



INTERPORTPOLICE · Programme Paper

Securing Mass-People Environments (SMPE)

What the incident record teaches, turned into training and readiness

In one line: the failures that hurt airports and seaports are rarely new; SMPE makes sure each lesson is learned once, not paid for again.

The challenge

Airports, seaports, cruise and ferry terminals are open by necessity, high-volume by function and connected by design. Passengers, staff, cargo and data cross boundaries between organisations every minute. Attackers treat the environment as one system with many seams; too often, the agencies protecting it work as many systems with no shared view.

The incident record, from Brussels and Fort Lauderdale to Los Angeles and the 7/7 London bombings, shows the same failures repeating: warning signs that were never joined up, communications that could not cross agency lines, command that was assumed rather than agreed, crowds moved by rumour, and lessons identified but never finished.

What it is

SMPE is the INTERPORTPOLICE body of lessons learned from major incidents at airports, seaports and transit hubs, drawn from after-action reports, independent inquiries and first-hand accounts from the commanders who responded. It turns those lessons into a best-practice guide, an online course, exercises and a readiness assessment.

The course follows the life of an incident: threat, prevention, protection, command, communications, response and recovery. It then addresses the technology now changing the field: artificial intelligence, drones and cyber attack.

What it covers

Course module	What officers learn
1. The modern threat	Why systems security has replaced perimeter-and-patrol
2–3. Prevention and protection	Intelligence, behavioural threat assessment, community reporting, insider threat, access control, hardening and CCTV
4–5. Command and communications	Unified command agreed in advance; resilient, interoperable communications and one source of truth
6. Tactical response	Active and marauding attackers, hostile-event response (ASHER) and mass self-evacuation
7. Resilience and recovery	Mass care, reunification, continuity and return to service
8–10. The new frontier	Artificial intelligence, drones as threat and tool, and cybersecurity as an operational imperative
11–12. Assurance and capstone	Managing security as a system (P ² SeMS) and applying the readiness assessment to your own facility

What it gives your authority

- Training built on what actually happened, not theory.
- A common language for police, security, tenants and partners.
- A readiness assessment that turns each lesson into a question your facility can answer honestly, with evidence.
- Realistic exercises, including ASHER hostile-event tabletops for airports, cruise and ferry terminals.

Who it is for

Police, public-safety and security officers at airports, seaports and transport authorities, from command staff to front-line officers, together with emergency managers, tenant and operator security staff, and partner agencies. About 24 hours of self-paced learning across 12 modules, with optional live sessions and exercises.

How to take part

1. Contact INTERPORTPOLICE to request the course for your training office. It is provided free to airport and seaport authority training offices.
2. Enrol your officers through the online course, with completion records and certificates.
3. Vetted authorities can then complete the confidential readiness assessment and build an improvement plan.

Listen on Security Mindset: [Securing Mass People Environments: Lessons Learned](#) · [Securing Mass People Environments](#)

Contact INTERPORTPOLICE: membership@interportpolice.org · www.interportpolice.org