



# COLUMBUS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MULTI-SECURITY LAYERS SECURE AIRPORT

Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) oversees the operations of Port Columbus International Airport, Rickenbacker International Airport and Bolton Field Airport. To effectively comply with the Transportation Security Administration's guidelines and secure its buildings, employees, passengers and assets, the CRAA conducted a top to bottom risk and vulnerability assessment. Through that assessment, the CRAA became concerned about the reliability and serviceability of its existing access control system. Government regulations required access control in airports, and the CRAA enlisted the help of Security Risk Management Consultants, Inc. (SRMC) to find a new security management system.

Airport officials created a committee to assess different manufacturers and their products. After meeting with each manufacturer and evaluating their software the committee selected AMAG Technology's Symmetry Homeland Security Management System (SMS).

Working with Ingersoll Rand, SRMC inventoried the entire existing security system, down to each door. Ingersoll Rand inventoried door hardware, and SRMC tested the door to see if it was working properly. As part of the new access control system design a door hardware schedule was included for the upgrade to more contemporary electrified door hardware, removing electro-magnetic locks and strikes and to assure non functional devices were repaired or replaced

According to MaryJo Holtzapfel, Lead Security Technician, Public Safety/Columbus Regional Airport Authority, the CRAA facility

created a huge security challenge that required a cohesive multi-layered solution which addressed the different needs of passenger terminal and aircraft movement areas.

AMAG's Symmetry Homeland SMS integrates with iPhone's intercom and Verint's hybrid video system.

An Airport Communication Center (ACC) that is staffed by a public safety dispatching crew monitors the interior of the airport and all runways via the Symmetry Homeland SMS and Verint video system.

Symmetry is integrated with Verint's video and when an alarm sounds and is associated with a door or area with a Bosch high resolution color camera, the video appears on the monitor. Public Safety Dispatchers assess the situation and dispatch Police Officers if appropriate. A clickable icon within Symmetry allows the security officers to launch all video associated with the alarm, including before and after the alarm event.

Approximately 423 cameras are online to help the Public Safety Dispatchers view all areas of the airports. All video recordings are IP based and streamed into encoders. As a result, video playback is a better recording and can be sent to a flash drive or DVD drive to play on a media player.

"The integration of the security systems with video surveillance allows us to effectively deter, detect and apprehend perpetrators before they can damage property or threaten the security of the airport and those people within the airport community," said Holtzapfel.



Microwaves on the runways transmit signals and trigger alarms through Symmetry if anything reaches its pathway. The alarm notifies the Public Safety Dispatchers who can see what triggered the alarm to determine if it is authorized to be on the runway.

Monitoring alarm inputs via Symmetry Homeland SMS alleviates the need to post police officers throughout the concourses and runways.

Symmetry's mapping feature allows CRAA to map out the airport's floor plan. When an alarm sounds, Symmetry launches a map of the area in alarm. The Public Safety Dispatchers can see where the alarm is occurring on the map, as well as a live view on the camera screen. This provides fast identification so dispatchers can respond quickly if necessary.

Employees receive their badges at one of two badging stations. An employee's information is entered into the Symmetry system where it is uploaded via the Central Card Handler and sent across the region. Columbus Airport created custom scripts files to allow them to upload a cardholder's information across the region. The custom script allows security officials to enter badging information at the head office and then it's pushed to the regions.

"If an associate who has access to all regions within the airport gets fired, the associate's access must be immediately restricted across the board," said Miller. "It doesn't matter where they make that change, it immediately gets pushed to all regions and it's instantaneous."

#### Meets Government Requirements

CRAA also installed Symmetry S843 Smartcard readers with keypad throughout the airport. The reader is on the Government Approved Products Lists, meeting the necessary requirements imposed by the government.

"The Symmetry Homeland SMS is a physical access control system that allows video integration, therefore providing the

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most secure and cost effective way for the airport to comply with existing regulations, while allowing us the flexibility to address new regulations and mandates," said Holtzapfel.

#### Threat Level Manager

CRAA implemented Symmetry's Threat Level Management module to help control access. Threat Level Manager allows security to be enhanced when there is an increased threat, such as when someone from the no-fly list is trying to board a plane.

At CRAA international flights are dispatched to the Rickenbacker airport where a governing entity takes control of the security. Controlling access is governed by TSA and Homeland Security. Access levels are dependent on the current threat level imposed by the Department of Homeland Security.

If someone comes up on the no-fly list, the Symmetry SMS along with the security staff assists TSA to make sure the person doesn't get on a flight or in a specific area of the airport. Threat Level Manager can instantly change the level of security where a no-fly individual may be and isolate them.

#### Reports

Symmetry allows Holtzapfel and her staff to create custom reports needed to meet TSA and other government requirements. Reports are easy to create and distribute, and provide a wealth of knowledge when it's critical to know who was where and when.



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