

Airport theft security

[Environment](#), [Air](#)



These theft incidents include theft of baggage, data information which includes identity theft, aircraft, aviation fuel, and personal belongings. These incidents of theft occur at any number of locations, including screening areas. Some of the theft crimes are committed by other passengers and bystanders, but employees have also been involved in some of the incidents.

1. A federal grand jury accused Michael Derring, 48, and Tina White, 47, on Wednesday of conspiracy and aggravated identity theft, alleging they stole personal information including the Social Security numbers of dozens of TSA workers at Boston's Logan International Airport.
2. More than 60 TSA screeners have been arrested for theft at 30 different airports, both large and small. Some have been caught going through bags in full view of airport security cameras — one is even seen on tape pocketing a gold bracelet.
3. Delta Air Lines Inc. baggage handlers were caught rifling through suitcases in the belly of airplanes in Hartford, Conn., pocketing laptops, cameras, iPods, GPS units, jewelry, watches and earrings. Northwest Airlines baggage handlers were caught stealing items and posting them for sale on eBay right from a supervisor's airline-owned computer. Baggage theft reports are up nearly 50% this year.
4. General aviation airports and aircraft frequently are the victims of crime. Most often, this crime includes the theft of aircraft and parts, particularly expensive avionics, and vandalism. At its extreme, aviation crime can include terrorism and hijacking.
5. Incidents of aviation fuel theft are on the

rise. Factors include the rising cost of fuel making it more lucrative to sell on the black market and easy access and documentation forgeries.

Thieves are particularly fond of luggage, cell phones and laptop computers left unattended on the concourses or on car seats in parking lots. They also move through restrooms and make off with jewelry and other valuables lying on counters. Sting operations _ where airport police have left decoy items unattended _ have shown that employees at airports make up a significant percentage of the thieves.

The proliferation of anti-theft training programs entails an understanding of the complexity of airport policing and an attempt to professionalize it. An oversight group will ensure consistent, professional, and standardized training. The variety of emerging training platforms for airport police requires some type of quality control. Due to extensive airport regulations and the demands placed upon airport police officers, the aviation security community should fully address the challenges of full-spectrum anti-theft training and oversight.

For securing aviation fuel, fuel farms should be placed in as remote a location of the airport as possible for safety and convenience purposes. If feasible, use security fencing, lighting, and access controls whenever possible to control movement in these areas. Trucks used to transfer fuel to aircraft should be secured when not in use. This includes controlling fuel truck keys and not leaving keys in trucks while unattended. Consider marshaling fuel trucks in an easily monitored location.