakeholder will jointly establish a sustainment plan to maintain an increased level of security.

Phase III is recommended to be completed within 30 to 60 days from the completion of Phase II.

EXIS

Exercise Information System

Eligible Candidates

The EXIS program can be conducted within all modes of surface transportation.

- Freight**
 - Freight Rail
 - Shipper/Receiver
 - Trucking
- Passenger**
 - Passenger Rail
 - Mass Transit
 - Motor Coach
 - Pupil Transportation
- Maritime**
 - Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) facilities
- Infrastructure**
 - Pipeline
 - Bridge
 - Tunnel

TSA's **Exercise Information System (EXIS)** program is a no-cost, voluntary program that is designed to prepare a surface transportation stakeholder to effectively respond to security incidents. Through a practical exercise, EXIS examines a stakeholder's implementation of security measures, focusing on the mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery.

EXIS Timeline

1. TSA Inspectors meet with stakeholder to discuss the exercise.
2. EXIS Exercise or Workshop date is agreed upon between TSA Inspectors, the stakeholder, and TSA Headquarters.
3. TSA Inspectors conduct the EXIS Exercise or Workshop
4. EXIS After Action Brief is presented to the stakeholder, and next steps are determined.