

Current security procedures are a joke, and is concentrated on "feel-good" solutions to a problem which needs serious attention. National guardsmen at airports do NOTHING other than convey a false sense of security to the public. Send them back to their units. Security screeners have little clue as to what might constitute a danger to aviation. Supervisors have little training to recognize the signs or profiles of individuals who could pose a threat. Much of their attention is spent on crewmembers who are often singled out for special scrutiny.

To improve the woeful security conditions in the US, several steps should be taken:

1. Improve the cockpit door and on-board surveillance. Luckily, this is taking place.
2. Examine checked baggage for potential threats. This is being addressed through technology and trained animals. Increase the pace at bringing these things on line.
3. Train and use undercover agents to observe the terminal/ramps/gate areas for those individuals who exhibit characteristics or mannerisms which would cause suspicion -- and be all means --PROFILE. The Israelis are effective at this, and the European screeners do a far better job than those in the US. There is little judgment at US screening points. Why hassle our elderly who can hardly walk, young mothers with infants, etc. UNLESS they exhibit a characteristic which would require it.
4. Ramp security is basically missing. The concentration is on keeping tweezers from personal possession, not on someone with access to the ramp bringing in plastic explosive in a back-pack.
5. Use crewmembers as they should be used --an important and in some cases last line of defence. Get them identified, stop harrassing them, and for those who are trained, capable, and desirous -- ARM THEM. The only ones seemingly against this concept are airline management, who will always run scared of potential liability issues.

The FAA needs to take meaningful actions and stop the unending eye-wash procedures which build up a false sense of security, and harrass everyone except "professional" terrorists.