

Flight Training Security Program Candidate Frequently Asked Questions



HOW TO NAVIGATE THESE FAQs

If you plan to consult FAQs while logged into the portal, you may want to open this document in a separate tab **before** you log in, then keep that tab open while you log into the portal using another tab. You can then toggle back and forth to the FAQs without leaving the portal.

The PDF toolbar at the top of this document allows you to download this PDF file and annotate your version, or print it. You can also access a list of the questions, as shown below, and you can increase or decrease the screen view. (The view shown is for the General FAQs.)

A screenshot of a PDF viewer interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with various icons for navigation and editing. Below the toolbar, a "Table of Contents" sidebar is visible on the left, listing several questions with expandable icons. A red circle highlights the expandable icon, and a red arrow points to it with a callout box that says "Click here to open the table of contents". Another red arrow points to the expandable icon for the first question, "New: Changes to the Regulation", with a callout box that says "Toggle down to expand the table of contents for each question". The main content area on the right shows the expanded "New: Changes to the Regulation" section, which includes a green highlighted notice about the July 30, 2024 update, followed by several questions and answers related to the regulation changes.

A full list of Candidate FAQs follows this page under "Contents." Click on a question to go to that question. "Back to Contents" links are provided throughout to help you navigate.

If you download and use your own annotated version of these FAQs, keep in mind that TSA will add and amend FAQs as new questions arise, or when policy or procedural changes occur. Any significant change in policy or procedure will be announced on the "What's New" board on the FTSP portal home page.

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Flight Training Candidates, U.S. Citizens, and DoD Endorsees

Who are considered flight training candidates?

I am a U.S. citizen; am I exempt from having to apply for a security threat assessment through TSA in order to take flight training?

Are foreign military pilots endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) exempt from having to apply for a security threat assessment through TSA?

WHO ARE CONSIDERED FLIGHT TRAINING CANDIDATES?

Persons who are not citizens or nationals of the United States and who seek flight training are defined by the regulation as "candidates," and must obtain a security threat assessment (STA) before they can train.

Candidates must participate in the Flight Training Security Program if:

- They wish to receive flight training in the United States or its territories, whether or not training will lead to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate or type rating; and/or
- They wish to receive flight training from an FAA-certificated facility, provider, or instructor that could lead to an FAA rating, whether in the United States or abroad.

Candidates must set up an account on this portal to apply for an STA. After they are issued a Determination of Eligibility, they must use the portal to select a flight training provider or providers.

For more information, see *About the FTSP* in the [Candidate Guide](#).

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I AM A U.S. CITIZEN; AM I EXEMPT FROM HAVING TO APPLY FOR A SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT THROUGH TSA IN ORDER TO TAKE FLIGHT TRAINING?

Yes, but you must present your identity document(s) when you appear for flight training.

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ARE FOREIGN MILITARY PILOTS ENDORSED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) EXEMPT FROM HAVING TO APPLY FOR A SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT THROUGH TSA?

Yes. However, the DoD attaché must create an account and log onto this portal and submit the relevant training information for an endorsement.

Non-U.S. citizens and non-U.S. nationals endorsed by the DoD are exempt from the TSA security threat assessment. To verify that the non-U.S. citizen is endorsed by the U.S. DoD, a DoD attaché sends an electronic notification to the flight training provider through the FTSP Portal. See the [Other Government Users Guide](#) for more information.

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Security Threat Assessment (STA) Application

[How do I apply for a security threat assessment \(STA\)?](#)

[How long does it take to process the application? How will I know when I can take flight training?](#)

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[What should I do if my application has been set to Insufficient status?](#)

[Can I take flight training without having the proper U.S. visa?](#)

[Can I make arrangements for training before I receive my Determination of Eligibility?](#)

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT (STA)?

Begin by registering a Candidate account on this portal.

Consult the [Candidate Guide](#) on the process and for assistance with filling out the application.

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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PROCESS THE APPLICATION? HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN I CAN TAKE FLIGHT TRAINING?

Regular processing can take up to 30 calendar days. Expedited processing generally takes five (5) business days. Business days are Monday through Friday, excluding days the U.S. Government is closed.

When you receive the Determination of Eligibility, TSA will send you an email, and you may choose a provider from this portal.

See *Select a Provider* in the [Candidate Guide](#).

If there is a problem with your application, it will be placed on hold and you will receive an email entitled "Changes Required to Security Threat Assessment Application." Follow the instructions in the email and resubmit your application (see next question).

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HOW CAN I FIND OUT THE STATUS OF MY SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT?

Check your email.

The Flight Training Security Program (FTSP) only communicates with you via email. FTSP's emails keep you apprised of where you are in the process and whether you need to take any additional action, such as correcting part of the application.

Login to your FTSP account to see all emails from TSA.

After you log into your FTSP account, select "View TSA Emails" at the top of the screen.

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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SET TO INSUFFICIENT STATUS?

Do not create a new application; this will generate a new fee. Follow this process:

Check your email. If your application is incomplete or contains inaccurate information, the Flight Training Security Program will send an email entitled "Changes Required to Security Threat Assessment Application."

Comply with the instructions in the email. Follow the instructions EXACTLY, because TSA cannot process your application until you have provided all the requested information. There is no fee to update your account and resubmit.

Resubmit your application. After you have made the requested adjustments to your application, click "Submit" in the "Actions" column in the "Flight Training Applications" table.

See the [Candidate Guide](#) for information about common errors made by candidates.

If you do not make the requested changes within 180 days, your application will be cancelled. You will have to reapply and pay the fee again.

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CAN I TAKE FLIGHT TRAINING WITHOUT HAVING THE PROPER U.S. VISA?

If the Flight Training Security Program (FTSP) is notified that you are not permitted to remain in the United States, your Determination of Eligibility will be suspended or revoked. You can correct the record by providing information to prove you are permitted to remain in the United States. FTSP will send you an email; follow the instructions in the email.

See *Correct the Record* in the [Candidate Guide](#).

Note the following:

- Previous immigration concerns, overstaying your visa, or being in the United States without permission from an immigration authority may cause delays in processing your application for a security threat assessment, or cause FTSP to suspend your Determination of Eligibility.
- TSA is not an immigration authority and cannot answer questions regarding visas or I-20s.

For visa information:

- Refer to the U.S. Department of State's Visa portal at <https://www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html> or
- Visit www.usembassy.gov for U.S. embassy and consulate contact information.

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CAN I MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAINING BEFORE I RECEIVE MY DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY?

No. If you are a candidate, you must wait for your Determination of Eligibility.

See [What is the Flight Training Security Program \(FTSP\) process?](#)

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Payment

[How much does a security threat assessment cost?](#)

[How do I pay for my security threat assessment \(STA\)?](#)

[I had a problem trying to submit the payment; what should I do?](#)

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[How do I qualify for expedited processing?](#)

[Can the name on the credit card or account be different than the name on the name on the Flight Training Security Program \(FTSP\) account?](#)

[How do I apply for a refund?](#)

HOW MUCH DOES A SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT COST?

The Flight Training Security Program system automatically calculates your fee based on information you provide in your application. Regular processing costs \$140.00.

Reduced fee processing reduces the processing cost by \$15.00, if you qualify.

See *Pay the Fee* in the [Candidate Guide](#).

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HOW DO I PAY FOR MY SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT (STA)?

After you complete your STA application and click "Submit," you will be redirected to Pay.gov for payment. Credit card payment through Pay.gov is the ONLY way you can pay for your STA.

The Flight Training Security Program does not accept payment by any of the following:

- Wire transfer
- Postal mail
- Over the telephone
- PayPal or any other online payment service.

Before you submit your payment ensure that:

- You have correctly entered all information.
- Your documentation is valid and unexpired.
- You uploaded clear images of required documents.
- You can be fingerprinted at one (1) of the fingerprint collectors acceptable to TSA.

For more about fingerprinting, see *Fingerprint Instructions* in the [Candidate Guide](#).

For more information about payment, see *Pay the Fee* in the [Candidate Guide](#).

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I HAD A PROBLEM TRYING TO SUBMIT THE PAYMENT; WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Do not contact TSA's Flight Training Security Program concerning a problem with your payment. TSA cannot resolve payment issues. Pay.gov handles all payments and payment issues for your application.

If you have difficulty submitting your payment, **do not keep trying to submit the payment.**

Work with Pay.gov to resolve the problem – email pay.gov.clev@clev.frb.org or contact:

Pay.gov Call Center: 800-624-1373 or 216-579-2112

Re-sending a payment could result in a duplicate payment.

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HOW WILL I KNOW IF I QUALIFY FOR A REDUCED FEE?

The Flight Training Security Program system will automatically determine whether you are eligible for a reduced fee, based on the information you provide in the application. Only persons who have one (1) of the following valid and unexpired DHS or TSA credentials qualify for a reduced fee:

- [DHS Trusted Traveler programs](#): Global Entry, SENTRI, or NEXUS
- [TSA PreCheck](#)[®]
- Transportation Worker Identification Credential ([TWIC](#)[®])
- Hazardous Materials Endorsement ([HME](#))

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HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING?

You must have uploaded one (1) of these four documents:

- Airman certificate with a type rating shown in Section XII of the certificate
- Permanent Resident Card
- Aircraft Operator Badge
- SIDA Badge

If you have uploaded a document that is not valid (not one of these six documents or the document has expired), your application will be processed in the regular processing timeframe.

TSA usually takes up to five (5) business days to process an expedited security threat assessment. Business days are Monday through Friday, excluding days when the U.S. Government is closed.

Any discrepancy between the information you entered into the application and the documents you uploaded will delay processing of your application.

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CAN THE NAME ON THE CREDIT CARD OR ACCOUNT BE DIFFERENT THAN THE NAME ON THE FLIGHT TRAINING SECURITY PROGRAM (FTSP) ACCOUNT?

Yes, payment can be made by a different individual than the person on the FTSP account.

TSA will deny any security threat assessment application paid with a lost or stolen credit card, and may initiate an investigation.

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HOW DO I APPLY FOR A REFUND?

You cannot apply for a refund. The Flight Training Security Program does not refund fees because TSA begins processing your application immediately when Pay.gov verifies that you have paid the fee.

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Fingerprinting

Are all candidates required to have their fingerprints taken?

When should I get fingerprinted?

How do I get fingerprinted?

Do I have to be re-printed if I have previously submitted fingerprints to the Flight Training Security Program (FTSP)?

Why do I need to wait for the email instructions before I can be fingerprinted?

Can I be fingerprinted outside the United States?

ARE ALL CANDIDATES REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR FINGERPRINTS TAKEN?

Yes. Fingerprints are necessary for TSA to conduct the security threat assessment. Candidate fingerprints are sent to the FBI for a criminal history records check.

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WHEN SHOULD I GET FINGERPRINTED?

Only after you receive an email with fingerprinting instructions from the Flight Training Security Program (FTSP).

You must wait for the fingerprint instructions email and follow the instructions exactly.

After you complete your security threat assessment (STA) application and pay the fee, TSA will begin conducting your STA. If you have provided valid documentation, FTSP will send you an email entitled "Documentation Accepted" and another email entitled "Fingerprint Instructions."

If you do not exactly comply with the instructions in the email, TSA or the fingerprint collector will reject your fingerprints.

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HOW DO I GET FINGERPRINTED?

You will receive a **Fingerprint Instructions email** from the Flight Training Security Program (FTSP). The email will provide detailed instructions. You must follow these instructions exactly to ensure your fingerprints will be accepted.

Do not attempt to be fingerprinted before you receive the FTSP email.

Candidates must be fingerprinted by a TSA-accepted fingerprint collector. There are two approved collectors:

NATA Compliance Services, LLC:

- Toll Free from the United States: 800.788.3210
- International or direct dial: +01.703.842.5317
- <https://NATACS.aero/FTSP>

IdentoGO by IDEMIA:

- U.S. only: 855.347.8371
- Enrollment Center locator:
<http://www.identogo.com/services/tsa-programsw>

TSA does not accept fingerprints collected by a U.S. or foreign police station or any other law enforcement office.

The U.S. Department of State has informed TSA that consular sections at U.S. embassies and consulates will not provide fingerprinting services for FTSP applicants. Embassies and consulates only provide fingerprinting services for non-U.S. citizens applying for a U.S. visa or naturalization application.

See [Can I be fingerprinted outside the United States?](#)

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DO I HAVE TO BE RE-PRINTED IF I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED FINGERPRINTS TO THE FLIGHT TRAINING SECURITY PROGRAM (FTSP)?

If you previously submitted fingerprints to FTSP and received an email confirmation of fingerprint receipt, you are not required to submit fingerprints again. TSA will reuse the fingerprints on file for subsequent security threat assessments.

Sometimes the FBI requests that TSA submit new fingerprints, or, in rare cases, TSA may require you be reprinted for an administrative reason.

If you need to be reprinted, TSA will send an email that explains why reprinting is required and provide new fingerprinting instructions.

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WHY DO I NEED TO WAIT FOR THE EMAIL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE I CAN BE FINGERPRINTED?

TSA's accepted fingerprint collectors follow a prescribed process, then transmit your fingerprints digitally to the FBI on TSA's behalf.

FTSP informs the fingerprint collector that you have achieved the "Documents Accepted" status. The collector cannot take your fingerprints without this email notice that you are eligible to be fingerprinted. You must bring your fingerprinting instructions email with you to the fingerprint collector.

Any fingerprints submitted directly to TSA will be rejected, and refunds will not be granted.

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CAN I BE FINGERPRINTED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES?

Fingerprinting in locations outside U.S. cities is available through a TSA partnership with NATA Compliance Services. For more information on TSA-accepted locations in international cities, consult [NATA-CS](#).

Please note: The U.S. Department of State has informed TSA that consular sections at U.S. embassies and consulates will not provide fingerprinting services for Flight Training Security Program (FTSP) applicants. Embassies and consulates only provide fingerprinting services for non-U.S. citizens applying for a U.S. visa or naturalization application.

You must have received an email from FTSP with fingerprinting instructions and must follow the instructions exactly before getting fingerprinted, or your prints will be rejected.

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