WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of security screening of individuals wherein said individuals' articles to be screened are deposited in a security tray which carries said articles through a scanning station comprising an x-ray scanner and an operator of said scanning station, said method comprising:

i) providing in said security tray compartments for receiving said articles which are delineated by indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays; and

wherein when an operator observes an article in a security tray which raises a security concern, the operator isolates the location of said article by referencing the compartment in the tray where it is located to thereby permit security personnel in said screening station to inspect said article and to identify and interrogate the screened individual responsible for said article.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said security tray further comprises indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays and which delineate whether said article is in a high or low position in the compartment, and said method further comprises the step of:

ii) when an operator observes an article in a security tray which raises a security concern, the operator further isolating the location of said article by referencing whether said article is in a high or low position in the compartment in the tray where it is located.

3. The method of claims 1 or 2 further comprising the steps of:

iii) providing each security tray with a unique identifier; and

iv) associating each said individual with the unique identifier of the tray into which said individual's articles are deposited for scanning;

whereby when an operator observes an article in a security tray which raise a security concern, the operator isolates the location of said article by referencing the tray's unique identifier and the compartment in the tray where it is located to thereby permit security personnel in said screening station to inspect said article and to identify and interrogate the screened individual responsible for said article.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said unique identifier is selected from the group consisting of radio-opaque alphanumeric characters, barcode, electronic code and RFID chip.

5. The method of claims 1 to 4 wherein said tray is made of transparent material.

6. The method of claims 1 to 5 wherein said security tray further comprises an area for holding and displaying a screened individual's unique identification documents, said method further comprising the step of said security personnel in said screening station observing said screened individual's unique identification documents to identify and interrogate the screened individual responsible for said article.

7. A security tray for use in security screening of individuals wherein said individuals' articles to be screened are deposited in said security tray which carries said articles through a scanning station comprising an x-ray scanner and an operator of said scanning station, said security tray comprising:

i) a horizontally extending base having an upper surface and a lower surface;

ii) vertically extending walls extending upwardly from the perimeter of said base thereby forming an article receiving area defined by said vertically extending walls;

iii) a plurality of compartments formed in said article receiving area for receiving said articles, wherein said compartments are delineated by indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays; and

iv) one or more indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays and which distinguish between a high or low position in each said compartment.

8. The security tray of claim 7 further comprising:

v) a unique identifier.

9. The security tray of claim 8 wherein said unique identifier is selected from the group consisting of alphanumeric characters which are at least partially radio-opaque, barcode, electronic code and RFID chip.

10. The security tray of claims 7 to 9 wherein said security tray is manufactured from transparent material.

11. The security tray of claim 7 to 10 further comprising an area for holding and displaying a screened individual's unique identification documents to connect the individual to a unique tray.

12. The security tray of claims 7 to 11 wherein said compartments are formed by upstanding lateral and longitudinal ridges in the upper surface of said base.

13. The security tray of claim 12 wherein axis scanning slots to aid two axis scanning and prevent overlapping are formed on one or more of said lateral ridges to allow a computer or other item to rest in a substantially vertically extending position rather than lying horizontally below or on top of other articles.

14. The security tray of claims 12 or 13 wherein said area for holding and displaying a screened individual's unique identification documents comprises a vertical depression formed in the outer vertical surface of the ends of said lateral ridges, being thereby adapted to receive the spine of a passport or a boarding pass.

15. The security tray of claims 12 to 14 wherein said at least partially radio-opaque indicators which delineate compartments are metal strips provided on the top or upper surface of said lateral or longitudinal ridges or embedded within such surfaces, or physical features of the interior surface of said security tray.

16. The security tray of claim 7 wherein said indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays and which distinguish between a high or low position in each said compartment are metal strips provided on surfaces of the interior of said security tray or are embedded within such surfaces, or are physical features of the interior surface of said security tray.

17. The security tray of claims 8 to 16 wherein said unique identifier is located on a panel sloped to the vertical or horizontal, at a slope of between 45 degrees and 60 degrees to vertical.

18. The security tray of claims 7 to 17 wherein said security tray is made of X-ray resistant material.

19. The security tray of claims 7 to 18 wherein said security tray is made of clarified polypropylene.

20. The security tray of claims 7 to 19 wherein said security tray is made of a polymer which is substantially transparent to UVC light.

21. The security tray of claims 7 to 20 wherein said security tray is provided with portions of reduced thickness adapted to be punched out to form apertures through which chemical or particle trace detection can be conducted.

22. The security tray of claims 7 to 21 comprising a compartment adapted for receiving small articles such as coins or jewelry by being provided with a smoothly scooped surface.

23. The security tray of claims 7 to 22 comprising rounded leading and trailing surfaces and edges having rounded or beaded corners to prevent catching on scanner curtains.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of security screening of individuals wherein said individuals' articles to be screened are deposited into one or more security trays which carry said articles through a scanning station comprising an x-ray scanner and one or more operators of said scanning station, said method comprising:

i) providing each said security tray with a unique identifier on a visible surface of said security tray, and which identifier is readable both visually and by electronic or x-ray scanning;

ii) providing in said security tray a plurality of compartments for receiving said articles which are delineated by indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays; and

iii) when an operator observes an article in a security tray which raises a security concern, the operator isolates the location of said article of concern by referencing the security tray's unique identifier and the compartment in the tray where the article of concern is located to thereby permit security personnel in said screening station to locate and inspect said article of concern.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said compartments are upwardly open compartments formed in the base of said security tray.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said one or more security trays each further comprises indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays and which delineate whether said article is in a high or low position in the compartment, and said method further comprises the step of:

iv) when an operator observes an article in a security tray which raises a security concern, the operator further isolates the location of said article of concern by referencing whether said article of concern is in a high or low position in the compartment in the security tray where it is located.

4. The method of any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 further comprising the step of:

v) associating an individual with the unique identifier of the security tray into which one or more of said individual's articles are deposited for scanning;

whereby when an operator observes an article in a security tray which raise a security concern, the operator isolates the location of said article of concern by referencing the security tray's unique identifier and the compartment in the security tray where it is located to thereby permit security personnel in said screening station to inspect said article of concern and to identify and interrogate the individual associated with the security tray where the article is located.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said unique identifier comprises identifiers readable by electronic or x-ray scanning which are selected from the group consisting of radio-opaque alphanumeric characters, barcode, electronic code, RFID chip or combinations of same.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the body of said tray is made of material which is transparent to visible light.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said security tray further comprises an area for receiving and displaying a screened individual's personal identification document, said method further comprising the step of said security personnel in said screening station observing said screened individual's personal identification document to associate the screened individual with said unique identifier of the security tray.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said personal identification document is a passport.

9. A security tray for use in security screening of individuals wherein said individuals' articles to be screened are deposited in said security tray which carries said articles through a scanning station comprising an x-ray scanner and one or more operators of said scanning station, said security tray comprising:

i) a horizontally extending base having an upper surface and a lower surface;

ii) vertically extending walls extending upwardly from the perimeter of said base thereby forming an article receiving area defined by said vertically extending walls;

iii) a unique identifier on a visible surface of said security tray, and which identifier is readable both visually and by electronic or x-ray scanning; and

iv) a plurality of compartments formed in said article receiving area for receiving said articles, wherein said compartments are delineated by indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays.

10. The security tray of claim 9 further comprising

v) one or more indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays and which distinguish between a high or low position in each said compartment.

11. The security tray of claims 9 or 10 wherein said unique identifier comprises identifiers readable by electronic or x-ray scanning which are selected from the group consisting of radio-opaque alphanumeric characters, barcode, electronic code, RFID chip or combinations of same.

12. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein said security tray is manufactured from material which is transparent to visible light.

13. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 12 further comprising an area for holding and displaying a screened individual's personal identification document to uniquely connect the individual to a security tray.

14. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 13 wherein said compartments are formed by upstanding lateral and longitudinal ridges in the upper surface of said base.

15. The security tray of claim 14 wherein slots are formed on one or more of said lateral ridges to receive an article whose width and length are considerably greater than its depth, to thereby allow a laptop computer or other item to be supported in a substantially vertically extending position rather than lying horizontally below or on top of other articles.

16. The security tray of claims 13 or 14 wherein said area for holding and displaying a screened individual's personal identification document comprises a vertical depression formed in the outer vertical surface of the ends of said lateral ridges, being thereby adapted to receive a passport or a boarding pass.

17. The security tray of claims 9 or 10 wherein said at least partially radio-opaque indicators which delineate compartments are metal strips provided on the top or upper surface of said lateral or longitudinal ridges or embedded within such surfaces, or physical features of the interior surface of said security tray.

18. The security tray of claims 9 or 10 wherein said indicators which are at least partially opaque to x-rays and which distinguish between a high or low position in each said compartment are metal strips provided on surfaces of the interior of said security tray or are embedded within such surfaces, or are physical features of the interior surface of said security tray.

19. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 18 wherein said unique identifier is located on a panel sloped to the vertical or horizontal, at a slope of between 45 degrees and 60 degrees to vertical.

20. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 19 wherein said security tray is made of X-ray resistant material.

21. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 20 wherein said security tray is made of clarified polypropylene.

22. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 19 wherein said security tray is made of a polymer which is substantially transparent to UVC light.

23. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 22 wherein said security tray is provided with portions of reduced thickness adapted to be punched out to form apertures through which chemical or particle trace detection can be conducted.

24. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 23 comprising a compartment adapted for receiving small articles by being provided with a smoothly scooped surface.

25. The security tray of any one of claims 9 to 24 comprising rounded leading and trailing surfaces and edges having rounded or beaded corners to prevent catching on scanner curtains.