

As a retired international airline Captain with over 15,000 hours of commercial flight time I can attest to the value of training Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) pilots with the C.A.R. system. The confines of a cockpit make it virtually impossible for the pilots to react to a potential breach of the cockpit by terrorists or hijackers in any of the traditional personal defense techniques that are being taught. Most commercial aircraft today are manned by two pilots and for one to leave his crew position presents potential problems for continued aircraft safety. The C.A.R. system is perfectly designed to address close combat scenarios where the armed pilot may have to confront the threat from his crew position. C.A.R. is the only system that would allow the pilot to be trained in either hand accurate shooting in the small area of the cockpit. The techniques of C.A.R. emphasize shooting with either hand and from sitting or standing positions.

Even though FFDO pilots have been trained in law enforcement, they would not be expected or authorized to stop or prevent criminal activity that remains isolated to the passenger cabin. The sole purpose of using their weapon would be to deny cockpit access to hijackers and it would be used only in the most extreme cases where the cockpit door has been broken down and killers are entering the cockpit. Proper training would emphasize that the firearm is to be used only as a last resort, final line of defense to keep hijackers from entering the cockpit.

Having been trained in the C.A.R. system I would highly recommend that ALPA support of this training for current FFDO's and in recurrent training. The TSA should adopt this training technique as well.

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