

Please allow arming of Airline Pilots... this crisis would not have occurred if arming had been permitted prior to 9/11 and it is insanity to disallow it now. I fly an MD11 which is built with the cockpit door too far to reach from the pilot's seats. The "bar" method of cockpit door security is too clumsy to be practical in this aircraft and no one can leave the cockpit to visit the lav for instance because the other pilot cannot leave the controls to raise and lower the bar. The solution is to leave the bar in the raised position enroute.

A determined hijacker in any case, could batter down the door or enter through the blow out vent cutout, and invite all his friends into the cockpit, up to 1/2 dozen of them could crowd into the back of the MD11 cockpit and still be out of reach from the pilots. A gun would be the only practical method of defense, reliable and familiar, and the knowledge of its presence in American cockpits would keep hijackers out.

Security would be much simplified for only substantial weaponry would be practical against an armed cockpit and these weapons would be next to impossible to pass the security checks with concealment much more difficult than your average corkscrew, jeweler's screwdriver, or surgical clamps (all items confiscated from me).

Your average airline captain is representative of the most reliable stable and highly trained individual in the world. There should be no reluctance to encourage arming this group.