



# 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS



[airforwarders.org](https://airforwarders.org)

# MEMBER ADVISORIES & GENERAL ACTIVITY



The Airforwarders Association is your voice in Washington, DC, and beyond, but it's not always about being the loudest; it's about being able to inform decision-makers about our industry.

Our advocacy is essential now more than ever and continues throughout 2024 and will be ongoing in 2025:

## Addressing the Airport Cargo Area Truck Congestion Challenge



Even as airfreight volumes stabilize, our members incur significant costs due to airport truck processing delays, including thousands of dollars in cartage fees and waiting time expenses. To address this ongoing issue, the Airforwarders Association (AfA), in collaboration with the NCBFAA, published a whitepaper and launched a strategic lobbying initiative on Capitol Hill to secure funding for enhancing cargo area infrastructure.

Thanks to these concerted efforts, President Biden, in 2024, signed pivotal legislation sponsored by the Airforwarders Association. This new law mandates a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study focused on mitigating airport truck congestion. The study is now in progress, and we anticipate sharing its findings, which promise to lay the groundwork for solutions to this critical issue—an issue that continues to cost our members significant time and financial resources.

# Addressing Another Threat from Overseas

As a sinister plot involving incendiary devices concealed within air cargo shipments developed with the ultimate aim of reaching the United States and Canada, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Customs & Border Protection (CBP) called upon the Airforwarders Association for our feedback on proposed security enhancements. These hostile actions are aimed at creating chaos and havoc in the freight transportation industry. Therefore, our 2025 agenda will include increased engagement with global government authorities to advocate for sensible security policies while avoiding costly delays to cargo shipments.



# Increasing AfA's International Engagement



As AfA members expanded their international footprints, our organization increased its international presence by addressing global audiences and sharing the U.S. forwarder perspective at several industry events in:

- Geneva, Switzerland-FIATA Headquarters Meeting
- Panama City, Panama, FIATA World Congress
- Toronto, Canada- Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association Meeting

In 2025, you can expect this international engagement to continue through our newly formed partnership with the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) where we will join our NCBFAA colleagues in uniting freight forwarders in critical issues, promoting industry knowledge and protecting AfA member interests on the global stage.

**The Airforwarders Association** participates in industry activities while continuing to broadcast news and information about daily monitoring of legislative and regulatory initiatives that could impact members' operations, intervening as appropriate.

### Here are some examples:

- Sponsored a continuing webinar series focusing on industry tools and strategic insights affecting our members. An example of a few of this year's sessions:
  - Plane chartering
  - Warehouse automation
  - Fireside chat with new TSA Air Cargo Division Chief
  - Mastering LinkedIn for industry success
- Provided contingency planning information for a threatened government shutdown that could have adversely affected AfA members and their customers
- Administered frequent "How's Business" surveys to keep a pulse on our industry
- Provided Indirect Air Carrier Security Program change comments to the TSA
- AfA continues to keep members informed on European Union upcoming preloading advance data requirement
- AfA also advocated for members and reported on these critical issues:
  - U.S. Department of Labor Final Worker Rule
  - Europe's ICS2 advanced data requirement
  - Canada's PACT advanced data requirement
  - FAA Hazardous Materials requirements
  - TSA three-year IAC renewal
  - Federal Trade Commission Non-Compete ban
  - Enhanced ACAS requirements for forwarders
  - IATA Dangerous Goods Training requirements
  - U.S. East & Gulf port strike

- AfA continues to provide monthly trucking news updates to members
- AfA continues to provide valuable insight concerning member viewpoints and insight to the media
- AfA Executive Director continues to serve on and was reappointed to the TSA Aviation Security Advisory Committee



- AfA Executive Director continues to advocate for members by chairing the Cargo Network Services (CNS) Advisory Board, serving on the TSA Aviation Security Advisory Committee participating on the TSA Air Cargo Advisory Subcommittee
- AfA Executive Director continues to travel and speak at meeting and events throughout the United States and abroad, providing the forwarder's perspective and advocating for members
- AfA is standing up for its members in Washington, taking action before such regulatory agencies such as the FMC, TSA, FMCSA, and CBP
- Held AfA's most successful conference ever in Louisville, including a prestigious awards ceremony given by our membership to industry leaders
- Established a new agreement to provide AfA members with more education options for industry training
- AfA continued to provide a monthly newsletter to members to keep them informed

# ADDITIONAL 2024 ACTIVITIES

**We met AfA Members at events throughout the country in cities including:**

- Baltimore
- Chicago
- Columbus
- Dallas
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New York
- Orlando
- Phoenix
- San Diego



## Helping TSA Map the Air Cargo Supply Chain

At the request of the TSA Administrator, AfA led and published an air cargo mapping project which was published in the fall, which continues to provide information and insight on our industry to government policymakers.

## Annual AirCargo 2024 Conference

- Held our most successful conference ever in Louisville, attracting 1,000 industry attendees, exhibitors
- Looking forward to the upcoming AirCargo 2025 Conference & Exhibition March 2-4 in Dallas!



# AfA continues to provide our successful AfA Vendor Member Marketplace

Now featured on [Airforwarders.org](https://airforwarders.org)

## Publication of FORWARD magazine

Hardcopy issues of this award-winning industry magazine are published quarterly and provided to AfA members.

## Federal Committee Participation:



- Transportation Security Administration Aviation Security Advisory Committee
  - Air Cargo Subcommittee and Working Group
- U.S. Department of Commerce Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness
  - Workforce Competitiveness Subcommittee
- Customs & Border Protection Export Advisory Committee

## Active Airforwarders Association Committees:

- Airport Congestion Committee
- Annual AirCargo Conference Committee
- Canine Screening Subcommittee
- Education Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Committee
- Membership Committee
- Regulatory Compliance Committee
- Technology Committee

# Ongoing Media Engagement:

*AfA was mentioned 397 times in 167 articles reaching an audience of 8.9 million readers!*



## COMING SOON:

- Ongoing engagement with TSA regarding:
  - Changes to the KSMS & IACMS
- Ongoing engagement on changing certain Indirect Air Carrier Standard Security Program requirements
  - Security Threat Assessment (STA) application procedures and training
  - Definition of cargo acceptance policy
  - AfA's TSA engagement team now includes former TSA Air Cargo Division Chief and past TIACA Secretary General Doug Brittin
- Ongoing engagement with CBP on:
  - Section 321
  - Export manifest
  - 21st Century Customs Framework
- More engagement with FAA on:
  - Dangerous goods awareness and forwarder requirements
- Increased engagement on the airport and maritime port congestion issue
  - AfA has and continues to engage airports, ground handlers, and seaports on this costly challenge

In 2024, we welcomed a record number of new members representing a diverse range of industry stakeholders, including forwarders, trucking firms, airlines, cargo ground handlers, and software providers. Our Platinum membership program also saw significant growth, with more companies than ever demonstrating their highest commitment to our association and its mission.

This momentum will continue into 2025 as the AfA Board of Directors and staff expand our organizational reach and impact.

We thank you for your continued support.