

I am an airline pilot with experience in firearms and law enforcement. I support an armed flight deck for the safety of my passengers and those on the ground. In the event of an attack, our defensive window of opportunity can be extremely small and our response must be as deadly as possible. Because of flight deck confines, the attacker has an automatic major advantage over a defender not equipped to a deadly force level. Non-lethal defense requires movement to allow picking the moment of response. We don't have that luxury. Give an unarmed attacker a book or dinner tray, and he can defeat a taser. Furthermore, firearms on the flight deck must be holstered on the defender to allow a practiced, unrestricted movement to access the firearm. A flight deck-installed weapon won't allow such practice. Also, the intrusion may block access to a secured weapon. When our lives are on the line, don't settle for less than the best tool for the job, a firearm. We also need to remember that NO door is impenetrable, and even Cheyenne Mountain has armed guards. The solution is layers of defense, with deadly force as the final solution. My final comment with tasers is you get one shot and that is it, only one set of barbs to plant. What if you have 5 terrorists? What if you miss with the first shot? F-16's are ready to shoot us down, this speaks volumes of our governments confidence in the level of flight deck security.