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April 26, 2013

Mr. Carter Morris  
American Association of Airport Executives  
601 Madison Street, Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22315

Dear Mr. Morris,

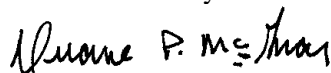
As a member of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee I would like to submit ALEAN's position concerning the TSA proposal reference the prohibited items list.

The TSA decision to allow knives and other presently prohibited on planes may be sound if the focus is strictly limited the reoccurrence of a 9/11 style terrorist attack. There is however several additional issues that ALEAN believes that must be explored.

- TSA screeners will be challenged with figuring out which knives are prohibited and which ones are allowed. This will lead to more bag checks, further lengthening the lines in the checkpoint. Longer lines mean larger crowds in the checkpoint, which in turn creates a viable target, similar to the Boston marathon incident.
- The above mentioned challenge will also lead to a greater possibility of distraction from all contents of a bag as the screeners try to determine if a knife is of the correct size and nomenclature. The identification of explosive and other dangerous items is difficult at best; adding a distraction will create an unnecessary risk.
- Knives are weapons and are routinely used as weapons. Although almost anything could be a weapon, having knives on board allows someone to have a readily available weapon which could be used to seriously injure passengers and flight crew. The likelihood the plane could be taken over may be remote, but having to deal with a serious assault in the cabin is a dangerous distraction for pilots to handle.
- Knives in the sterile area and on the aircraft pose an additional problem to police responding to inflight disturbance and drunk/unruly passengers. This unknown threat poses a major safety issue and adds an additional layer of problems to the response by possibly having to face edged weapons.

For the previously stated reasons, ALEAN opposes the TSA proposal and asks the full ASAC to take note of that opposition.

Duane P. McGray



Executive Director