ARE WE SAFE ENOUGH?

Measuring and Assessing Aviation Security

Mark G. Stewart | John Mueller

This book explains how standard risk analytic and cost-benefit analysis can be applied to aviation security in a systematic, straightforward, and fully transparent manner. It constructs a full model of the security system, describing the effectiveness, risk reduction, and cost of each layer, from policing and intelligence, to checkpoint passenger screening, to armed pilots on the flight deck.

It concludes that it is entirely possible to attain the same degree of safety at far lower cost by shifting expenditures from measures that provide little security at high cost to ones that provide more security at lower cost. In addition, it shows how the system can be made more efficient, providing great benefits to passengers, the airlines, and the taxpayer. It also finds that aviation security costs proportionately much more in the United States than in Australia, Canada, and elsewhere.

The authors also evaluate, and put into context, the degree to which terrorism presents a threat to aviation, and they discuss and apply the key notion, largely ignored by excessively risk-averse officials, of acceptable risk.

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See also
www.cato.org/blog/are-we-safe-enough

John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart are also the authors of *Terror, Security, and Money: Balancing the Risk, Benefits, and Costs of Homeland Security* (2011) and *Chasing Ghosts: The Policing of Terrorism* (2016).

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