

Dear MAPA Member,

As you may be aware, TSA inspections at AOA access points have increased recently. The AOA is the Airport Operations Area which is defined (generally) by the security fences. In response to MAPA member concerns, the MAPA board recently met with the Melbourne Airport Police and TSA representatives to seek understanding. As a result of this meeting we have summarized what you can expect when in the AOA, and when faced with a TSA inspection.

TSA made it clear that they look to us, the local pilots, to be their front line of defense when watching for suspicious activity. And, that if we have anything to report, to call the Airport Police at the number on the back of your badge. They said we should expect nothing less than world class customer service from TSA. Meaning, we should expect a professional, respectful exchange with them as they perform their federally mandated, random inspections at all AOA access points.

MAPA will continue to work with the Melbourne Airport Police and the TSA to be a conduit for information exchange. Feel free to contact your MAPA board members, Melbourne Airport Police and/or TSA with any concerns.

Sincerely,

Andy Pedersen
MAPA President

Security around the Hangars (the Airport Operations Area, or AOA)

1. Airport Police and TSA will work to verify the picture on the badge matches the wearer, and the expiration date is valid.
2. Be sure to wear your badge so it can be seen by others.
3. When driving in, do not tailgate or allow tailgating. Always make sure the gate closes behind you.
4. Guest vehicles must be kept outside the fence areas.
5. Only those with ramp training are qualified to drive on the ramp.
6. You are responsible for every guest brought into the Airport Operations Area.
7. Your guest must be in visual view or close proximity of you at all times while on the AOA.
8. If you see an individual who seems suspicious and you cannot confirm if he/she is an authorized badge person, call Airport Police at 321-288-0147 and keep them in visual contact until Airport Police arrive – if possible.
9. You can always report any “out-of-the ordinary” event or activity at GA airports by calling AOPA’s Airport Watch at 1-866-GA-SECURE.

Information Regarding TSA Searches

1. Melbourne TSA is required to perform random searches at Airport Operations Area (AOA) points of entry.
2. Search points will be at entry points of the Airport Operations Area (pedestrian and vehicle entry points).
3. Searches will be performed by TSA representatives and Airport Police in uniform that are easily identifiable at these entry points.
4. TSA representatives and Airport Police will provide official identification when requested.
5. If a TSA inspection point is set up inside an entry gate and you prefer not to submit to a car search, you must park outside and then enter using a Pedestrian entry.
6. If you walk into the AOA thru a pedestrian entry, or drive into the AOA inside the fence, you are subject to searches performed by TSA representatives and/or Airport Police.
7. TSA inspections may occur anywhere inside the AOA, at any time, even though you've been at your hangar or just returning from a flight.
8. If stopped by TSA representatives and/or Airport Police for an inspection, you can expect:
 - a. A professional, respectful experience.
 - b. Cursory Vehicle Searches: You may be asked to open your trunk, car doors, glove boxes, etc... so they can look inside.
 - c. Personal Searches: These searches will be very similar to screening when boarding a commercial aircraft. You may be "wanded" with a metal detector. And, all women will be searched only by women.
 - d. If you decline a search inside the AOA, Melbourne Police will be called.
9. What's being looked for? Items of interest include: Firearms, explosives and improvised explosive devices.
10. What is not being looked for? Flare guns; they are considered part of survival equipment.
11. Do you have a Florida Concealed Weapons Permit? Even with a Florida Concealed Weapons Permit you are not able to carry a weapon into the Airport Operations Area. Airport Rules and Regulations (3.08) states "No firearms, weapons, or explosives are permitted on Melbourne Airport property or in the sterile area of the concourse except:
 - a. Duly authorized federal, state, or local law enforcement officers required to carry firearms in the performance of their duties.
 - b. Members of the United States Armed Forces on official duty.
 - c. If you do, you are subject to fines of up to \$500 and may face misdemeanor charges.
 - d. Airport rules and regulations are enforceable rules of city ordinances and the fines are in conjunction with that policy.
12. Do you need to transport a firearm? Firearms can be taken on the AOA when unloaded and properly stored in a firearm carrying case (not unlike transporting a firearm on commercial air carriers). If you are stopped by TSA for an inspection, you must tell them of the firearm. TSA is obligated to call the Airport Police to scene, where Chief Brewer has assured us there will be no problems if the firearm has been

properly unloaded and stored. You must wait with TSA while the police respond, or you will be subject to fine.