

Even with enforced flight deck doors and bulkheads, flight decks are still vulnerable when they are opened for crew members to address physiological needs. This vulnerable time can only be protected from within the flight deck. An armed Sky Marshal would have to fire a weapon towards the flight deck with the high probability of hitting a key aircraft component, further endangering the passengers and people on the ground. Plus the chance of a Sky Marshal being over powered by an individual or individuals posing as people trying to help after the first round of hijackers try an attack is a very easy strategy in defeating a Sky Marshal. If the weapon is obtained by an attacker then the attacker now owns the aircraft if the aircraft does not have a bulletproof flight deck door. Also the deterrent effect of having two armed individuals decreases the probability of the aircraft being targeted by an attacker. Terrorists try to find easy targets. If they know that in order to succeed they must enter a door with an individual on the other side pointing a weapon at them, they will probably elect another target. In order to prevent a weapon from being introduced into the cabin by a crew member, the crew member will leave their weapon on the flight deck before going aft into the passenger compartment.

Unfortunately non lethal weapons such as stun guns are not effective against multiple attackers like the ones on September 11th.

In addition to arming flight deck crew members Flight Attendants must be equipped with an emergency "Help" button that they keep somewhere on there person that will immediately notify the flight deck of an urgent problem. Also cameras are needed in the main cabin that show the cabin and the entrance to the flight deck, so the flight deck can see what is happening in the cabin.

It is only with these improvements will we really have a more secure aircraft. There is no one perfect plan, but a plan that makes it more difficult to access the flight deck may have the deterrent effect needed to prevent the attack in the first place. Any plan that does not arm flight deck crewmembers will still contain the fatal flaw an undefended flight deck.