

Book Review

Airport and Aviation Security

U.S. Policy and Strategy in the Age of Global Terrorism

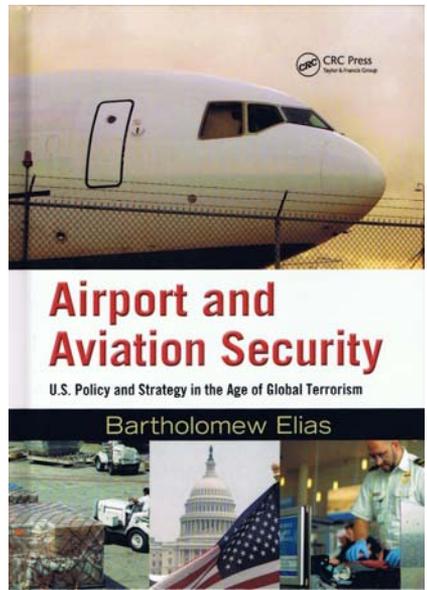
By Bartholomew Elias, Ph.D.

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439 pages



Would you like to have access to the same insights into aviation security that the best researchers in the United States provide to national policy makers? Dr. Bartholomew Elias, long-time expert on aviation matters for the U.S. Congressional Research Service, distills his many years of experience into this book.

Dr. Elias takes us from the genesis of modern aviation security by way of a succinct timeline of events leading to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 16 and the National Strategy for Aviation Security. He leads us as one who helped blaze the trail through the wilderness of endless potential security strategies against adaptive and intelligent adversaries. To date I have read no better executive-level examination of asymmetric, home-grown, and insider terrorist threats.

For those who think the use of numbers in the pursuit of objective risk analyses is akin to black magic, Dr. Elias dispels that belief with a clear approach on how risk is quantified from the examination of threat, vulnerability, and consequence. His examination of the multi-layered approach to aviation security takes the reader out of the shallows of visceral understanding into the objective depths of numeric probabilities. For those whose bosses require constant convincing why investing in multiple forms of security is necessary, this section alone will help you convince even the most recalcitrant of CFOs and is worth the price of the text.

I am always wary how general aviation and security are portrayed together. Dr. Elias provides a fair and frank rendering of the diverse realm of general aviation. In a particularly courageous statement towards the end of his book—most certainly placing him at odds with many federal agencies—he states on page 392 that airspace restrictions alone are “not particularly useful tools unless a coordinated response to protect critical assets within those protected areas is effective.” Bravo!

D.H.