

AN OPERATOR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE DCA ACCESS STANDARD SECURITY PROGRAM (DASSP)

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) officially re-opened to general aviation (GA) traffic on October 18, 2005, after a total prohibition on GA flights that followed the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. However, only properly qualified and vetted aircraft operators are permitted to fly to or from DCA. These operators apply for and obtain the DCA Access Standard Security Program (DASSP) from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

This summary will help you determine if your charter operation qualifies, provides an overview of the special security measures required and how to apply for the DASSP.

The DASSP is Sensitive Security Information and subject to protection from disclosure under TSA regulations (49 CFR part 1520). Details of the program cannot be disseminated to the public. TSA may amend the DASSP at any time and there is no guarantee the information provided here remains accurate.

WHAT TYPES OF OPERATORS OR AIRCRAFT QUALIFY FOR THE DASSP?

Operators with an existing Private Charter Standard Security Program (PCSSP) or Twelve-Five Standard Security Program (TFSSP) may apply for the DASSP. Also, aircraft owned by a corporation and operated under Part 91 are permitted to apply. Part 135 aircraft that fall under the 12,500 pound weight requirement for the TFSSP are not permitted under the DASSP rules.

DO I NEED A SLOT?

Yes, a slot is required and is assigned by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Slots are reserved using the FAA Computer Voice Reservation System at <https://www.fly.faa.gov/ecvrs/index.html>.

WHAT SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES ARE REQUIRED FOR FLIGHTS TO OR FROM DCA?

Background Checks. All flightcrew members must submit to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check.

Manifests. Passenger and crew manifests must be submitted in advance of flight so TSA can complete necessary background checks.

Physical Screening. TSA will screen crewmembers, passengers, property (accessible and checked) and the aircraft prior to departure for DCA. The TSA will also check identification of passengers.

Gateway FBOs. In order to accommodate TSA screening, all DASSP flights must depart from an approved gateway airport. The approved gateway airport list is updated from time to time as more FBOs are approved by TSA. Currently there are over 125 approved locations.

On-board Security. An Armed Security Officer (ASO) must be on board each flight. For questions relating to the ASO program, you may contact the ASO program office by email at tsoc.aso@dhs.gov or call 703-487-0044.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE DASSP?

Download and complete the DASSP application form, available at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/DownloadDocument?objectID=38471101>.

Submit your completed form to the TSA via email to DASSP@tsa.dhs.gov or fax to (703) 603-4030. TSA will verify your status as a legitimate, eligible aircraft operator and then contact you to initiate the next steps in the approval process.

Once the initial authorization occurs, TSA will grant access to the DASSP. Only after the program requirements are implemented and compliance is demonstrated via a TSA inspection will approval for DASSP operations be granted.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

TSA regulations authorizing operations at DCA and governing the DASSP are located at 49 CFR part 1562. View the current regulations at www.ecfr.gov.

Signature Flight Support at DCA operates a website with DASSP information and provides assistance to DASSP operators, including a listing of approved Gateway FBOs. Visit their DASSP webpage at <https://www.signatureflight.com/programs/dassp-dca-access-program>.

NATA Compliance Services provides DASSP compliant training programs, offers background checks and other services. Visit <http://info.natacs.aero/online-training/dassp-training> for more information.