

DECLARATION OF JOHN C. BONNER, JR.

I, JOHN C. BONNER, JR., subject to penalties of perjury, hereby declare the following to be true and correct on the basis of my personal knowledge and upon information from documents I have reviewed, including those in my custody and control.

1. I am an Assistant Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida where I have been a faculty member since January of 2009. My areas of concentration are in the disciplines of counterterrorism, intelligence, and criminal justice and homeland security. I also provide instruction in other subjects within Embry Riddle's Homeland Security degree program.
2. Prior to joining the faculty at Embry Riddle, I served with the FBI as a Special Agent for 27 years. I worked in Baltimore, Maryland, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, Cleveland, Ohio and Daytona Beach, Florida. I have participated in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force with particular emphasis on conducting national security investigations and securing national special events such as the NFL Super Bowl, and the Daytona 500 and Coke 400 NASCAR races.
3. In addition to domestic assignments, I have conducted investigations and provided training in Europe, South America and the Middle East. In 2005, I was assigned to provide counterterrorism training to the Iraqi police and military in Baghdad and Fallujah, Iraq. In 2006 I returned to Iraq and participated in the trial of Saddam Hussein on behalf of the Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO) in support of the Coalition Provisional Authority and

the Iraqi High Tribunal. At that time my responsibilities included supervising a team of FBI Special Agents marshaling evidence of genocide and crimes against humanity to be used in the trial of Saddam Hussein and other Baath Party officials of the Hussein regime, and assisting Iraqi investigators and prosecutors in the adjudication of these regime officials related to said offenses.

4. In addition to my investigative duties, I have served as a Crisis/Hostage Negotiator; was certified as an undercover agent; served as an Instructor at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia; was certified as a Law Enforcement Officer by the State of Florida; and have participated in interview panels of applicants for the position of FBI Special Agent.
5. In 2003, I was awarded Investigator of the Year by the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida.
6. I graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and from the University of Central Florida with a Master of Science in Criminal Justice.
7. I understand that the Transportation Security Administration announced on March 5, 2013 that it would be changing its rule prohibiting all knives from being brought onto commercial aircraft. It stated that beginning on April 25, 2013 knives that were no more than 2.36 inches long and one-half inch wide would be permitted so long as they did not have a locking or fixed blade or a molded grip. In addition, box cutters and razors would still be banned from


planes. I understand that on April 22, TSA announced that it was delaying implementation of the change to the knife rule.

8. As part of my training as a FBI agent, I learned how to defend against an attack by an individual armed with a knife. The tactics that were taught did not depend on the size of the knife or the length of its blade.
9. Based on my training and experience, I can readily attest that the length of the blade does not determine the lethality of the weapon. A blade that is less than 2.36 inches long can just as readily puncture a victim's carotid artery as one that is more than 2.36 inches.
10. Similarly, whether the blade of a knife locks or not is immaterial; a non-locking knife is no less a weapon than a locking knife. Both knives are equally effective in taking hostages or maiming or murdering passengers. This is particularly true in the closed environment and cramped space of an aircraft cabin where mobility and opportunities for escape are severely limited. Consequently, there is no distinction between the threat posed by the knives that TSA would permit and those that it would ban.
11. I understand that TSA Administrator John Pistole has stated that a "small knife", such as TSA has proposed to allow on board, will not cause a catastrophic loss or bring down a plane. His opinion is apparently based on the belief that pilots will follow the instruction that they are not to open the reinforced door to the cockpit regardless of the mayhem taking place on the other side of that barrier. Based on my experience and training as an FBI

agent, and in particular, as a crisis and hostage negotiator, it is not reasonable to assume that all pilots would adhere to this directive if faced with the imminent death of one or more passengers or flight crew.

12. I do not understand how TSA could permit small knives but still prohibit box cutters. Just as the terrorists on 9/11 used knives and box cutters, an individual today could just as easily use a TSA-sanctioned knife to wreak havoc and endanger the lives of the plane's passengers. In fact, a small knife may be weapon enough to gain access to the cockpit as it could enable an individual to effectively assault a pilot who leaves the cockpit to use the lavatory, or force a flight attendant under duress to gain access to the crash axe which can be used to access the cockpit.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


John C. Bonner, Jr.

Executed on May 2, 2013