Vietnam's airports experience improved border security with Rockwell Collins solution.

A CRITICAL BALANCE

Governments everywhere know that national security threats are out there, but being able to recognize who and what constitutes a threat – and to contain it before it reaches the border – is critical to securing a country's citizens, infrastructure and economy.

Governments of countries like Vietnam, with its air traffic passenger numbers surging (up 29 percent to 52 million in 2016[1]), understand the potential issues this increase in travelers poses to its security. Government officials in Vietnam are working hard to balance the ability to protect its borders and detect threats with the economic benefits associated with tourism and the growth of the country's aviation industry.

CHALLENGE:

> Significant growth in air passenger travel combined with manual processes created potential increases in airport security risks.

SOLUTION:

> With the Rockwell Collins solution, Vietnam has improved its ability to counter threats by pre-screening passenger/crew data before arrival at immigration checkpoints as well as improved passenger flow at airports.

RESULTS:

> As a result of the implementation of the Rockwell Collins' ARINC Border Management Solution (ABMS), Vietnam's international airports have seen a 90 percent improvement in passenger processing times and a 95 percent improvement in data quality compared with the previous manually handled data.

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*As a result of pre-clearance of passenger details, Vietnam's international airports have seen **a 90 percent improvement in passenger processing times** and **a 95 percent improvement in data quality** compared with the previous manually-handled data.*

AN AVIATION AND ECONOMIC BOOM

The opening of international air routes in 2016, created significant economic and tourism development.[2] This increase in passenger traffic has paved the way for low-cost airlines such as Vietjet Air to thrive, and has made the exponential growth of Vietnam's air transport industry possible.

The economic benefits of the country's expanded aviation industry have been significant. Vietnam's aviation industry contributes approximately U.S. $6 billion to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and supports over 200,000 jobs.[3] As Vietnam has grown into an increasingly popular tourist destination and investment location, it has become clear to the country's aviation authorities that prioritizing aviation security is critical to sustaining economic growth.

PRIORITIZING AVIATION SECURITY

The Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam realized that its burgeoning passenger traffic growth was creating a pressing need to increase security-related measures and create more efficient passenger flows at the country's airports. Essentially, a more intelligent and efficient method to check passengers and their baggage was required.

The Civil Aviation Authority's first step to enhancing border security was implementing Rockwell Collins' ARINC Border Management Solution (ABMS) Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) at all international airports in North and South Vietnam.

The Rockwell Collins ABMS APIS solution enables government and airport authorities to review passenger information before an aircraft lands at its destination. Knowing in advance who is arriving enhances overall border security and control. It also enables the airport to operate more efficiently and improves passenger flow.

Prior to the Rockwell Collins' implementation of ABMS, international carriers flying into Vietnam manually submitted passenger information to the respective airport authorities. This caused a host of issues: data was delivered to officials in stacks of papers; forms submitted did not carry sufficient information and inaccurate entries were rampant. As a result, there was no advanced screening of passengers entering the country – increasing security risks. In addition, the arrivals immigration hall was frequently congested with long queues, leaving passengers with a negative impression.

*The Rockwell Collins' ABMS alerts authorities of invalid data and/or data discrepancies. Knowing this information **before the carrier lands** enables immediate identification and timely resolution of issues.*

BETTER BORDER SECURITY WITH ROCKWELL COLLINS

With the Rockwell Collins' ABMS, Vietnam has improved its ability to counter threats by screening a passenger's data before he or she arrives at an immigration checkpoint. Once an aircraft door closes, both passenger and crew information is transmitted by the airline through ABMS to the relevant authorities at the destination airport(s). This information, collectively called Advance Passenger Information or API, contains more information about a passenger, including passport information, date of birth, flight routing, seat number or even the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and is sent electronically. Compared with the manual forms, which usually contained just the names and seat numbers of passengers, the electronic messages provide significantly more information. This enables authorities to focus on where the security risk is the greatest. The ABMS also leverages the airport's investment in its current IT infrastructure because it can be integrated without incurring excessive additional costs.

The transmission of API prior to the flight enables authorities to efficiently identify passengers and crew, verify backgrounds and validate travel documents. This pre-screening also enables better security, faster processing time for passengers and crew, data sharing among relevant agencies and higher-quality data. Most importantly, though, it acts as a check-and-balance system, alerting authorities about invalid data and/or data discrepancies. Knowing this information before the carrier lands enables immediate identification and timely resolution of issues.

Currently, 41 airlines report API data to the government using the Rockwell Collins system. As a result of pre-clearance of passenger details, Vietnam's immigration officials report that its international airports have seen *a 90 percent improvement in passenger processing times*, as well as *a 95 percent improvement in data quality* compared with the previous, manually handled data.

Implementing the Rockwell Collins' ABMS was also in compliance with the Government's Decree 27, requiring all commercial or private aircraft arriving into the country to submit passenger and crew information to the authorities. On an industry level, organizations such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) have also moved toward enhancing border security by developing global standards and guidelines to facilitate passenger data exchange between industry and government.

The ability to customize the Rockwell Collins solution, which can be adapted to suit a government's specific needs, was also of tremendous value to Vietnam's aviation authority. Specifically, the ABMS was created with the ability to integrate with other systems, reducing upfront costs for airports and minimizing the cost of delivery for airlines.

The solution can also be integrated with a wide range of border peripherals such as document scanners, biometrics and automated border gates. This offers potential integration with a plethora of value-adding security platforms that could further strengthen a country's internal airport security control, as well as protect its national border.

The Rockwell Collins' ABMS enhances overall border security and control. It also allows the airport to operate more efficiently and improves passenger flow.

> *A Rockwell Collins engineer working on the ABMS system.*

START-TO-FINISH IMPLEMENTATION

The scope of Rockwell Collins' deployment for Vietnam included analyzing and deciphering the API data, system monitoring, troubleshooting and training. Aside from airlines reporting their API data into ABMS, Rockwell Collins configured the solution according to the government's unique requirements and presented the data to relevant authorities in a consistent and legible format, compliant with ICAO standards.

Rockwell Collins' expertise helped Vietnam's government, airlines, airport authorities and other relevant stakeholders through the procedures and information required to meet industry requirements and mandates for API data.

As border security continues to be a major area of focus for governments around the world Rockwell Collins is working to provide solutions that improve aviation security around the globe.

Notes:

[1] April 3, 2017. "Vietnam's aviation market: high growth, big challenges." *Vietnam.net*.
Retrieved August 2017 from http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/business/173694/vietnam-s-aviation-market--high-growth--big-challenges.html

[2] April 3, 2017. "Vietnam's aviation market: high growth, big challenges." *Vietnam.net*.
Retrieved August 2017 from http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/business/173694/vietnam-s-aviation-market--high-growth--big-challenges.html

[3] Tony Tyler, Vietnam Aviation Day sponsored by IATA and Vietnam Airlines, Hanoi, Vietnam, 27 August 2014.
Retrieved August, 2017 from http://www.iata.org/pressroom/speeches/Pages/2014-08-27-01.aspx

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Rockwell Collins delivers innovative aviation and high-integrity solutions that transform commercial and government customers' futures worldwide. Backed by a global network of service and support, we are deeply committed to putting our solutions to work for you, whenever and wherever you need us. In this way, working together, we build trust. Every day.

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