

## Airline & Security Update Information,

This information is provided to assist personnel assigned in their travel plans and personal decision to carry a concealed firearm or weapon.

Several individuals have demonstrated concerns about state, local, and national security issues. The most prevalent questions pertain to carrying weapons onto federal installations and into federal buildings, or facilities and items forbidden aboard aircraft. I will discuss some of these concerns and briefly discuss personal conduct and appearance while traveling commercially.

Since the tragedy of 9-11, airlines have instituted security measures that may affect your travel plans when traveling commercially. These rules are not necessarily restricted to air travel. They may apply to rail, bus, and water travel as well. All modes of commercial transportation have instituted more stringent security measures to ensure safer travel for the public. The following are items that are normally being carried onto US carriers. Some items listed are illegal; however, some may be carried under certain conditions. When illegal items are found or detected, they will be confiscated:

### **Firearms.**

When transporting firearms aboard an airplane, the below requirement must be met:

- You must declare that you have a weapon when checking in at the airport.
- The handgun or weapon must be UNLOADED and not carried on to the plane.
- If the weapon is a firearm it will be in a lockable container within your check baggage.
- If the weapon is a long rifle or shotgun, it must also be declared and cased for transport as check baggage.
- The baggage containing the weapon will be identified and lockable.
- The ammunition can be carried in the same baggage as the firearm. However, the ammunition will be out of the magazine or cylinder and in the original container within the luggage.
- Do not attempt to carry ammunition onto the plane. Inert replicas will be confiscated (e.g., 5.56 dummy ammunition carried on key chains, dummy ammunition ink pens, dummy ammunition paperweights, etc.,)

The following is a breakdown of items deemed inappropriate when traveling commercially. These items will be confiscated.

### **Prohibited (normally considered personal hand carried) items.**

No sharp implements of any kind. This includes pen-knives, razors, pocket knives, box-cutters, fingernail files, fingernail clippers, child feeding utensils, plastic knives, letter openers, scissors, eyeglass repair kits containing screw drivers, any type of hard shaft objects (screw drivers, cuticle cutters, rulers, heavy gauge paper clips or holders), tweezers, sewing kits, etc. If any of these items are considered heirloom or personal, ensure they are packed in your check-in baggage or not carried at all. They will be confiscated by security. Airlines are confiscating over 5,000 items from scheduled passengers per day. Emotional ties to personal items or property takes a back seat to security. The Federal Aviation Administration has banned knives and "cutting implements" of any size from being carried on board airplanes. Individual airlines are responsible for security-screening areas, so interpretation of the new rules may vary among airports. So stay informed of changes to security when flying. You may want to call ahead for updates.

### **Electronics.**

All electronic devices must be removed from all hand carried baggage or luggage and passed through the scanner. The electronic device may be required to perform its designed task (laptop computers that show a display on the screen, pagers that beep, phones that show a display). This has been a requirement for many airlines and checkpoints in the past, and especially for international flights. It is now a mandatory screening requirement.

### **Personal Conduct at airports, check-in counters/security checkpoints and departure gates.**

Some people are being asked to leave the airplane or being denied clearance to the plane for no other reason than "looking suspicious" or "making the crew uncomfortable" or "being belligerent." When traveling be positive...friendly...courteous. Yesterday's jokes could result in you missing your flight or being detained unnecessarily due to improper conduct or mannerisms. If you have a question or disagreement with the conduct of a security checker or ticket attendant, be mature and use proper deportment. The security supervisors are available to assist you when you feel a dispute to conduct or treatment is necessary. These are challenging times and everyone is adjusting to the stringent demands due to 9-11. Increased security measures are in place to ensure safe air travel to all. The entire traveling nation is under stress and pressure and your cooperation and understanding is highly appreciated.

### **Appearance & personal clothing items.**

Currently, airline security checkpoints are requiring some passengers to take off their shoes, belts and sometimes clothing. Be prepared when advised. The check is not a personal attack against you but an addition to the new security measures in place to make you travel safer. If you have had surgery where joints have been replaced by artificial parts (e.g. metal joint replacement parts), you should notify the airline in advance. A medical statement verifying the surgery could be helpful. This will speed your travel through security checkpoints. Failure to do so could delay your departure or cause you to miss your scheduled flight. Emblems with elongated bases

or stems will be confiscated. Again, prudent planning is important, prepare and pack for your trip appropriately.

### **Personal baggage and carryon luggage.**

When traveling, your accompanying luggage must have your name and/or identification attached. If a name other than your name is on the accompanying baggage, it will not be allowed aboard the airplane. If you are not accompanying your baggage during the scheduled flight, the baggage will not be allowed to board the airplane. Carry only those “must have” items onboard the plane. Rule of thought, “If you can do without the item(s) during the flight, you can wait until the end of the flight.”

### **Prohibitions of carrying firearms or weapons open or concealed onto federal installations or into federal buildings or facilities.**

The events of 9-11 have created awareness not experienced since the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We have become more attentive in our day-to-day routines. We have united as a nation and the sale of personal firearms has increased. As with each citizen’s right to bear arms, there are limits when and where to bear arms. Extreme caution and prudent judgement must be used when deciding to carry a personal firearm or weapon. Know the law in the state where you reside. Laws differ from state to state. The law involving carrying a firearm or weapon onto federal property is specific and clear. Possession of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons in federal facilities, buildings, or Installations is illegal and is in violation of Section 930, Title 18, United States Code. Law Enforcement personnel, when entering federal facilities, buildings and/or installations must identify themselves prior to entry if armed. **Soldiers whose civilian profession require the carrying of a weapon, openly or concealed, are not authorized to carry or bring their duty weapon on a federal installation, into a federal building, or facility.** Full time civilian police officers performing drill, annual training, or while in support of Noble Eagle, may not bring their duty weapon, open or concealed, onto a federal installation, into a federal building, or facility. Reciprocity is normally recognized throughout the contiguous States. However, unless the carrying of a concealed weapon is in support of a federal mission, or so directed, weapons will not be brought onto a federal installation, into a federal building or facility. The following is a list of items that are listed as illegal and may not be carried onto a federal installation or into a federal facility or building.

- Firearms (of any type unless declared and cleared by the installation Provost Marshal)
- Explosive Weapons
- Machine Guns
- Short Barreled Firearms
- Firearm Silencer
- Switchblade Knives
- Knuckles
- Armor Piercing Ammunition
- Chemical Dispensing Devices
- Zip Guns

- Clubs or Night Sticks
- Illegal Knives

As I stated earlier, be aware of the laws governing carrying firearms or weapons within your state or across state lines. The District of Columbia has the strictest gun laws in the nation. If you are stopped and are in possession of ammunition, you may be charged with a felony. Some of us travel through several jurisdictions when coming to work. Weapons laws vary; ignorance of the law is not an acceptable defense. For example, **§ 18.2-308 of the Virginia Code states:** If any person carries about his person, hidden from common observation, (i) any pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or (ii) any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, or (iii) any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or (iv) any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or (v) any weapon of like kind as those enumerated in this subsection, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. A second violation of this section or a conviction under this section subsequent to any conviction under any substantially similar ordinance of any county, city, or town shall be punishable as a Class 6 felony, and a third or subsequent such violation shall be punishable as a Class 5 felony. I also stated that most states have reciprocity between states. However, Virginia does not honor Maryland or the District of Columbia's concealed weapons permits.

### **Final note.**

We need to be aware of laws governing our conduct, our surroundings, and informed of the changes in security postures. Law Enforcement and security officials constantly remind us to be vigilant and aware. The analogy that it will not happen to me is a misnomer. Attorney General John Ashcroft said recently that US officials would have been "laughed out of town" if they had warned Americans to watch out for exploding shoes. The Israelis have been guarding against this type of threat for years. But vigilant passengers and flight crew aboard American Airlines Flight 63 last month probably saved their lives when they stopped Briton Richard Reid from trying to ignite *explosives* hidden in his shoes. Notify local law enforcement when something seems out of place. ***If it is a concern to you, it is a concern to law enforcement.*** These are challenging times, not impossible times. Knowledge and vigilance, opening keys to a great day. I hope the information has been useful as well as informative.