Counterterrorism Provisions

The Basics

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) is calling for tightened aviation security after an attempted terrorist attack on Christmas Day 2009 exposed weaknesses in the current system. AFA-CWA representatives have presented position papers and briefed dozens of Congressional leaders and their staff on flight attendant proposals for counterterrorism initiatives to help increase safety and security inside the aircraft cabin.

"Flight attendants serve a vital role in protecting the safety and security of passengers and crew inside the aircraft cabin. We should be provided the tools and resources necessary to ensure the integrity of the cabin is not compromised," said Patricia Friend, AFA-CWA International President. "For years, AFA-CWA has worked alongside industry experts in identifying measures that would help to enhance safety and we look for those measures to be implemented quickly."

AFA-CWA's counterterrorism strategy comes in the form of hands-on training, enhanced communication techniques, and carry-on bag limitations. Mandatory, hands-on and situational training for crew members and providing the resources necessary for recognizing and physically reacting to on-board terrorist activity are other elements of the plan. In addition, AFA-CWA recommends that on-board wi-fi systems used by passengers be kept off during periods of high risk as defined by the Department of Homeland Security.

More Information