

Colorado Springs Chapter, CO Article for Officer Review Magazine

TITLE: Chapter Luncheon: National Transportation Vetting Center (TSA) Overview

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter of MOWW held its monthly membership meeting on 4 December 2021. The Chapter was pleased to welcome one of our members, Jon K. Wisham, Branch Manager of the National Transportation Vetting Center (NTVC) – West in Colorado Springs, as part of our outreach and support to Homeland Security.



Jon Wisham addresses COS MOWW



Vice Commander Rich Peters recognizes Jon

Mr. Wisham has worked for TSA for eleven years. He was a charter member of the Secure Flight Operations Center staff and has served as a Watch Manager, Senior Watch Manager, Operations Officer, Operations Section Chief, and Operations Branch Manager. Prior to TSA, he served 21 years as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). Of specific note, he served as the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Forward Director of Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence (J2X) in Qatar during a period in which the combatant command had three Joint Task Forces engaged in active conflict. Jon is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and holds a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Florida State University and a Master's Degree in the Operational Art and Science of War from the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College.

Jon provided an excellent overview of the NTVC which is a part of TSA's Office of Intelligence and Analysis and operates primarily from two geographically separate sites in Annapolis Junction, Maryland (East) and Colorado Springs, Colorado (West). The NTVC consists of a two hundred and forty (240) person workforce of government and contractor personnel who manage

a 24 X 7 watch center with the mission of “safeguarding travel and commerce against acts of terrorism”. He provided insight into the four mission areas that his team performs daily:

- 1) Secure Flight (SF) Vetting and Resolution: Uniform vetting of commercial airline passengers against US government terrorist watchlists. SF covers travelers coming into/out of the US, overflying the continental US, and on US-flagged carriers’ international flights. The NTVC also manages the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Do Not Board (DNB) process for passengers with communicable diseases. The NVTC currently provides vetting for over 2 million individual passengers per day and prior to COVID-19, that average was over 2.9 million per day.
- 2) Passenger Identity Verification: Vetting individuals that show up at airports with no government-issued identification. The NTVC handles over 900 phone calls per day related to passenger resolution or individual identity verification.
- 3) Transportation Security Vetting: Insider Threat Vetting for initial and recurrent monitoring of over 32 million individuals in 40 different aviation, surface, and maritime programs against US government terrorist watchlists.
- 4) Encounter Analysis: Employing strategic and intelligence-based rule sets to aggregate and analyze TSA encounters to provide intelligence to other agencies, nominate individuals for inclusion on US government watchlists, and when appropriate revoke credentials or insider access to critical infrastructure facilities.

Daily NTVC operations are integrated with the Transportation Security Operations Center, TSA’s Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service, and 121 US airport coordination centers. Additionally, the NTVC works closely with Customs and Border Patrol’s National Targeting Center-Passenger, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Threat Screening Center, and U.S. Northern Command.

Our chapter is extremely grateful for the work that Jon Wisham and his team do each and every day to keep our nation safe. We are proud to have him as a COS MOWW companion.