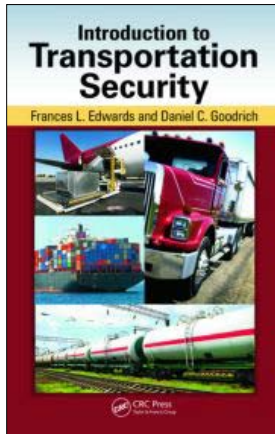# Text Review: Introduction to Transportation Security

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TEXT AND AUTHOR INFORMATION

Edwards, F. L., & Goodrich, D. C. (2013). *Introduction to Transportation Security.* Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

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EDITOR INFORMATION

Frances L. Edwards is the director of the Master of Public Administration program and professor of political science at San Jose State University. She is deputy director of the National Transportation Security Center of the Mineta Transportation Institute at SJSU, where she is also a research associate and teaches emergency management in the Master of Science in Transportation Management program. Her current research is focused on the continuity of operations process and its relationship to emergency management in transportation organizations, climate change and transportation, and transportation security.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS REVIEW

Introduction to Transportation Security is divided into three main content areas: Section I, Safety, Security and Emergency Management; Section II, Multimodal Surface Transportation Security: Threats and Strategies; and Section III, Putting it All Together.

These three sections comprise 11 chapters. Chapter topics include: security theory and practice, emergency management theory and practice, federal agencies and structures: surface transportation security, layers of security, road transportation (cars and trucks), road based busses, livery, paratransit, ambulances, and delivery vehicles, mass transit on fixed rails and guideways, freight and long-distance passenger heavy rail, maritime transportation, air cargo operations security, and transportation security, supply chain and critical infrastructure. The text also includes a forward by Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation, a preface by the authors, author biographies, summary of references, glossary, acronyms, and an index. Each chapter includes keywords, learning objectives, discussion questions and references.

TEXT REVIEW

Introduction to Transportation Security is a well-written textbook that should be strongly considered for use in any undergraduate homeland security, emergency management or transportation security course. The textbook could also be used in graduate courses in homeland security, emergency management or transportation security due to the thorough and professionally presented content. The authors do an excellent job of integrating emergency management, homeland security, transportation security and security management information in this textbook in a writing style that is clear and engaging for students. Each chapter clearly defines and explains critical concepts and theories that are further supported with pictures, charts and tables, and case studies. Learning is further reinforced in each chapter with the use of key words, chapter summaries and discussion questions. The content is current and relevant and includes topics that are rarely discussed in many introductory homeland security or emergency management textbooks. Among these topics are those in section two of the text and include detailed information about the threats to multimodal surface transportation such as road transportation, mass transit, busses and delivery vehicles, and freight and passenger heavy rail. The references are excellent in that they include government reports and documents, scholarly articles and books from a variety of disciplines, newspapers and online resources.

What to look for. Highlights include:
- The textbook achieves its goal of showing the relationships between transportation security, safety and emergency management by clearly outlining the differences among safety, security and emergency management in Chapter 1, and by including excellent chapters on the theory and practice of emergency management (chapter 2) and on all aspects of security (chapter 4).
- Each chapter not only highlights the threats and vulnerabilities to the various modes of transportation but also provides in-depth information on security strategies. For example, chapter 5 on road transportation provides excellent information on the components of the road system and then moves into a discussion on the natural, technological and human caused hazards to this system, as well security strategies for roads, tunnels, bridges, cars and trucks, and trucks with hazardous cargo. This information would be particularly

valuable for practitioners and students in the fields of emergency management, security management, law enforcement, homeland security and transportation.

- The textbook includes many practical examples and information for readers so that they may be better prepared for disasters more safe and secure when using various modes of transportation. For example, in Chapter 2 on emergency management, the authors have included information on what an emergency kit for a car should contain as well as a family emergency plan template. In Chapter 8 on heavy rail transportation, the authors provide information on hazardous materials and provide examples of hazardous materials placards.

- While the much of the textbook is focused on surface transportation systems, the textbook does include detailed and well-written chapters on maritime transportation and air cargo operations. While entire textbooks have been written about air transportation and maritime security, these chapters provide thorough reviews.

- In many of the chapters, the importance of cyber infrastructure and security in transportation security is discussed. The integration of this important aspect of transportation security is commendable.

- Every chapter contains interesting case studies to reinforce learning that are not found in other textbooks. For example, the case study in Chapter 4 (Layers of Security) analyzes the security problems that were encountered in the design for the new San Jose City Hall. This case was interesting and positively reinforced the concepts introduced in the chapter. Other interesting cases include the successful evacuation of the PATH Train on 9/11 in New York City in Chapter 7, the cases on train derailments and their impacts in Chapter 8, and the case of the *Cosco Busan* Oil Spill in Chapter 9.

- The authors are faculty members in the Master's degree program in the Transportation Security program at San Jose State University — a program of the Mineta Transportation Institute. Their experience as both practitioners and scholars combine to make this textbook practical, well-researched and comprehensive.

- While there were no supporting materials such as a teacher's guide, PowerPoint slides, etc. at the time of this review, the textbook contains discussion questions at the end of the chapter to reinforce the learning objectives.

Introduction to Transportation Security is the best textbook I have read on transportation security because it is the both comprehensive and interesting. It moves from theory to practice across all modes of transportation, discusses the broad range of organizational actors involved including government agencies at all levels and the private sector, and addresses a full spectrum of issues associated with transportation security. *Introduction to Transportation Security* is highly recommended for all introductory homeland security and transportation security courses, and would be an excellent additional text for many emergency management and security management courses.