

DFW RESPONDS TO MISINFORMATION ABOUT ALLEGED SECURITY VIOLATIONS

DFW Airport continues to lead the way in pro-active airport security.

(September 26, 2001) This morning, a story in the Boston Globe quoted an FAA database that allegedly shows DFW has the highest number of security violations in the country over the past 10 years. This information is inaccurate, and indeed misleading, by the FAA's own admission.

We think it is important to set the record straight, and let our passengers, guests, visitors and communities know that DFW Airport has been a leader in airport security for years, and since the tragedies of September 11, taken pro-active steps above and beyond new FAA mandates for security. Working with the FAA and the airlines to keep our Airport safe will continue to be priority one for this facility.

Now, to the FAA database on alleged "security violations" levied at the airlines. Last Thursday, the FAA held a media conference call and advised reporters of the following:

1. It is not clear in some cases whether the same "security violation" entry entered (for example) 10 times -- is one entry or 10. Obviously, that changes the numbers -- and story -- dramatically.
2. The alleged "fines" to the airlines, NOT the airports, are indeed civil penalties -- and in many cases -- those numbers listed on the databases were PROPOSED figures that could have been reduced or dismissed. Those actions can take up to a year to decide -- and the FAA said an FOI would be needed to do all the additional research year by year (in most cases, the FAA does not release "settled" penalties unless it's over \$50,000.)
3. The databases are open to (FAA's own words) "misleading interpretation" and that simply aggregating numbers is certainly not an accurate picture of the airline security procedures at any airport in the country.

Our expert researchers also took a look at the data, and agreed.

The Boston Globe also referenced a Fort Worth Star-Telegram story that had inaccurately reported the numbers last week, and subsequently corrected its story the following day:

"The FAA provides data on proposed fines for security lapses at airports, not the actual fines, which may be lower. Most of the fines are levied against airlines, which are responsible for security at gates, not against airports. An article on Friday about the proposed fines did not make those points prominently, and the

headline and chart did not reflect those distinctions.”

The airlines are not commenting on their violations and the FAA is no longer talking about it. However, we at DFW Airport wanted you to know the facts. All of us are acutely concerned with security -- before September 11 -- and after.

In fact, DFW Airport has proactively gone above and beyond FAA mandated security changes since Sept 11:

DFW Airport has:

- Closed all automated “airline only” entrances. All terminal and airlines employees -- from kitchen staff to pilots -- are now required to pass through the passenger security checkpoints or undergo additional security screening before reporting to work beyond the security checkpoints.
- Halted airport employee trains. All employees must use the public Airport trains and pass through security checkpoints or undergo additional security screening.
- In the process of moving badge-checking equipment to the passenger security checkpoints. We can verify an employee’s credentials on the spot, and be sure the badge is not forged or invalid.
- Removed all knives and other cutting instruments from kitchens and back storage areas of restaurants and stores. That initiative also goes beyond the new FAA mandate that no one entering the terminals will be allowed to bring knives, pocketknives, box cutters, blades or scissors past the security checkpoints. Concessionaires have removed all knives and metal cutlery from the terminals and may provide plastic cutlery to their customers.

DFW has always been, and will continue to be, one of the safest airports in the nation. We are taking these additional steps to reassure our passengers, and we recommend similar action throughout the aviation system. Our security initiatives and recommendations to Congress should be thoroughly reviewed and supported by every airport in the country.

It is important that our guests -- every visitor, every passenger and every employee at DFW Airport -- know that we are staying ahead of the curve in these critical areas. We will not allow the tragic events of September 11 to impede the progress and long-time success of our nation’s airline system as a powerful engine for our economy.

We are proud of what we are doing.

And in this time of national crisis, DFW Airport will continue to be vigilant in its security efforts.

