

Things to do and watch for around your airfield:

#### DEVELOP AN AG AIRFIELD WATCH PROGRAM:

- Enlist the airfield's neighbors to be alert
- Train your employees
- Work with local law enforcement agencies
- Post airfield watch stickers
- Make it known that you have implemented security measures

#### LOOK FOR:

- People with no specific reason to be there
- Unusual videotaping of aircraft or facilities
- People who misuse—or are too eager to use—agricultural aviation terminology
- Aircraft with unusual or unauthorized modifications
- People unfamiliar with ag aviation asking detailed questions
- Pay attention to height, weight and clothing—pick at least one prominent feature to describe to law enforcement personnel

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS:

- Hangar aircraft whenever possible
- Lock hangars and warehouses
- Assure adequate lighting
- Install electronic security systems
- Disable trucks or equipment in front and back of parked aircraft
- Use locked propeller chains and tie downs for outside storage
- Remove batteries from parked aircraft
- Disable engines on unused aircraft
- INSTALL A HIDDEN SECURITY SWITCH

In the event of a security emergency:

- Call 911 or
- Call your Local Law Enforcement

To report suspicious activity:

**1-866-GA-SECURE**

1-866-427-3287

For more security related information visit the NAAA Security website at:

<http://www.agaviation.org/agaviationsecurity>



**National Agricultural Aviation Association**  
1440 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3403  
Phone: (202) 546-5722—[www.agaviation.org](http://www.agaviation.org)



## Ag Airfield Watch



“Putting the secure in security”

# Ag Airfield Watch

“Putting the secure in security”

## Need for Increased Security

The aerial application industry has long been aware of the necessity to protect its valuable aircraft, equipment and agricultural chemicals against the threat of theft, vandalism, fire and natural disasters. These facilities implemented various measures to safeguard their investments. Then the shocking events of September 11, 2001 carried out by terrorists put aviation in the spotlight as a potential outlet to carry out acts of destruction. Never in the history of ag aviation has an ag aircraft been involved in any terrorist activity. After 9/11/2001 airports and flight operations throughout the country found themselves the target of unwanted attention and a need arose to further satisfy the public that their businesses are not an easy target for terrorists. It makes little difference whether the threat of terrorism using an ag aircraft is real or not, the mere public perception of its reality means that the subject must be addressed.

## NAAA's Ag Airfield Watch Program

Law enforcement officials recognize of the value of a neighborhood watch program in local communities to deter criminal activities. After all, who is better to spot unusual activities than someone who is familiar with normal day-to-day activities? The



Post airfield watch stickers prominently

NAAA's Ag Airfield Watch program is based on this tried and true principle.

Train employees to spot, report and correct vulnerabilities to the security of your facility. Listen to their suggestions and make them a part of your security plan since they are in a unique position to recognize security weaknesses while they go about daily duties. Visit with the air-strip's neighbors and let them know what is normal activity at your facility. Ask them to follow a pre-planned sequence of actions if they notice anything out of the ordinary. Inform local law enforcement agencies of your activities and procedures so they can recognize when something is not as it should be. Post warning signs and decals to make it known that you have implemented security measures.

## Knowing what to watch for

Know the identity of persons around your facility. Be suspicious of people with no reason to be there and those that are doing unusual videotaping or photographing of aircraft or facilities. A typical warning sign is people unfamiliar with ag aviation asking detailed questions especially if they misuse, or are too eager to use, ag aviation slang or terminology. Watch for aircraft which have unusual or unauthorized modifications. Pay particular attention to height, weight, clothing and prominent features of a suspicious person and pass this along to law enforcement agencies to make it easier to locate and identify suspects. Whenever possible, keep a cell phone and a digital camera available to document unusual people or activities.



Fencing and signage

## Actions to take

Employ redundant methods of security whenever possible and do not depend on door or ignition locks as the only defense. Store aircraft inside securely locked hangars and lock warehouses and other buildings. Ensure adequate lighting to deter crime and use electronic security systems that include video surveillance with audible alarms that contact law enforcement when triggered. Disable heavy equipment in front and back of parked aircraft. Remove batteries from parked aircraft when not in use and mechanically disable unused aircraft. Use locked tie downs and propeller chains for outside storage.



Adequate lighting



Block aircraft with equipment



Propeller locks



Locked tie downs

## Install hidden cut-off switch

Install a hidden cut-off security switch to make it difficult for an unauthorized person to start the engine. The NAAA worked with the FAA to simplify the documentation procedure for legally installing such a switch. For complete details, go to <http://www.agaviation.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=459>.



National Agricultural Aviation Association  
1440 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3403  
Phone: (202) 546-5722—[www.agaviation.org](http://www.agaviation.org)