

What is SPOT?

Purpose of Activity: To help determine what you may already know about SPOT and to generate discussion about your true or false perceptions

Directions:

- Write a brief answer to the question “What is SPOT?” in the space provided below.
- Knowledge Checks:
Write a “T” if you think the statement is true and write an “F” if you think the statement is false after the statements below.
- Your instructor will review the five Knowledge Checks.

What is SPOT?

Knowledge Checks

1. SPOT is a method used by trained security personnel that warrants the legal detention of individuals suspected of terrorism.
2. SPOT uses behavior analysis to detect individuals who exhibit specific behavior cues and appearance factors.
3. Because terrorists fear a failed mission, they will likely display signs of stress.
4. Racial profiling concerns the offensive and objectionable use of race or ethnicity as a criterion in conducting stops, searches, and other law enforcement activities.
5. Terrorists are easily identified by their appearance.

Definitions

Accessible property – Property that is intended to be accessible to the individual in the sterile area or in the cabin of an aircraft

Additional Behavior Detection Training (ABDT) – Training to recognize micro-facial expressions

Artfully concealed – An item hidden on a person or in accessible property in order to evade detection

Automatic LEO notification

BDOs must immediately notify an LEO when any of the following events take place:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
1
1

(b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)

12. If a BDO observes either of the items below, on his or her own, it requires an automatic LEO notification:

A **(b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)**

(b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)

Behavior Detection Officer (BDO) – Any 1801 or 1802 series employee who is certified in and authorized to conduct SPOT

Behavior observation and analysis – An initial scan of persons to discover unusual appearances or behaviors that may indicate a high-risk individual

Casual Conversation (CC) – Non-custodial, non-threatening discussion

Concept of behavior analysis – A person involved in deception or in an act in which the person fears discovery will suffer mental stress, fear, or anxiety that is manifested through involuntary physical and physiological reactions that serve to dissipate the stress, fear, or anxiety

Deviations from the baseline – Deviations from the baseline can be evaluated in terms of:

- Relative deviation – Degree, amount, or exaggerated nature
- Contextual deviation – Time and location of observed deviation
- Clustering (two or more) – Number and type of behavioral and appearance factors

Document fraud – Photo substitution is the most common form of document fraud. Look for cut lines, fiber disturbance, smudges, excess glue, and bubbled laminate over photo.

(b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)

Version 2.1

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Establishing environmental baseline

B3; 49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

Family – Two adults and at least one minor (person who appears to be under the age of 12) traveling together

Four Steps in SPOT Process

1. (b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]

Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) – A sworn employee of a government entity (Federal, to include U.S. military police and U.S. Capitol police, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local) with full power of arrest, who is trained and commissioned to enforce the public criminal laws of the jurisdiction(s) in which he or she is commissioned

Playbook – A random selection of security measures to be used throughout the airport

Post 9-11 paradigm – The threat is suicidal-homicidal terrorism. Modern-day terrorists fear detections that will defeat the mission, not their loss of life.

Questioning Techniques

Avoid closed or leading questions. Use questions that are open-ended. (b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)

(b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)

Racial profiling – The offensive and objectionable use of race or ethnicity as a criterion in conducting stops, searches, SPOT Referral Screening, or other law enforcement activities

Resolution – The process of determining the reason for an individual’s SPOT-related behaviors by gathering additional information from the individual through verbal exchanges and the examination of the individual’s documents and property

Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) – SPOT is a behavior observation and analysis program that detects behaviors and activities that deviate from an established environmental baseline. Individuals whose behaviors meet or exceed predetermined thresholds are referred for additional screening or law enforcement intervention. TSA developed and implemented the SPOT program based on behavior pattern recognition techniques used by various government agencies and supported by scientific research.

SPOT Coordinator – An AFSD Screening, or AFSD assigned by the FSD to provide general oversight of the SPOT program at an airport

SPOT Referral Screening - A special screening procedure for an individual who has been selected as a SPOT Referral. Observation continues during this screening. There are four steps:

1. (b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]

SPOT Transportation Security Manager (STSM) – The TSM who is responsible for the local operations of the SPOT program and supervision of the BDOs

Stress point – A point at which an individual with intent to cause harm is most likely to fear detection

Three elements that impact a suicide terrorist’s success

- Secrecy
- Reconnaissance and surveillance
- Extensive rehearsals and “dry runs”

Traveling companion – An individual who appears to be traveling with a SPOT referral and who communicates with the SPOT referral either overtly or covertly

Trip story – The circumstances of an individual’s travel as described by that individual

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- (b)(3) 49 USC 114(r)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]