



TO: Dan Roach, Chair Pierce County Council  
FROM: Deb Wallace, Airport and Ferry Administrator  
DATE: October 28, 2014  
SUBJECT: Airport Security

The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide an update to Council on the status of security upgrades at Pierce County's airports.

**Current Situation:**

The Pierce County Airport and Ferry division is in the process of upgrading gate access, fencing, and security lighting at both airports. In 2015 the division will implement an Airport Watch program to increase the safety and security at each facility. The improvements are being made due to incidents which have occurred at the airports over the last several years and at the request of airport tenants.

Currently both airports are fenced with restricted access gates to enhance security, although there are gaps in the fencing allowing unauthorized pedestrian entry. These gaps will be addressed in early 2015. An electronic gate is being added to the north gate at Tacoma Narrows Airport (TIW) and the south gate is being outfitted with a mechanism to allow its use by those who are hearing impaired. Once that improvement is completed, 24 hour security will be implemented at TIW. Thun Field currently operates with 24 hour gate security.

Prior to implementation, the airport commissions at each airport discussed airport security measures during the preceding year and staff coordinated the implementation of the security measures with airport tenants. These discussions helped staff to decide upon the best system to implement at the airports.

**Security Incidents:**

Both airports have experienced theft and incidents of unauthorized access in recent years. In 2012, an intoxicated person using illicit drugs entered the unsecure gate at Thun Field and drove his vehicle at high speed down the complete length of the runway. This incident occurred during business hours and created significant risk to the driver as well as aircraft on the runway and taxiways. Unauthorized-entry by non-intoxicated individuals has taken place at Tacoma Narrows Airport within aircraft taxi and parking areas as well.

Over the last five years, there were 11 incidents reported at Thun Field and 27 incidents reported at Tacoma Narrows Airport. Common incidents at Thun Field were theft, vandalism, and burglary. The most frequent incident at Tacoma Narrows Airport was theft with nine reported incidents. This was in addition to seven vehicle-related theft reports. Businesses located at Tacoma Narrows Airport have reported multiple break-ins to airport and private business facilities and equipment. There were six burglary reports within the last five years at Tacoma Narrows Airport.

While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) does not require 24 hour security at non-commercial (part 139) airports, the agency does recommend implementation of security measures. Further, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) publishes Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports (IP-001) to assist airport sponsors like Pierce County in determining security enhancements that they should consider for implementation. The document contains an "Airport Characteristics Measurement Tool" that uses a point system to assess security risks for different airport characteristics. The Pierce County Airport and Ferry division utilized the assessment tool to develop a security plan for each airport as follows:

**TSA General Aviation Airport Security Assessment for Pierce County Airports**

<b>Security Characteristics</b>	<b>Tacoma Narrows Airport Existing Conditions</b>	<b>Thun Field Existing Conditions</b>
<b>Within 30 nm of mass population areas</b>	5	5
<b>Within 30 nm of a sensitive site</b>	4	4
<b>Greater than 101 Based Aircraft</b>	3	3
<b>Based Aircraft over 12,500 lbs.</b>	3	3
<b>Runway over 5,000 feet or greater</b>	5	3
<b>Asphalt or Concrete Runway</b>	1	1
<b>Over 50,000 annual aircraft operations</b>	0	4
<b>Part 135 Operations (under 9 passenger, for hire)</b>	3	3
<b>Flight Training</b>	3	3
<b>Rental Aircraft</b>	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	31	33

*Source: Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports (IP A-001); May 2004 / Tacoma Narrows Airport 2014 Draft Master Plan / Thun Field Administrator Assessment*

The GA Airport Security Assessment scores at Pierce County owned airports fall within the 25-44 point scoring range; the TSA recommends that airports with scores within that range provide the following security interventions:

- Perimeter Control
- Protective Lighting Systems
- Personnel and Vehicle Identifications Systems
- Airport Community Watch Program

**24-Hour Security Implementation:**

Creating a professional, safe, secure, and accessible business environment is critical to the success of the airport and its tenants. To ensure that airport customers and their clients have access, each electronic gate has been programmed to allow tenants direct access using a key card assigned to them. Business patrons may call the business enterprise they wish to visit directly by means of an electronic keypad. Airport business telephone numbers have been programmed into the electronic directory. Airport businesses are able to open the gate remotely using a gate code assigned to them, thus allowing their clients to gain access to the airport. To further support the operation of the security gate system, signage is posted at each gate with 24-hour Public Works and Utilities staff contact information.

If you have any questions regarding airport security, please contact Deb Wallace, Airport and Ferry Administrator, at 253-798-7109.

## Washington Airports with 24 Hour Security

### YES (annual operations)

Arlington Municipal Airport (62,119)  
Auburn Municipal Airport (164,539)  
Bowerman Field (2,000)  
Bowers Field (60,445)  
Bremerton National Airport (108,000)  
Chehalis-Centralia Airport (47,710)  
Cle Elum Municipal Airport (5,500)  
Columbia Gorge Regional Airport (16,282)  
Davenport Municipal Airport (7,000)  
Felts Field (56,849)  
Harvey Field (139,195)  
Ione Municipal Airport (2,700)  
Lopez Island Airport (31,500)  
Olympia Regional Airport (65,573)  
Pearson Field (53,500)  
Renton Municipal Airport (80,688)  
Richland Airport (29,000)  
Sanderson Field (44,209)  
Skagit Regional Airport (61,900)  
Snohomish County Airport (111,500)  
Tonasket Municipal Airport (4,750)  
Westport Airport (1,000)  
Wilson Creek Municipal Airport (140)

### State Airports

Woodland State Airport (3,600)  
Ranger Creek State Airport (450)  
Bendera State Airport (300)  
Easton State Airport (300)  
Lake Wenatchee State Airport (600)  
Little Goose State Airport (300)  
Lower Granite State Airport (300)  
Lower Monumental State Airport (300)  
Skykomish State Airport (300)  
Sullivan Lake State Airport (300)  
Tieton State Airport (300)  
Rogersburg State Airport (50)  
Methow Valley State Airport (7,650)

### NO (annual operations)

Anderson Field (25,000)  
Cashmere-Dryden Airport (6,150)  
Darrington Municipal Airport (2,310)  
Ephrata Municipal Airport (135,140)  
Forks Municipal Airport (13,600)  
Goldendale Municipal Airport (5,110)  
Ilwaco Airport (800)  
Jefferson County International Airport (58,000)  
Lake Chelan Airport (16,000)  
Odessa Municipal Airport (9,000)  
Omak Municipal Airport (23,750)  
Othello Municipal Airport (34,490)  
Pru Field (6,200)  
Strom Field (7,950)  
Swanson Field (6,015)  
Warden Airport (4,300)  
Waterville Municipal Airport (1,000)  
Port of Whitman Business Air Center (15,000)  
Wilbur Municipal Airport (5,700)  
**State Airports**  
Copalis State Airport (200)  
Stehekin State Airport (250)