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## Officers Conduct Airport Screening Duties in Detroit

**The expertise and successful track record of Securitas Critical Infrastructure Services (SCIS) in providing specialized services to government and industry helped land a major airport contract last June. SCIS Aviation and Securitas USA are working together to perform nearly 7,000 hours per week of airport employee screening and other security duties at the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW). It is the largest single client in the state of Michigan, and the largest aviation security client in the continental U.S.**

The team that attended and completed the first X-ray Master training class to become qualified DTW security officers.

Securitas USA officers use X-ray machines and magnetometers to screen bagged employees at three primary entrances and check employees with hand wands at additional locations. Other Securitas USA officers positioned throughout DTW's two terminals respond to door alarms. If a door is forced or propped open, officers immediately investigate by questioning DTW employees and travelers about the cause and searching for any threats in the area.

In the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was formed to provide security for the traveling public, including the screening of passengers and baggage at all U.S. airports. Faced with the growing insider security threat, airports are turning to private firms like SCIS to manage the operations and Securitas USA to conduct screening activities, to include screening of employees, under TSA supervision.

SCIS developed specialized X-ray Master training for officers, which includes classroom-based instruction and computer-based training, to identify prohibited items. That is followed by a test to demonstrate proficiency in operating the machines and hours of on-the-job training. An additional six hours of computer-based instruction is completed by the officers every six months.

"Not everyone is good at quickly and accurately detecting prohibited items," says Securitas USA Account Manager Chris Searcey. "One thing that helps us identify the right people to hire as screeners is a sophisticated human resources tool that is part of X-ray Master. The result is a team of officers who do a great job."

Leading the Aviation Management team is Director of Security Remond "Ray" Harvey and Deputy Director of Security Brent M. Williams. Deputy Director Williams stated, "We are a team of aviation specialists having experience in multiple airports and are focused on this contract as the flagship and reference account for the entire United States." Vice President Tom Marten heads up the SCIS Aviation division that is looking to grow the aviation reach in 2018. The Securitas USA officers and their skillsets are the key and most important part of our success.

Even though officers currently screen only airport employees and their personal items, the training also covers procedures for screening cargo, airport and aircraft supplies, passenger cabin baggage and passenger hold baggage. More than 34,000,000 passengers pass through DTW each year – Michigan's largest airport. Thirteen scheduled passenger airlines offer more than 1,100 flights per day to non-stop destinations on four continents. ■