



International Operations (IO) 101

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August 2025

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International Operations - *Who We Are*



- International Operations (IO) is the lead TSA office for all international bilateral cooperation and engagement.
 - While other offices at TSA have international functions, IO and the TSARs serve as the key interlocutor for all interactions with foreign governments and foreign airport authorities, as well as U.S. Embassies overseas.
- IO is comprised of four Regional Bureaus, Mitigation Operations, and Protocol and Communications.

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International Mission

Identify, Analyze, and Mitigate Risk

- IO leads TSA's efforts in assessing vulnerabilities to determine risk, evaluating risk impacts to determine mitigation activities, and executing mitigation activities to reduce risk.
- When a new threat or vulnerability emerges, TSA must coordinate with foreign governments, airlines, and international organizations to implement responses that will effectively mitigate the likelihood of a successful attack.

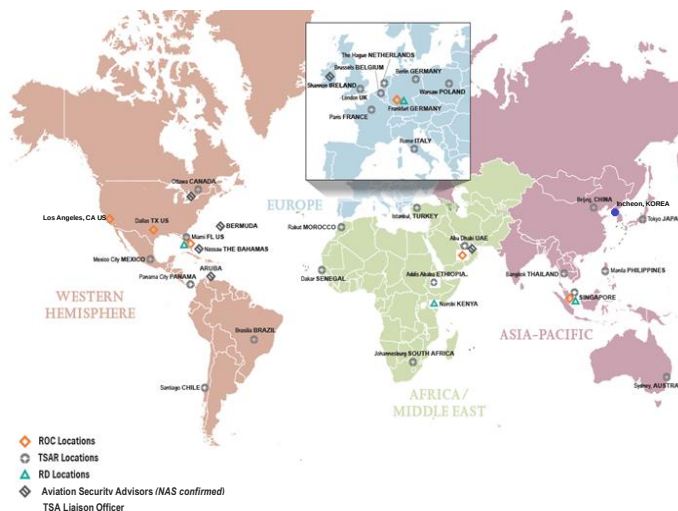


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International Operations – Regional Bureaus



IO has four Regional Bureaus:

1. Africa/Middle East,
2. Asia-Pacific,
3. Europe, and
4. Western Hemisphere.

- The Regional Bureaus (RBs) are made up of Desk Officers (DOs), Bureau Chiefs, Transportation Security Administration Representatives (TSARs), and Regional Directors (RDs).
- RBs work collaboratively with international partners, including foreign governments, foreign airport authorities, embassy officials, and U.S. Government agencies to ensure the security of the global aviation system.

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Regional Bureau Overview – TSA Representative

- The TSAR position is mandated in statute and highlights Congressional intent to have representatives abroad advocating for international transportation security issues and to reduce risk to the homeland.
- Primary TSA representative abroad and serves as a key interlocutor between all TSA program offices and international governments. Their main goal is to promote the implementation of an effective worldwide transportation security system.
- Work with their host governments to ensure the attainment of international security standards, the sharing of best practices, capacity development efforts, and the facilitation of Federal Air Marshal Service operations at foreign airports within their AOR.
- In addition to representing the TSA Administrator overseas, TSARs may have dual-hat responsibilities, requiring them to serve as the main DHS representative at an U.S. Embassy.



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Regional Bureau Overview – TSAR (continued)

TSARs:

- Serve as a principal advisor on all transportation security matters to U.S. Ambassadors and other Embassy officials.
- Are active members of the Country Team and report directly to the U.S. Ambassador at Post.
- Are the primary U.S. Government representative to foreign governments, civil aviation authorities, and airport authorities on transportation security issues.
- Handle any TSA activity that takes place in a foreign country with the host government, based on Chief of Mission (COM) Authority.



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Regional Bureau Overview - Desk

Regional Bureau Chief (RBC)

- Each Regional Bureau has a Headquarters-based Bureau Chief.
- The Bureau Chief directs Bureau priorities and manages desk officers on all matters related to transportation security within the AOR.
- Serves as the primary liaison to the IO Front Office and represents the Bureau in senior-level engagements with TSA, DHS, and U.S. Government Interagency leadership.

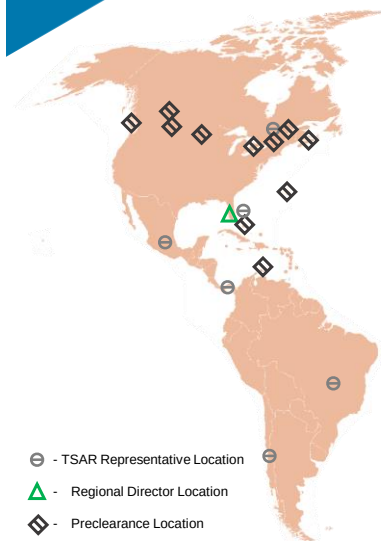
Regional Desk Officers (DO)

- Serve as the primary Headquarters liaison for TSARs and are responsible for coordinating with TSA program offices, foreign airports, federal government, and Washington-based foreign embassy contacts for issues in their AOR.
- Represent IO in working-level foreign delegation visits to TSA Headquarters where they serve as the regional expert during meetings with other TSA subject matter experts.



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Western Hemisphere Bureau



- IO Western Hemisphere (WH) area of operations comprises **44** countries and territories with **145** LPDs to the United States. **8** Preclearance locations in Canada and **3** Preclearance locations Caribbean

● - TSAR Representative Location
 ▲ - Regional Director Location
 ◆ - Preclearance Location

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Mitigation Operations – Preclearance

Preclearance:

- Joint program offered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and TSA at 14 LPD airports.
- Preclearance allows for United States (U.S.) immigration, customs, and agriculture inspection processes to occur on foreign soil prior to boarding a direct flight to the US, without further CBP processing or security screening upon arrival.
- Before Preclearance inspection, travelers undergo TSA-comparable aviation security screening by local airport aviation security personnel with TSA oversight.
- Preclearance has six Aviation Security Advisors (ASAs) assigned to PC countries – one fully deployed in country (NAS) while the others are pending permanent placement.

Canada			
Calgary (YYC)	Edmonton (YEG)	Halifax (YHZ)	Montreal (YUL)
Ottawa (YOW)	Toronto (YYZ) T1&T3	Vancouver (YVR)	Winnipeg (YWG)
Caribbean			
Aruba (AUA)	Bermuda (BDA)	Nassau (NAS)	
Ireland		United Arab Emirates	All Canadian locations and Bermuda are recognized for checked baggage under the NHFA
Dublin (DUB)	Shannon (SNN)	Abu Dhabi (AUH)	

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Mitigation Operations – One Stop Security

- TSA received temporary authority to pursue OSS pilots with up to **six** foreign last point of departure airports (LPDs) via the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2023, scheduled to expire December 2028.
- The One Stop Security pilot would allow connecting passengers and their baggage on certain international flights into the United States to be exempt from rescreening by TSA. Passengers would **still be required** to undergo customs and immigration inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- TSA solicited interest from over 100 LPD countries to pursue engagement on an OSS pilot, then narrowed the list of candidates to 13 LPDs across the globe of which **6** will be selected based on their ability to meet all OSS requirements.
- TSA is actively evaluating the locations that have submitted full OSS proposals through document review, comparability, and negotiation phases.

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Mitigation Operations – International Capacity Development Operations (ICDO)

International Capacity Development Operations (ICDO):

- The ICDO program works toward the measurable and sustainable reduction of global aviation security risk by providing aviation security assistance to international partners, primarily in the form of:
 - Traditional training;
 - General delivery workshops;
 - Technical assistance;
 - Program development;
 - Mentoring; and
 - Expert consultations.
- The program focuses on risk-based mitigation, measuring impact and sustainment, program improvement and modernization, and strategic partnerships.
- Resource identification and coordination for capacity development are done in consultation with the Transportation Security Sector Assistance (TSSA) Branch.



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