

Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Volume 3, Issue 4

2006

Article 9

Review of 9/11 and the Future of Transportation Security

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Abstract

Review of *9/11 and the Future of Transportation Security*, by R. William Johnstone.

KEYWORDS: transportation security

9/11 and the Future of Transportation Security

By R. William Johnstone

Westport, CT: Praeger Security International, 2006
ix + 218 pp., introduction, charts & tables, appendices, chapter notes, index
\$49.95 (cloth) ISBN 0-275-99075-3

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Intent of Author: The author, who was a member of the 9/11 Commission, wrote this book to build upon as well as supplement the Commission's work in the evolving and multi-faceted field of homeland security. He explains the aviation security system failures that led to the multiple aviation disasters that took place on 9/11/01. Using this analysis as a means for evaluating the nation's post-9/11 transportation security efforts, he proposes comprehensive remedies to the continued transportation security problems that confront our nation. The author's transportation security recommendations are highly focused, detailed, and well documented.

The information contained in the Commission's report is augmented by unpublished reports and a wealth of other materials that have come to light since the issuance of the Commission's report in July 2004. The book encompasses a thorough review of the literature available in this technical field.

Part One analyzes our nation's aviation security system's history and institutions, then provides a detailed explanation why the system failed on 9/11/01.

Part Two looks at what has been done in the field of aviation and transportation security since this date, including the Commission's recommendations as well as the response of the U. S. Congress to these recommendations.

Part Three outlines a suggested approach for improving current U.S. transportation security safeguards. It begins with fundamental policy questions that must be answered in order to optimize our nation's transportation security efforts and concludes with both underlying principles for action and specific recommendations.

Major Topics Covered:

Part One examines the attributes of the pre-9/11 aviation security system, as well as the details of the 9/11 hijackings.

Part Two reviews the U.S. responses to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the new organization of transportation security and the current state-of-the-art practices in the field of transportation security.

Part Three, the final section of this volume, focuses on the post-9/11 transportation security policy failures, key questions and hard choices about transportation security in America, principles for immediate action, and transportation security priorities for the future of our nation's aviation industry.

Critical Evaluation: This volume is well documented, with 38-pages of footnotes for its 12 chapters. It performs the important function of reviewing our nation's transportation security system failures that led to the events that took place on 9/11. It also sets forth detailed recommendations, along with the supporting rationale, for actions that must be taken to improve America's aviation transportation security in the post-9/11 world.

While there are many dimensions to the field of homeland security, this 12-chapter volume is highly focused on aviation transportation security issues within homeland security. It is recommended reading for professionals involved in the aviation transportation security industry.