

Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C.

ORDER

DOT 1620.3A

7-26-78

SUBJECT: POLICY ON DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES CARRYING WEAPONS ABOARD
COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

1. PURPOSE. This Order prescribes Department of Transportation (DOT) policy and practices with respect to employees of the Department whose official duties require carrying or transporting weapons aboard air carrier aircraft.
2. CANCELLATION. DOT 1620.3, POLICY ON DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES CARRYING DANGEROUS WEAPONS ABOARD COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, of 11-11-75.
3. BACKGROUND.
 - a. Federal Aviation Regulations Part 121 (Title 14, Chapter 1, Part 121, Code of Federal Regulations) prohibits carrying or having access to weapons on commercial aircraft, except under certain prescribed conditions and in accordance with certain prescribed procedures. Portions of Part 121 dealing with the carrying of passengers under the control of armed law enforcement officers and with the carriage of weapons were amended, effective April 24, 1978.
 - b. This Order is revised to call attention to the amended requirements and prescribes responsibilities for assuring compliance by Departmental personnel concerned.
4. POLICY. Civilian and military personnel of the Department of Transportation who are officially authorized to carry or transport a weapon aboard a commercial aircraft shall comply fully with the currently effective Federal Aviation Regulations.
5. RESPONSIBILITIES.
 - a. The Assistant Secretary for Administration shall maintain overview of compliance with this policy throughout the Department.
 - b. Heads of DOT Operating Elements shall:
 - (1) Specify what duties and what circumstances establish a requirement for personnel under their jurisdiction to carry a weapon aboard an air carrier aircraft or to have a weapon in checked baggage.

DISTRIBUTION: All Secretarial Offices
All Operating Elements

OPI: Office of
Investigations
and Security

- (2) Issue appropriate instructions to assure that:
 - (a) Only those employees having an official requirement are so authorized;
 - (b) Such employees are thoroughly trained in handling weapons under the conditions concerned; and
 - (c) Such employees are familiar with and comply with the procedures prescribed in Federal Aviation Regulations Part 12.
 - (3) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, provide two copies of implementing directives to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.
- c. Secretarial Officers and Heads of Operating Elements. In addition to the foregoing, DOT officials who become aware that visiting dignitaries or other foreign personages may be accompanied by foreign armed bodyguards aboard U. S. air carrier aircraft shall immediately notify the Director, Civil Aviation Security Service, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Notification shall be by telephone as soon as the possibility of travel by armed foreign personnel becomes known.
- d. The OST Director of Investigations and Security shall:
- (1) Provide copies of applicable directives to the Director of Civil Aviation Security Service, FAA; and
 - (2) In consultation with the Director, Civil Aviation Security Service, periodically review and report to the Assistant Secretary for Administration on compliance throughout the Department with the provisions of this Order.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION:



R. J. Alfultis
For the Assistant Secretary
for Administration