

A Study on Countermeasures for Disruptive Passengers on Board Aircraft

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Abstract

Unlawful acts and unauthorized disruptions by passengers on aircraft have been on the rise post-pandemic with the increased air travel demand. In recent years, the number of such incidents involving passengers has not only increased but also diversified. Depending on the severity of these actions, they can potentially have serious consequences for aviation safety. Therefore, there is a pressing need for strong intervention regardless of means used in some cases. This situation highlights the crucial role of cabin crew more than ever before. However, despite the importance of addressing actions that may pose a safety threat by passengers promptly and decisively, there is a growing confusion in practical scenarios regarding the use of tasers. To address this and enhance aviation safety and security, this study examined the appropriateness of taser usage based on the types of threats posed. As a result of this, a taser usage matrix was developed, taking into account the legal positions, roles of in-flight security personnel and special law enforcement officers of cabin crews on board. The outcome of this research is expected to provide clear and comprehensive guidelines for taser usage, thus improving efficiency in responding to unruly passengers. Also, the intention of the study is to establish specific taser usage regulations for in-flight tasks, deriving practical solutions needed in the field. Through these efforts, the aviation industry will be able to enhance aviation safety and security by equipping itself with more effective means to counter illegal disruptions and ensure the safety of passengers and crew members.

Key Words: Tasers, Cabin Crew, Aviation Security, Unruly Passenger, Air Rage, Tasers Usage Manual

1. Introduction

Since the end of World War II, the aviation industry has experienced remarkable growth, marked by a significant increase in travel demand and the number of passengers utilizing aircraft. However, this surge in demand has been accompanied by a concerning rise in unlawful acts occurring on board globally [1].