



Threat Assessment
Évaluation des menaces

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SECRET

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2017 09 13

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**Threats to the Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau
International Airport**

The Intelligence Assessments Branch (IAB) has prepared the following in response to a request for an assessment of threats to the Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (MPETIA).

KEY ASSESSMENTS

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About This Assessment

This CSIS Threat Assessment is provided by the Intelligence Assessments Branch

It addresses national security threats (as defined under section 2 of the *CSIS Act*) applicable to the subject of the assessment. It is intended to contribute to the threat identification component of a harmonized threat and risk assessment process being undertaken by the requestor.

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BACKGROUND

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1. MPETIA is Canada's third busiest airport by passenger movements in 2016¹ and a majority of the airport's passengers travel on international flights.² It is also the fifth busiest Canadian airport for cargo as of 2015.³

2. MPETIA is located within the boundaries of Montreal and Dorval, 15 kilometres west of downtown Montreal in a mixed suburban/industrial area. Approaches to the terminal are limited to road vehicles, which can drive to the front of the building. There is no barricade or physical impediment preventing vehicles from approaching the terminal building.

¹ MPETIA had a combined 16.6 million passengers enplaned or deplaned in 2016, out of the 119 million that passed through the eight Class 1 airports in Canada, 13.9% of the total. Aéroports de Montréal, "Enplaned/Deplaned Passengers (revenue and non-revenue)," 2017 02, http://www.admtl.com/sites/default/files/ADM_Statsdet_Angl_16-vWeb.pdf; Toronto Pearson, "Toronto Pearson (Enplaned + Deplaned) Passenger," 2017 04, https://www.torontopearson.com/uploadedFiles/GTAA/Content/About_GTAA/Statistics/June%202017%20Passenger%20Summary.pdf; Vancouver International Airport, "Traffic Update," 2016 12, www.yvr.ca/-/media/yvr/documents/facts.../traffic-update-dec-2016-final.pdf?la=en; Calgary International Airport, "Calgary International Airport Local E&D Passenger Statistics," 2017 06 13, <http://www.yyc.com/en-us/media/factsfigures/passengerstatistics.aspx>; Edmonton International Airport, "Monthly Activity Summary," 2016 12, http://corporate.flyeia.com/sites/default/files/12-16_-_public_report_p1.pdf; Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport, "Total Passenger Volume (2012-2016)," circa 2017, https://yow.ca/sites/yow.ca/files/pax_stats_chart_-_oct_16_eng.pdf; Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, "Passengers (Enplaned + Deplaned)," circa 2017, <http://www.waa.ca/uploads/ck/files/PassengerStatsQ416.pdf>; Halifax Stanfield International Airport, "Airport Statistics," circa 2017, <https://halifaxstanfield.ca/airport-authority/media-centre/airport-facts-and-stats/airport-statistics/>. The figures are derived from statistics in the documents cited here.

² In 2016, 10.1 million of the 16.6 million passengers at MPETIA traveled on international flights. Aéroports de Montréal, "Enplaned/Deplaned Passengers (revenue and non-revenue)," 2017 02, http://www.admtl.com/sites/default/files/ADM_Statsdet_Angl_16-vWeb.pdf.

³ Statistics Canada, no. 51-203-X, "2016 07 26," p. 12, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/51-203-x/51-203-x2015000-eng.pdf>. Air cargo is handled by both MPETIA and Montréal-Mirabel International Airport, with MPETIA handling a larger quantity of goods in 2013. Both airports fall under the same airport authority. Statistics from 2013 are the most recent for which cargo data is available.

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5. Security at the airport is handled by several organizations.

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SECURITY THREATS

8. Threats to MPETIA can be classified in two primary categories:

- Terrorism
- Espionage and foreign interference

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Terrorism

10. International terrorist groups remain intent on attacking civil aviation, including Canadian targets. Al Qaida (AQ), Al Qaida in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP), and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) have all demonstrated their ongoing interest in targeting aircraft with an improvised explosive device (IED).⁸ Issue 13 of AQAP's *Inspire* magazine (2014 12) included directions on creating an IED with no metallic components, designed to pass undetected through

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airport metal detectors and explosive trace swabbing.

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11. Terrorist attacks on civil aviation make use of several tactics. Some prominent incidents involved the placing of IEDs onto aircraft. The Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC) summarized several such attacks on aircraft, located in Annex A.¹⁰

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16. Existing MPETIA security measures mitigate the threat from terrorists seeking to use IEDs against aircraft,

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18. A 2017 03 28 report by the investigative journalism television program *JE* on TVA found four MPETIA employees with access to secure areas expressed sympathies towards terrorist groups or displayed unusual amounts of interest in terrorist activities.²⁰

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Espionage and Foreign Influence

²⁰ Félix Séguin and Maxime Landry, "Des employés aux profils inquiétants à l'aéroport," *Le journal de Montréal*, 2017 03 28, <http://www.journaldemontreal.com/2017/03/28/des-employes-aux-profils-inquietants-a-laeroport>.

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25. A news story noted that an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI)-catcher, which can detect mobile phone identity numbers, was spotted in MPETIA on 2017 02 21.²⁹

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²⁹ Brigitte Bureau, "Devices that track, spy on cellphones found at Montreal's Trudeau airport," *Radio-Canada*, 2017 04 05, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/trudeau-airport-spying-1.4055803>.

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THREAT IMPLICATIONS

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ANNEX A: Selected Recent Terrorist Attacks Involving IEDs on Aircraft

2015 10 31 – MetroJet 9268, ISIL-Sinai claimed responsibility for using an IED hidden in a soft drink can, smuggled on board with insider help at Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport, killing all 224 aboard.

2016 02 02 – Daallo 159, a member of Al Shabaab used an IED hidden in a laptop, smuggled past security at Mogadishu International Airport, resulting in the bomber's death.

2016 02 29 – Beledweyne Airport, Somalia, Al Shabaab attempted to place a laptop bomb on a flight but the bomb detonated during security screening, injuring 6.

2016 05 19 – EgyptAir 804, a suspected bombing during flight from Paris to Cairo over the Mediterranean Sea (details of the incident remain under investigation) killed all 66 on board. No group claimed responsibility.

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Top Secret

This is further to a recent Federal Court Decision on the non-warranted use of Cellular-Site Simulators (CSS) for the purpose of attribution operations and the subsequent DDO Directive dated 2017 10 20

These directives have provided framework requirements to which the Service is to adhere in the resumption and the organic development of the use of this technology moving forward.

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