Amtrak Security Measures

PROTECTING AMERICA’S RAILROAD®
Amtrak is working hard to protect America’s Railroad® and improve resiliency of passenger rail across the country. Through a multi-layered approach, Amtrak uses enhanced security measures to make it harder for those who seek to do harm to our passengers, employees, equipment and facilities and ensure an efficient response to potential threats. This multi-layered approach includes deployment of Amtrak Police Department officers and intelligence gathering activities; protection of critical rail assets through targeted access control and infrastructure protection measures; security awareness, training, and exercises; consistent engagement with first responders and transit partners; and security program planning rooted in risk management principles to ensure effective implementation of mitigation strategies. These efforts are led collaboratively by the Amtrak Emergency and the Amtrak Police Department (APD) with involvement of leadership and each department across Amtrak.

AMTRAK ENVIRONMENT
Because of advantages such as easy access, convenient locations and intermodal connections, rail and mass transit systems are completely different from the structure and organization of the airline transportation and airport industry. As a result, the security framework that works in the airport setting is not easily transferable to the rail station system.

Additionally, the vastness of the Amtrak passenger rail system, spanning the entire country, adds another layer of openness not seen in other passenger systems. To mitigate the vulnerabilities associated with this unique type of an open environment, Amtrak consistently evaluates its security measures, as well as industry standards and best practices, to employ security solutions that are effective in mitigating these vulnerabilities.

AMTRAK POLICE
- Patrol Officers fulfill traditional policing functions. Their job is to act as a deterrent to crime in the stations, on trains, in and around Amtrak facilities, and out on the railroad right-of-way by enforcing laws, conducting follow-up investigations, and providing support at stations, on board trains, and during special events such as the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, NATO / G-8 Summits, presidential inaugural events and large-scale sporting events. The Amtrak Police Department has also provided humanitarian aid in the aftermath of major weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and snowstorms.
- The Amtrak Police Department Detectives provide coverage to areas generally not served by major Amtrak Police field offices and may individually cover as many as five states.
- K9 explosive detection teams are a psychological and physical deterrent to potential threats from those who seek to deploy explosives. These teams are part of a collaborative interagency initiative that includes the Transportation Security Administration, federal and state Departments of Homeland Security, and state and local law enforcement agencies. Amtrak explosives detection teams are divided between standard Explosives Detection Canine (EDC) and Explosives Detection Canine with Person Screening Capability (EDC w/ PSC). Person Screening Capability detection dogs are trained to alert on a passing individual. Amtrak currently has the most K9 units in the railroad industry with vapor wake capabilities. Additionally, The Amtrak Police Department currently has two working narcotics detection K9 teams.
- The Office of Intelligence & Analysis (OI&A) is composed of a Safety and Security analytics team, six detectives, an investigator, and a counterterrorism analyst. The mission of the OI&A team is to provide accurate, timely, and relevant information and analysis to Amtrak personnel in support of decision-making and resource allocation for mitigating risks to customers and employees. Personnel enhance the safety and security of the Amtrak system through data-driven analytics and the exchange of intelligence and investigative information nationwide. A counterterrorism analyst participates in the FBI’s National Joint Terrorism Task Force and coordinates with federal partners to inform reporting on the threat.
environment. Four of the unit’s detectives and an investigator are assigned to FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and Boston. Two detectives are responsible for major crimes, VIP ridership coordination, the Field Intelligence Officer program, and liaison with nationwide fusion centers.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
Amtrak has developed strong partnerships with local, state, federal, and private sector organizations and international emergency management and law enforcement agencies as well as with transit and commuter rail agencies and the host freight railroads on whose tracks many Amtrak trains operate. The APD actively participates in FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces to share intelligence and conduct joint security exercises. The Amtrak Emergency Management department focuses on how to mitigate the impact of natural, man-made and technological hazards through planning, public awareness, training, and exercise activities on how to respond safely to an incident involving passenger rail. These programs are implemented through partnership with first responders across the United States and Canada. Emergency Management continues to improve the internal Amtrak response to an emergency through management of the Amtrak Interdepartmental Collaboration Team and maintenance of the Amtrak Emergency Operations Plan.

Through the Amtrak EM Situation Unit, Amtrak maintains a real time exchange of valuable information with Federal, state, local, tribal, international, and private sector organizations pertaining to activities that may impact the safe and effective operation of trains across the Amtrak system. The information is shared with Amtrak operations to maximize the safety and security of our passengers and employees.

SECURITY TRAINING FOR FRONTLINE EMPLOYEES
Safety and security within Amtrak is enhanced by a comprehensive training and exercise program for its employees. Training of frontline employees who work at stations, on trains, and maintain the tracks and other infrastructure is extremely robust, as they are often the first to encounter potential threats and lead initial response efforts. Thousands of employees have received training and participated in hands-on drills, allowing their extra eyes and ears to form an additional line of defense.

Additionally, there are several courses in the Amtrak Learning Center that focus on readiness and resilience, including the Emerging Incident Procedures video for front line employees which provides techniques to diffuse challenging passenger situations. Active Shooter Response eLearnings and more are available to employees across the country.

RANDOM PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE SCREENING
With due respect to passengers’ privacy, the random and unannounced screening and inspection of passengers and their personal items is completed as quickly as possible - usually in less than a minute. Passengers failing to consent to security procedures will be denied access to trains and refused carriage, and a refund will be offered.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION
Amtrak protects rail infrastructure with traditional solutions such as high security fencing, lighting, access control and video surveillance systems, it is also exploring and evaluating emerging technologies to improve security levels. Technologies being evaluated will improve upon existing security measures and operations, enhance interagency information sharing and local agency response to Amtrak incidents.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT
• Several members of the APD are assigned as a dedicated Operation Lifesaver representatives for the department. Operation Lifesaver’s mission is to end collisions, deaths, and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on rail property through a nationwide network of volunteers who work to educate people about rail safety by offering free training programs in school classrooms, to driver’s ed students, community
service and civic groups, professional bus, truck and emergency first responder drivers and others.

- Amtrak recognizes the value of our passengers as an extra set of eyes and ears and asks for your help in identifying possible safety or security concerns.

- The Amtrak Security Awareness Program is focused on developing and distributing campaign driven print and multimedia tools that educate passengers and employees on how they can play an important role in identifying suspicious activity or behavior. Print materials are developed and distributed throughout Amtrak stations. Additional materials are produced and broadcast on the Amtrak Security Awareness Network. A network of 59 monitors placed at more than 20 Amtrak stations broadcasting safety and security messaging 24/7 year-round.

- Campaigns that are distributed across the Amtrak system include “If you see Something, Say Something.” In this campaign, individuals are encouraged to report behaviors or activities that are unusual or out of the ordinary such as trespassers and suspicious packages by calling Amtrak Police at 1-800-331-0008 or 911. APD also launched “txt-a-tip,” where passengers can report suspected criminal or suspicious activity by sending a text to APD11 (27311). When a text is received, the sender will receive a message acknowledging the report, and will then be connected live to Amtrak Police Communications Officer who will correspond directly via text message with the person to learn more about the situation and determine the appropriate action.

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