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ASD(I&L)

## Department of Defense Directive

**SUBJECT** Carrying Deadly or Dangerous Weapons Aboard  
Commercial Aircraft

- \* References: (a) Title 49, United States Code, 1472(1) \*
- \* (b) FAA Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 121.585, \*
- \* "Prohibition Against Carriage of Weapons," \*
- \* effective April 1, 1965 (14 CFR 121.585) \*
- (c) DoD Directive 5210.38, "Carrying of Firearms
- by Civilian Personnel," June 25, 1959

UNCLASSIFIED

### I. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

This Directive implements references (a) and (b) and applies to all military personnel and civilian officers or employees of the Department of Defense who are authorized to carry deadly or dangerous weapons aboard commercial aircraft.

### II. BACKGROUND

- A. Reference (a) makes it a federal crime for anyone aboard aircraft operated by an air carrier in air transportation to have on or about his person a concealed deadly or dangerous weapon, or to attempt to board such an aircraft while having on or about his person a concealed deadly or dangerous weapon. However, an exception is made in the case of municipal, State, or Federal law enforcement officers who are authorized or required to carry arms, and such other persons as may be authorized under regulations issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency.

- B. Pursuant to the authority of reference (a), reference (b) provides that the class of persons exempted from these provisions shall include employees or officials of municipal, State, or Federal Governments who are authorized or required to carry arms; crew members; and such other persons as may be authorized by an air carrier. It also extends the prohibition to include unconcealed deadly or dangerous weapons.

### III. POLICY

- A. Except as provided in subsection B., below, any person in the Department of Defense whose official duties require him to have on or about his person a concealed or unconcealed deadly or dangerous weapon while a passenger aboard any aircraft operated by an air carrier in air transportation shall confidentially notify the airline station manager or supervising agent (or in their absence, the ticket agent) of this fact prior to boarding the aircraft. Upon request from the airline official or employee he shall present appropriate credentials for identification purposes. These credentials shall consist of appropriate authority to carry the weapon and a DoD identification card. In the case of civilian employees, authorization to carry the weapon shall conform to the requirements of reference (c).

- B. An exception to the foregoing requirement may be made when DoD personnel with concealed weapons are on missions which could be compromised if their identity became known. However, in such cases it shall be the responsibility of the traveler to act with the utmost discretion so the presence of the weapon will not be detected.

### IV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

- A. This Directive is effective upon publication.
- B. Uniform implementation of this Directive shall be effected by appropriate elements of the Department of Defense as soon as possible. Two copies of the implementing documents and any revisions or reissuances thereof shall be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) upon issuance.

*Lowell T. ...*  
Deputy Secretary of Defense