



TSA MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE No. 2800.13  
VISIBLE INTERMODAL PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

*To enhance mission performance, TSA is committed to promoting a culture founded on its values of Integrity, Innovation and Team Spirit.*

**REVISION:** This revised directive supersedes TSA MD 2800.13, *Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Program*, dated September 12, 2008.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** Added titles for the authorities; added definition for VIPR Team and updated all other definitions; deleted Operations Coordinator from the definitions and responsibilities sections; updated responsibilities; updated language in several policy statements; and updated the point of contact information listed under the procedures section.

1. **PURPOSE:** This directive provides TSA policy and procedures for the full range of functions and activities for the Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) Program.
2. **SCOPE:** This directive applies to all TSA organizational elements.
3. **AUTHORITIES:**
  - A. 6 U.S.C. § 1112, Authorization of Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Team
  - B. 49 U.S.C. § 114, Transportation Security Administration
  - C. 49 U.S.C. § 44901, Screening Passengers and Property
  - D. 49 U.S.C. § 44903, Air Transportation Security
  - E. 49 U.S.C. § 44917, Deployment of Federal Air Marshals
  - F. 49 CFR Chapter XII, Transportation Security Administration
4. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - A. Concept of Operations (CONOPS): For purposes of this directive, a risk-based framework that drives operational planning and scheduling for VIPR deployments, including security concepts of unpredictability and randomness.
  - B. Deployment Operations Plan (DOP): For purposes of this directive, a document that describes the capabilities to conduct VIPR operations with specific stakeholders at indicated transportation locations.
  - C. Joint Coordination Center (JCC): The national coordination center managed by OLE/FAMS and comprised of representatives from OLE/FAMS and the Office of Security Operations (OSO) that is the single point of contact for VIPR planning and deployments.

- D. Operational Team Leader: The on-site supervisor during a VIPR operation, typically the VIPR Supervisory Federal Air Marshal (SFAM). For OSO VIPR screening operations, this will be the local Supervisory Transportation Security Inspector (TSI) or designee.
- E. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): For purposes of this directive, a document that provides procedures for protocols and processes used to plan, conduct, and document VIPR activities.
- F. VIPR Team: VIPR teams consist of Federal Air Marshals (FAMs), Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) with Behavior Detection Officer (BDO) competencies, Transportation Security Inspectors-Aviation (TSI-As), Transportation Security Inspectors-Surface (TSI-Ss), and Transportation Security Specialists-Explosives (TSS-Es). Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) are assigned to select locations to conduct mass transit screening operations. VIPR personnel are assigned to OLE/FAMS Field Offices.
- G. Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) Program: TSA's program to deter and prevent acts of terrorism by conducting operations that promote confidence in and protect our nation's transportation systems through targeted deployment of integrated TSA assets using screening and law enforcement capabilities in the deployment of specialized teams to augment the security of any mode of transportation at any location within the United States.

## **5. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. The Assistant Administrator/Director for the Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service (OLE/FAMS) is responsible for:
  - (1) Providing general oversight of the VIPR Program, including application of the VIPR CONOPS, which outlines the risk-based framework for planning and scheduling of VIPR operations.
  - (2) Providing general oversight of Federal Air Marshals (FAMs), Assistant Federal Security Directors-Law Enforcement (AFSDs-LE) and the JCC.
  - (3) Coordinating procedures for OLE/FAMS personnel that are consistent with this directive.
  - (4) Ensuring all OLE/FAMS personnel, prior to deploying with the VIPR Program, complete the VIPR Law Enforcement Training Program (VLETP).

NOTE: In situations where the VLETP course cannot be completed prior to initial deployment, OLE/FAMS personnel will receive an Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) briefing on OLE/FAMS statutory authorities prior to VIPR deployment and will be scheduled to attend the next available VLETP.

- (5) Ensuring that all VIPR activities are carried out in accordance with applicable statutes, policies, and directives.
- (6) Ensuring the Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC) provides assistance to VIPR operations and the JCC.

- B. The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Security Operations is responsible for:
  - (1) Providing general oversight of Federal Security Directors (FSDs), TSS-Es, TSIs, and TSOs.
  - (2) Coordinating procedures for OSO personnel that are consistent with this directive.
  - (3) Ensuring that OSO personnel receive appropriate training to carry out this directive.
- C. The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Security Capabilities/Chief Technology Officer is responsible for identifying, procuring and deploying security technology to support VIPR operations.
- D. The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Information Technology/Chief Information Officer is responsible for identifying, procuring and deploying information technology to support VIPR operations.
- E. The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis is responsible for:
  - (1) Providing intelligence regarding threats and vulnerabilities.
  - (2) Providing risk analysis data to assist in the application of the VIPR CONOPS and planning of VIPR operations.
- F. The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement is responsible for ensuring that transportation security partners and stakeholders coordinate with the VIPR Program on VIPR planning and implementation.
- G. The Office of Chief Counsel is responsible for:
  - (1) Reviewing all operational documents and other policies to help ensure that VIPR operations are in compliance with legal requirements.
  - (2) Providing legal guidance on issues related to VIPR operations.
- H. The VIPR Program, through the JCC, is responsible for:
  - (1) Monitoring and oversight of the VIPR Program administrative processes and operations.
  - (2) Reviewing and approving VIPR operations.
  - (3) Coordination and approval of DOPs.
  - (4) Assisting, as needed, in the coordination of VIPR operations.
  - (5) Ensuring that all VIPR activities are consistent with applicable statutes, policies, and directives.

I. The Operational Team Leader is responsible for:

- (1) Providing on-site supervision and ensuring communication between VIPR team members, relevant stakeholders, and TSA leadership.
- (2) Ensuring that all VIPR activities are consistent with applicable statutes, policies, directives, and procedures.
- (3) Ensuring that all VIPR team members understand their responsibilities and authority during the VIPR operation, and have appropriate guidance and training to carry out VIPR operations.
- (4) Consulting with local security, law enforcement, and transportation officials to develop and conduct the VIPR operation.
- (5) Drafting the DOP, coordinating approvals with the JCC, and securing personnel and equipment resources to carry out the VIPR operation.
- (6) Ensuring that all searches are conducted in accordance with [TSA MD 100.4, \*Transportation Security Searches\*](#).

**6. POLICY:**

- A. TSA personnel shall adhere to this directive in carrying out their functions.
- B. VIPR teams deploy to augment security in any mode of transportation. VIPR teams may use a variety of screening equipment and technologies as approved in the DOP.
- C. TSA will consult and coordinate with Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials, as well as affected transportation entities, as appropriate, when conducting these operations.
- D. VIPR operations may be initiated by the VIPR team, TSA Headquarters, including the JCC, or by local TSA officials or at the request of transportation stakeholders.
- E. TSA managers, as indicated in [TSA MD 100.4](#), in consultation with the Office of Chief Counsel, shall develop guidelines under which administrative or special needs searches will be conducted in various transportation venues.
- F. Nothing in this directive is intended to create any substantive or procedural rights, privileges, or benefits enforceable in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter.

**7. PROCEDURES:**

VIPR operations shall be conducted in accordance with the VIPR DOP, VIPR SOP, and VIPR CONOPS, and other relevant procedures. These documents are available upon request if required for the performance of official duties by contacting the VIPR Program at [FC-JCC-TSA@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:FC-JCC-TSA@tsa.dhs.gov).

8. **APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE:** This policy is approved and effective the date of signature unless otherwise specified.

**APPROVAL**

*Signed*

March 10, 2017

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Huban A. Gowadia, Ph.D.  
Acting Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EFFECTIVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution: Administrator, Deputy Administrator, Assistant Administrators and equivalents, Federal Security Directors, Supervisory Air Marshals in Charge, Business Management Office Directors and Managers and Supervisors

Point-of-Contact: OLE/FAMS, Operations Compliance Section, [OLE-FAMSPolicy@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:OLE-FAMSPolicy@tsa.dhs.gov)