

**Strosnider, Brian**

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**From:** Booth-Colson, Amanda (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2011 11:32 AM  
**To:** Strosnider, Brian  
**Cc:** TSAExecSec; StPierre, Tracey; Keenan, Siobhan; QFR  
**Subject:** Behavioral Science and Security 4/6/2011  
  
**Importance:** High

Please make sure the below match up with your IQ records. Answers are due **COB 5/3/11**. Also, if the assigned QFR doesn't pertain to your component **please let me know this by COB 4/25/11** so that I may reassign accordingly. Assignments will stand as is after 4/25/11 and any QFR assigned to you will be your responsibility to answer. In the event that these QFRs require input from another component please reach out to the relevant component to gain that input.

TSA	Rep. Broun	903003	training	4/22/2011	5/3/2011		St
TSA	Rep. Broun	903004	BDOs	4/22/2011	5/3/2011		St
TSA	Rep. Broun	903007	originated	4/22/2011	5/3/2011		St

Regards,

Amanda Booth-Colson  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office of the Secretary  
Executive Secretariat  
Office: 202.282.(b)(6)  
BB (b)(6)

**Strosnider, Brian**

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**From:** Booth-Colson, Amanda (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2011 12:06 PM  
**To:** Strosnider, Brian  
**Cc:** TSAExecSec; StPierre, Tracey; Saunders, Diane; S&T Exec Sec, QFR  
**Subject:** Behavioral Science and Security 4/6/2011 - TSA's input  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brian,

Below are two QFRs that are assigned to S&T from the April 6<sup>th</sup> hearing. TSA needs to answer the highlighted questions to complete the QFRs from Rep. Broun. Please provide S&T with the answers on or before May 3, 2011. Thank you.

1. **WF903002** - For the purpose of the S&T study, you describe 'high risk travelers' as "those passengers in possession of serious prohibited and/or illegal items or individuals engaging in conduct leading to an arrest."
  - a. Why is 'terrorism' not included in the definition of high risk travelers [S&T]
  - b. Has the definition of high risk travelers changed from when SPOT was first implemented? If so, how? [TSA]
  
2. **WF903006** - According to the GAO report, S&T officials "agreed that SPOT was deployed before its scientific underpinnings were fully validated." (p. 15). Additionally, in discussing the S&T study, the GAO report states, "S&T's current research plan is not designed to fully validate whether behavior detection and appearances can be effectively used to reliably identify individuals in an airport terminal environment who pose a risk to the aviation system." (p. 20). Additionally, in the first paragraph of Dr. Maria Hartwig's written testimony, she says, "In brief, the accumulated body of scientific work on behavioral cues to deception does not provide support for the premise of the SPOT program. The empirical support for the underpinnings of the program is weak at best, and the program suffers from theoretical flaws."
  - a. Prior to implementing SPOT, why did TSA not validated the science behind the program? [TSA]
  - b. Why did the S&T validation study not validate "whether behavior detection and appearances can be effectively used to reliably identify individuals in an airport terminal environment who pose a risk to the aviation system?" [S&T]
  - c. How do you respond to Dr. Hartwig's comment? [S&T]

Questions for the Record  
U.S. House Committee on Behavioral Science and Security  
Evaluating TSA's SPOT, Screening of Passengers by Observational Techniques, Program  
Hearing Date: April 4, 2011  
Witness: Larry Willis, S&T Program Manager

The Honorable Paul Broun M.D

1. (903003) Question: At a recent Oversight and Government Reform hearing, TSA stated that it was introducing training for screeners to put travelers at ease while going through screening.

What impact would this, and other countermeasures employed by travelers such as training to hide indicators, or anti-anxiety drugs, have on a BDO's ability to identify an individual intending to cause harm? **OSO**

**Response:**

The Honorable Paul Broun M.D

2. (903004) Question: How does TSA ensure that BDOs are using indicators to screen passengers rather than something more troublesome like profiling or racial bias? **OSO**

**Response:**

The Honorable Paul Broun M.D

3. (903007) Question: (a) Who originated the SPOT program, was it Carl Maccario, as Dr. Ekman states in his written testimony, or was it Lieutenant DiDomenica, who says his PASS program was the basis for SPOT? **OSO**

(b) What role did the Israeli model play?

(c) What aspects of the Israeli model are based on behavioral science?

**Response:**

The Honorable Paul Broun M.D

4. (903002) Question: For the purpose of the S&T study, you describe 'high risk travelers' as "those passengers in possession of serious prohibited and/or illegal items or individuals engaging in conduct leading to an arrest."

(a) Why is 'terrorism' not included in the definition of high risk travelers **[S&T]**

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(b) Has the definition of high risk travelers changed from when SPOT was first implemented? If so, how? [TSA] **OSO**

The Honorable Paul Broun M.D

5. (903006) Question: According to the GAO report, S&T officials “agreed that SPOT was deployed before its scientific underpinnings were fully validated.” (p. 15). Additionally, in discussing the S&T study, the GAO report states, “S&T’s current research plan is not designed to fully validate whether behavior detection and appearances can be effectively used to reliably identify individuals in an airport terminal environment who pose a risk to the aviation system.” (p. 20). Additionally, in the first paragraph of Dr. Maria Hartwig’s written testimony, she says, “In brief, the accumulated body of scientific work on behavioral cues to deception does not provide support for the premise of the SPOT program. The empirical support for the underpinnings of the program is weak at best, and the program suffers from theoretical flaws.”

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(b) Why did the S&T validation study not validate “whether behavior detection and appearances can be effectively used to reliably identify individuals in an airport terminal environment who pose a risk to the aviation system?” [S&T]

(c) How do you respond to Dr. Hartwig’s comment? [S&T]

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(c) How do you respond to Dr. Hartwig’s comment? [S&T]

6. (903005) On what basis was the SPOT checklist of indicators selected? Why doesn't the S&T study evaluate the validity of the indicator list?

(a) Do you believe this would be helpful?