



Policy Brief.....Airline Security

As the debate continues on nationalizing the approximately 28,000 private baggage screeners and airport security personnel in the United States, it might be helpful to look at how other countries have dealt with the issue.

How Other Countries Handle Airport Security

Country	Excerpt from Washington Post Story*
Netherlands	“As an armed member of the Dutch royal police looked on, the guard – an employee of a private contractor who had undergone a year of training through a royal police academy – began questioning the couple...”
Japan	“At Japan’s Narita International Airport, the airlines hire separate companies to screen checked baggage but combine to hire one contractor to X-ray carry-on bags.”
Belgium	“Sixty government inspectors work at the Brussels airport to oversee about 400 employees of the private company Securis, an arm of the Swedish Securis Group AB.”
France	“In France airports do the hiring of security contractors , and must draw from a list of companies approved by the Interior Ministry.”
Great Britain	Britain allows its airports to either hire a contractor or perform the work themselves...”

*"Looking Abroad for Answers on Airport Security," *Washington Post*, A-6, October 9, 2001

WHAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPE-WIDE TASK FORCE ON AVIATION SECURITY HAS TO SAY REGARDING CONTRACT EMPLOYEES:

"It's harder to do quality control on our government people," said Frank Durinckx, director of Belgium's Aviation Inspectorate and chairman of a Europe-wide task force on aviation security. Government agencies do not like to criticize themselves or one another, he said, and civil servants are hard to get rid of if they aren't performing well.

"If we give the work to a private contractor, we have control over them," Durinckx said. "If we're not pleased with a screener, we can withdraw his license. If we're not pleased with a company, we can get rid of it."

(Source: *Washington Post*, October 9, 2001)