

The proposed requirement for transponders capable of single-button hijack codes in general aviation aircraft is an onerous burden on general aviation pilots and aircraft owners, and will do nothing to make general aviation any safer. Passengers in general aviation aircraft are most often known to the pilots who fly them, and are exceedingly unlikely to hijack those aircraft. If they did so, switching the transponder to a hijack code manually would be an adequate response to this extremely unlikely event.

More importantly, a hijacked general aviation aircraft is simply not large enough to do serious damage to terrorism targets on the ground. Much more damage could be done with a truck, which can be rented in any town with very few questions asked, and is much easier to drive.

Perhaps most importantly, the number of false alarms that will likely be generated by such transponders will far outweigh the small potential for alerting air traffic controllers to real threats. I understand that these one-button transponders will be impossible to turn off in the air, once turned on. Surely our security forces, air traffic controllers, and FAA staff have better things to do than to spend inordinate amounts of time dealing with pilots who have inadvertently pushed the wrong button on a transponder.