



Transportation
Security
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Press Release

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TSA Expands Explosives Detection Capability at Sawyer International Airport

MARQUETTE, Mich. – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today announced the deployment of a Reveal explosives detection system (EDS) machine for screening checked baggage at Sawyer International Airport (SAW) in Marquette.

“The explosive detection system at Sawyer International Airport increases security by using the latest technology to detect explosives and potentially dangerous items, and we feel that Sawyer was an excellent choice to install this new equipment,” said TSA Federal Security Director John Mumma. “This new technology allows TSA to continue providing the highest level of security for passengers, while making their travel experience more convenient.”

Through CT scan technology and sophisticated algorithms, explosives detection system machines can quickly determine if a bag contains a potential threat. If a weapon or potential explosive is detected, the machines alert transportation security officers so they can manage the bag appropriately.

Prior to the deployment of this equipment, TSA officers had to swab each bag to screen it for explosives. The new machine, a Reveal CT-80DR, is fully automated, eliminating the need to swab each bag and reducing the number of bags that have to be opened.

“I’m pleased that Homeland Security officials chose Sawyer for this new level of technology,” said Keith Kaspari, SAW Airport Manager. “When the Recovery Act was passed in early 2009, I submitted a request to TSA officials to consider Sawyer for the future installation of this equipment. This new level of security screening equipment continues Sawyer’s plan to provide a safe and secure environment for our passengers, aircraft and employees, and at the same time, reduce the amount of physical searches of passengers’ luggage.”

“On behalf of the citizens of Marquette County, I’d like to say thank you to all the officials at the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration for choosing Sawyer as a location of this new equipment, added Gerald Corkin, Chairman of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners. “With the annual airport market share that Sawyer enjoys at over 50 percent, the recent increases in jet service, and the annual increases in flights during the summer travel season, the installation of this new equipment will expedite the screening of passengers’ luggage.”

As of May 2010, TSA has deployed 354 Reveal units at a total of 142 airports. The Reveal EDS machines cost approximately \$340,000 and are smaller than other EDS machines currently in use at many commercial airports nationwide.

The machine at SAW was purchased with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. In September 2009, TSA announced that it was purchasing reduced-size EDS equipment using approximately \$30 million in ARRA funds.

For more information about TSA, please visit our website at www.tsa.gov.

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