

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 326 Lewisberry, PA 17339

www.fleoa.org

(717) 938-2300



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TREASURY

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December 10, 2009

Gerard J. Arpey

CEO, AMR Inc

4333 Amon Carter Boulevard

MD 5621

Fort Worth, Texas 76155

Dear Mr. Arpey:

We have received reports that American Airlines has repeatedly denied boarding to federal law enforcement officers flying in a non-revenue capacity.

Evidently, American Airlines policy states that "guests" should not ***"attempt to bring dangerous items such as weapons or explosive items"***. While we agree with that policy as a general rule, we certainly disagree as it pertains to federal law enforcement officers (FLEO). In all cases, these officers met the requirements outlined in Title 49 C.F.R. § 1544.219 - Carriage of accessible weapons.

Apparently the only difference is that the federal agents were attempting to fly on a "pass" as opposed to paying full fare for a ticket.

From an airline victimized by two terrorist attacks, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Americans, we find this policy disturbing for a number of reasons:

First, a passenger's revenue status should not matter. If a highly trained federal law enforcement officer meets the requirements of Title 49 C.F.R. § 1544.219, their revenue status should have no bearing. For American Airlines to essentially say "it's okay if you pay, but not if you don't" is absolutely ridiculous. I can assure you that a federal law enforcement officer would not base their reactions to a hijacking on whether they paid full fare or not, nor should American Airlines.

Second, most federal law enforcement officers are authorized and encouraged to carry firearms both on and off duty. To require

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FLEO's to check their firearm with baggage, or not carry them at all, makes no sense. Obviously, the firearm is not accessible in the event the FLEO needs it. Additionally, the likelihood of the FLEO being separated from the firearm for extended periods is highly possible. In one known case, a FLEO checked his firearm with luggage and because of flight cancellations and weather delays, did not recover it until four days later!

Third, the failure rate for TSA screeners continues to remain high. Simply stated, the likelihood that a determined terrorist will smuggle a weapon onboard remains a real possibility. The Federal Air Marshals Service (FAM), Federal Flight Deck Officers (FFDO), and Armed LEOs are the last defense and all part of the Force Multiplier Program. With your current restrictions, American Airlines take on that program is "we'll play if you pay".

Finally, the Allied Pilots Association and your own corporate security chief strongly disagree with this policy. While both were successful in allowing FFDO's to "non-rev" in the cabin with a firearm, they continue to meet resistance as it pertains to federal law enforcement officers.

We're not sure if this is a revenue issue or just plain unawareness on behalf of American Airlines. If it is a revenue issue, we plan on raising the issue before the appropriate congressional committees. If it is simply an oversight or unawareness, we encourage you to take the advice of security experts and allow qualified federal law enforcement officers to retain their firearms while flying as a "guest" on American Airlines. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,


J. Adler

FLEOA National President