



City of San Antonio  
Aviation Department

SAN ANTONIO  
AIRPORT SYSTEM



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# FAA's SMS Pilot Program

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- San Antonio Airport System – San Antonio International (SAT) and Stinson (SSF)
  - SSF is the second oldest airport
- Owned/operated by City Of San Antonio
- SAT is Medium Hub
- Over 8 million passengers



# Our Approach

- **Lead and Developed by Critical Path, Inc.**
  - Landrum & Brown
- **Conducted a series of workshops**
  - SMS Overview
  - Invited tenants
- **Interviews and Focus Groups**
  - Employees, tenants, other Stakeholders
  - Discovery meetings with tenant who have SMS
    - ▶ AT&T, Ratheon, USAA
  - Visited/called other airports with SMS
  - USAF
  - Talked to non-aviation industries that have SMS
    - ▶ Chemical, Nuclear
- **Draft Review committee**
- **Internal Working Group**



# What We Discovered

- We Are Not alone! (other Industries, USAF)
- GAP Analysis was a good learning tool
- FAR 139 is a good program
- SMS is a different approach to risk
- Being proactive has benefits
- SMS is not a quick process
  - 4-7 years to fully impliment
- Creating a “Just Culture” will not be easy



# Safety Assurance

- Established mechanisms by which the Airport System is measured in meeting safety requirements
  - Internal audits
  - External audits
  - Self-inspections (Airport Certification Program)
- Actively seek input through non-punitive reporting system
- Assure confidentiality of safety issue reporting process
- Provide adequate resources to run the SMS Program (staff and equipment)



# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Goals

- Hire a SMS Manager
- Conduct Safety Risk Management (SRM) on at least three projects
- Obtain tracking software for the SMS program
- Complete initial SMS training for all Aviation Department employees as identified in the SMS Plan
- Establish the designated committees as described in the SMS Plan



# SAT Next Steps on SMS

- **5-year Program Implementation Plan**
  - Develop training program (staff and tenants)
  - Initiate training program
  - Develop practices and Standard Operating Procedures
  - Establish SMS Committees
  - Develop safety promotion activities and programs
  - Conduct internal / external audits
  - Integrate existing tenant SMS Programs
  - Develop non-punitive reporting system
  - Develop annual safety goals



# Challenges to Implementing SMS

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- Getting people to understand SMS
- Where does SMS stop/start?
  - AOA, Ramp, Landside
- How do you create an effective SMS culture for the airport?
  - How people feel about safety and its management – a measurement of attitude.
  - *All of members of the aviation department (especially mid-management) are responsible for implementation of the SMS.*



# Issues For All

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- How do we ensure that the same vocabulary is used in all aviation related (FAA regulated) SMS programs? So that an SRM is the same for everyone including the FAA and its lines of business.
- For SMS to be successful, it is a must for airline participation in an airport SMS process such as the Airport Safety Committee and willingness to share safety data with the airport operator.
- What are the airlines utilizing to collect hazard and incident/accident information; how can this information be shared?



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Thank You