



SECURITY THAT WORKS
AT THE PACE OF LIFE

CASE STUDY:
**EVOLV SCREENING
TECHNOLOGY AT
OAKLAND
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT**

Screening the public for would-be adversaries may be the highest-profile job of chief security officers, but it's not the only one. Oakland International Airport is one of our many customers that places equal emphasis on its employee screening program.

As an innovator in airport security and one of the most traveled airports in California, Oakland International Airport (OAK) installed the Evolv Edge™ earlier this year as a way to enhance its employee screening program. OAK is committed to applying advanced, innovative solutions to complex security operations. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recognized this commitment by selecting OAK as a TSA Innovation Task Force Site, a prestigious distinction that promotes improved efficiency and allows the Airport to test technologies to benefit its growing passenger base.

THE CHALLENGE:

Airports remain a prototypical target for mass casualty attacks. Many around the country and world have made heavy investments in technology, personnel, and processes to screen travelers and other visitors.

As the second busiest airport in northern California, passenger travel at OAK is on pace to surpass the 13.2 million travelers that passed through the airport last year. To accommodate this growth, OAK hired additional employees to keep the airport safe and began researching innovative solutions related to employee inspection methods and equipment.

Aviation Security Manager Doug Mansel began looking for a new equipment platform capable of detecting a wider range of potential weapons, while also improving operational efficiency as headcount increased. The status quo—a combination of time-consuming, sometimes invasive measures including walk-through metal detectors and occasionally full-body pat downs—would likely lead to long queues at the start of each shift and falling morale.



THE SOLUTION:

Mansel and his security team at OAK were introduced to the Evolv Edge at the ACI-NA Public Safety and Security Conference last October. They were impressed with the system's ability to identify more than just metallic weapons, such as non-metallic explosives, as well its ability to screen more than 600 people an hour at walking speed, without forcing them to take off their shoes, clear out their pockets or have their lunch bags examined. All steps that can otherwise result in a slow, invasive screening process.

Mansel decided to test the technology in Terminal 2 at OAK. During the next four months of testing, the system was able to detect any threats such as guns, bombs, and other mass casualty weapons that may have been run through the system. Mansel and his team were also impressed with the system's ability to adjust the sensitivity of the screening, to focus on the threats appropriate to the environment, and avoid alarming on innocuous items like keys and other incidentals. This "tailored" system is designed to mitigate risk without creating an undue burden on the employee population. A risk-based approach recognizes that while there are no perfect security solutions, those that balance security, access, usability, and cost can provide the best long-term protection.

THE OUTLOOK:

OAK now has its first Evolv Edge system in place for employee screening. To date, it is being used to set up pop-up checkpoints at various secured areas of the Airport. Mansel believes this randomized approach creates a powerful deterrent.

The team at OAK is exploring more applications for the Evolv Edge and is working on ways to deploy the system that require minimal physical space. As one of the Transportation Security Administration's Innovation Task Force Sites, OAK is working with the TSA to test and deploy technologies that result in safer, less intrusive curb-to-gate experiences for travelers.

While not originally a priority, OAK's Security team quickly came to appreciate the mobility of the Evolv Edge. A single staffer can tip the 250-lb system back onto the wheels in its base and roll the device to locations throughout the Airport.

"We like that our employees are embracing the Evolv Edge process, and that the system can detect all of the threats we worry about," said aviation security manager Doug Mansel. "Evolv Edge is the only personnel inspection system that looks for both metallic and non-metallic threats, is mobile and has a high throughput rate for employees that do not have to divest."

In addition to the features and capabilities of the Evolv Edge, Mansel also appreciated Evolv's focus on using software to integrate the system with other security technologies. The software of the system ties together detection, identification and intelligence—providing functionality that will help security professionals address today's and tomorrow's physical security needs.

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