

AAAE's GA Security Survey Provides Key Information

The issue of general aviation security continues to receive a great deal of attention on Capitol Hill. While most of the focus remains on TSA's proposed Large Aircraft Security Program rule, some lawmakers have expressed an interest in pursuing additional security enhancements at general aviation airports, including perimeter security fencing at airports in major metropolitan areas.

The AAAE staff repeatedly has outlined to both lawmakers and TSA leadership the steps that general aviation airports have taken to enhance security in recent years and the financial challenges associated with pursuing additional upgrades such as perimeter fencing.

AAAE recently conducted a GA airport security survey to collect data regarding the specific security measures already in place at GA airports, as well as the potential cost of additional security measures, such as perimeter fencing.

Nearly 60 airports responded to the survey, representing a mix of small (0-50 based aircraft) and large (500-plus based aircraft) GA facilities. Further, more than 70 percent of those airports responding estimated the likely cost of perimeter fencing at more than \$1 million.

When survey participants were asked what types of security measures are currently in place at their facilities, they identified the following:

- 68 percent have access control systems;
- 65 percent have fencing/gates;
- 51 percent have video cameras, CCTV, patrols and/or airport watch programs;
- 12 percent have extra lighting;
- 11 percent have signage; and
- 7 percent conduct background checks.

AAAE GA members identified perimeter fencing, cameras and additional personnel as their funding priorities if federal security funds for GA airports are made available.

A summary of the survey results was shared with lawmakers and TSA as part of AAAE's effort to highlight the extensive security measures already in place at GA airports, as well as the financial and operational impact of proposed measures. 

