



OCTOBER 2004

## TECHNOLOGY

**Registered Traveler Program Merges Technology and Security**

By Debra Dixon

Advances in security technology continues to be on the cutting edge in the U.S. Federal authorities are utilizing technology in expediting the security screening process at airports nationwide. A new Registered Traveler Pilot Program which uses biometric information to verify passengers' identities, seems to be something that could come straight from a James Bond movie.

Select passengers from various airlines have been approved for the Registered Traveler Pilot Program by providing personal information, two forms of identification, digital fingerprints, and iris eye scans. Participants in the program must be U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checks the information against federal law-enforcement databases. Passengers who pass the background check are notified.

"This is the first opportunity for a national test-bed for these [biometric] technologies at airports, and for possible modes of transportation," said TSA spokesman Darrin Kayser.

The pilot program will be tested initially with American Airlines, which sent letters to travelers to register for the program. TSA expects to collect data for 2,000 passengers at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. More passengers have already registered for the program. TSA will set up designated checkpoint lanes to expedite the screening process for approved American Airlines passengers registered for the program.

Once the program is available nationwide, registered travelers will go to a biometrics kiosk, which asks for their name, an iris scan, or both. After passing through primary security screening, passengers can randomly be selected for secondary screening. Registered travelers who set off metal detectors will have to undergo additional screening.

"TSA will decide when to open the program to other airlines nationwide after it analyzes the efficiency of the program, including the ability of the biometric technology to enhance the security screening process," said Kayser.

For more information about the Registered Traveler Pilot Program, visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

© 2004 Hartsfield-Jackson News Network  
A Publication from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.  
All Rights Reserved.