

I am a Federal Officer with the Immigration & Naturalization Service stationed at Miami, FL. I have been conducting Detainee removal escorts for approximately six years. Under the Federal Aviation Regulations there isn't any provisions for the escorts of deportees internationally. We follow the provision for escort of prisoners FAR 108.21. Under this particular regulation there isn't any clarification between domestic or international flights. When we travel to a foreign country we are not allowed to be armed. The process to get clearance from the receiving country is long and the Department of State does not have the assets to handle the work load. We deport very dangerous detainees. Most of the pilots (first officers) rather have a dangerous detainee unrestrained in their aircraft than restrain. We are trained to restrain individuals as a prevention tool (a.e prevent escape or a possible assault). Since we have the training, it seems they rather have us wrestle with the detainee than prevent a possible situation. Very gray area. Aircrafts are big but limited is space and any time you have to get involved in a wrestling situation anybody can get hurt(lawsuits). On 12-27-2002 my partner and I were removed from Flight AA#915 to Colombia by CPT Buda (First officer) because our detainee was handcuffed and we were not armed. I don't have any problems with the captain's decision, but I have a problem with the policy. This particular detainee was convicted of Homicide, Aggravated Assault- with a deadly weapon and burglary.

Is there any way we can get a policy for INS international detainee escort to a foreign country established? Its very important we remove this individuals from our country!!!!

Final note: The amount of Criminal detainees is not going to decrease, is only increasing. Thank you and please can I get some feedback on this matter.