

On behalf of RCMP Inspector Barry Dolan, Chair of the OACP Intelligence Operations Committee, we are pleased to announce the launch of a new initiative in the General Aviation (GA) domain.

In the first phase of this initiative, we are releasing educational and community engagement material to address gaps related to the illicit exploitation of the GA domain by Transnational Serious Organized Crime (TSOC) Groups and Foreign Actor Influence (FAI) Groups. These two groups (TSOC & FAI) are supported by vast criminal networks that have caused immeasurable harm to our communities, locally and globally.

Canada's General Aviation domain

The GA domain refers to the aviation sector outside of Commercial Aviation, which takes in the commercial passenger and cargo industries.

The GA domain is a critical part of our national transportation structure. The GA community and related businesses are true community and nation builders. They have a rich history of supporting all areas of Ontario and Canada through their transportation network, economic development, and public services.

Ontario's and Canada's vast geography means that many remote communities depend on GA for essential travel and cargo services. Moreover, our Emergency Services rely upon GA operations from Search and Rescue and Fire Fighting support, to providing crucial medical services and life-saving medical transport. GA is an important and vital transportation mode that forms part of our vast transport and domestic/international intermodal system.

Our public safety role

Police and Public Safety agencies across Ontario and Canada are highly committed and dedicated to ensuring public safety and border integrity. In 2023, several agencies came together to collaborate on a multi-agency, domestic/international Investigative Probe into the illicit exploitation of the GA Domain by TSOC and FAI Groups. This Probe identified a need to increase education and community engagement material for Police and Law Enforcement agencies in order to combat illicit exploitation of GA Domain by TSOC and FAI groups.

Policing and Law Enforcement are professions that require continuous learning and improvement to ensure we meet our mission and mandate of public safety. On behalf of our GA Executive Steering Committee (ESC), I would like to share this GA related education and engagement material that is tailored to support various personnel and units in your Agency/Service, specifically:

- Communications: Call-Takers, Dispatchers and 9-1-1 Operators

- Front-line Uniform Operational Personnel
- Investigative and Intelligence Officers
- Criminal and Intelligence Analysts
- Community Engagement and Outreach Teams

Call to action

The General Aviation community is an incredibly civic and community-minded group who are highly supportive of public safety and police operations. I encourage all Law Enforcement and Police Officers to review the following GA Awareness/Engagement material. We hope this material inspires you to take the time to go out and meet the GA Community in your local jurisdictions and patrol areas.

Best regards,

Inspector Barry Dolan