



THOMAS L. FARMER
Assistant Vice President – Security
Association of American Railroads (AAR)

As the Assistant Vice President for Security with the Association of American Railroads (AAR), Thomas L. Farmer coordinates development of railroad industry security policy and serves as the principal rail industry liaison with Federal departments and agencies in the United States and Canada on matters pertaining to security – physical and cyber.

Mr. Farmer's responsibilities include: assuring the viability and effectiveness of the industry's Security Management Plan; facilitating industry-wide security exercises to evaluate implementation of the plan and apply lessons learned in improvements; managing the intelligence and security information sharing and alert notification functions of the Railway Alert Network; supporting railroads' efforts in responding to emergency situations; and identifying and advancing opportunities to enhance railroads' capabilities to address security challenges. These activities encompass physical and cyber threats, incidents, and security concerns and emergencies from varying causes.

As a critical component of these duties, Tom leads the Rail Sector Coordinating Council (SCC). Each of the seven Class I railroads, Amtrak, Alaska Railroad, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad, regional and short line freight carriers, Metra (Chicago), Virginia Railway Express (VRE), other affiliated commuter railroads, and the American Short Line Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) participate in the SCC – for collaborative risk mitigation and security enhancement efforts and effective communication and coordination with Federal government entities.

In April 2019, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) appointed Mr. Farmer to the newly established Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee (STSAC). Shortly thereafter, the voting members of the Committee elected him to serve as the forum's first Chair. The STSAC advises the Administrator on priorities for action and their implementation for enhanced security, risk mitigation, and emergency preparedness across surface modes. In February 2021, the STSAC submitted its inaugural recommendations to the Administrator – 18 in total, encompassing the priority areas of Security Risk and Intelligence; Cybersecurity; Insider Threat; and Emergency Management and Resiliency. Additionally, during the period of 2013 to 2018, Tom proudly served as the elected Chair of the private industry Critical Infrastructure Cross Sector Council, working with the lead representatives for each of the critical infrastructure sectors and with senior government officials in coordinated efforts to advance priorities and capabilities in critical infrastructure protection, emergency response, and resilient operations.

Tom joined AAR in April 2010 following nearly 6 years of service with TSA in both the Mass Transit and Passenger Rail Security Division (2006-2010) and Office of Chief Counsel (2004-2006). His professional career includes two tours of active military service – as a judge advocate in the United States Air Force from 1994 to 2004 and as a tactical intelligence officer in the United States Army during 1985 to 1988.