

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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March 16, 2017

Doug Parker
American Airlines Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 619616
DFW Airport, TX 75261

Dear Mr. Parker:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing to you regarding American Airlines allowance of Federal Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to discreetly pre-board and check-in with the captain prior to general boarding.

It has come to our attention that American Airlines no longer allows LEOs to pre-board flights when flying armed and discreetly identify themselves and their status prior to general boarding. If this is a new policy change at American Airlines, we are deeply concerned for a multitude of reasons.

Primarily, the threats again the United States are at an all-time high. There are domestic and foreign enemies who seek to do harm to the US in any way, shape or form. Iran, Russia, China, North Korea and others openly express animus against the United States. Additionally, extremist groups have attacked innocent civilians all over the globe. These extremists typically target public areas to unleash heinous acts of terror on people traveling. We already know all too well that domestic planes are prime targets.

Secondarily, forcing LEOs to identify themselves to the captain during general boarding in view of the public exposes the safety of the LEO and jeopardizes the entire flying-while-armed operation. With operation security compromised, any would-be extremist, terrorist and mentally challenged individual can target the LEO for his/her weapon and create an imminent threat of danger or loss of life situation aboard an American Airlines flight.

It is for these reasons FLEOA urgently requests that American Airlines reverse its policy and allow LEOs to pre-board flights when flying armed and identify and check-in with the captain prior to general boarding.

FLEOA appreciates your time and effort regarding allowing Federal Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to discreetly pre-board and check in with the captain prior to general boarding. I am available to discuss this issue at length if necessary. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly at Dominick.stokes@FLEOA.org or 410-340-8521.

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs