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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY



Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
Washington, DC 20001-4901

Mr. [REDACTED]

Potomac Falls, VA [REDACTED]



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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY



March 17, 2008

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Potomac Falls, VA [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I am writing this letter in response to an e-mail that you sent me on March 14, 2008. You attached to your e-mail a letter from Naomi Klaus dated April 9, 2003 explaining the law controlling dangerous weapons at Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports, and asked whether that is still how the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority interprets the law. After Ms. Klaus wrote that letter, the Airports Authority amended its regulation to limit the areas where dangerous weapons (including firearms) are prohibited. Those amendments were adopted, after public notice, written comment, and several public hearings, on December 1, 2004.

Generally speaking, I agree with the advice that you may have a dangerous weapon on the toll road and on the roads in front of the terminals or other buildings that open onto the airfield, as long as you have otherwise complied with laws governing possession of dangerous weapons. You may have a weapon in those buildings if you fall within one of the exceptions listed in the Airports Authority regulation. Deputy Chief Kenneth Hutton sent you copies of the amended regulations last July 24, 2007, and explained that the regulations are also available on the Airports Authority's web site. I am enclosing additional copies of these regulations for your convenience. Aside from the summary of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Regulation 8.4, the rest of Ms. Klaus's letter still accurately expresses the Airports Authority's position.

If, after reading the amended regulation, you still have specific questions about where firearms are or are not permitted on the airports, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen L. Holl
Chief of Police

SLH:ehm

Enclosures

cc: Naomi Klaus, Associate General Counsel, MA-70
Deputy Chief Kenneth R. Hutton, MA-310 OSB

PART 8 - SECURITY

§ 8.1. Security System; Restricted Areas.

To protect the safety of persons and property on the Airports, the Airport Managers shall design and implement a security system for their respective Airports. As part of the security system, the Airport Manager may control access to any area of the Airport which he deems advisable and limit access to authorized persons. The Airport Manager shall set reasonable requirements for access to the restricted areas and may set different requirements for different areas. Among other things, he may require authorized persons to display identification (e.g., a badge) in the restricted area. The Airport Manager may suspend or revoke access to the restricted area for failure to comply with the provisions of the security system.

(Res. No. 94-4, 1-5-94)

§ 8.2. Notice to the Public of Restricted Areas.

The Airport Manager shall post signs on those areas of the Airport to which access is permanently restricted so as to give reasonable notice to the public. This shall not restrict the authority of the Airport Manager to temporarily restrict access to other areas of the Airport when the Airport Manager deems it prudent to do so in the interest of protecting public safety. When access to an area is temporarily restricted, the Airport Manager shall give reasonable notice of the restriction under the circumstances. In some cases this may be the oral direction of an Authority police officer, Airport Operations Officer, AOA Safety and Security Inspector.

(Res. No. 94-4, 1-5-94)

§ 8.3. Unauthorized Entry; Penalty.

No person shall enter a restricted area without proper authorization of the Airport Manager as provided in this Part. Violation of this Section shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Res. No. 94-4, 1-5-94)

§ 8.4. Dangerous Weapons Prohibited.

(1) No person may possess a dangerous weapon within or bring any dangerous weapon into the Airports' terminals or the airfields or any building that opens onto the airfield on which signs are posted so as to give reasonable notice to the public unless:

(a) the person is a passenger of an airline and possesses the weapon

in one of the Airports' terminals for the sole purposes of (i) presenting such weapon to U.S. Customs agents in advance of an international flight, (ii) checking such weapon with his luggage, or (iii) retrieving such weapon from the baggage claim area; and the weapon, if a firearm, is unloaded and carried in a locked, hard-sided container to which only that person retains the key or combination; or

(b) the weapon is (i) packaged for shipment in a container that is locked or otherwise secured and (ii) if a firearm, unloaded, and (iii) brought or possessed on Authority facilities for shipment by air or retrieval after shipment by air.

(2) The provisions of this section shall not apply:

(a) to persons authorized by 49 CFR Section 1540.111 to carry a dangerous weapon on their persons or accessible property in the sterile areas of the Airports;

(b) to law enforcement officers required to carry firearms while in the performance of their official law enforcement duties while on the Airports;

(c) to employees or agents of the Authority and the weapon is to be used under Authority direction for Authority purposes such as game control; or

(d) to persons who need the weapon in the performance of their duties for legitimate airport purposes (such as armored car guards) and the Airport Manager has previously approved, in writing, that person possessing a weapon where he would otherwise be prohibited.

(Res. No. 94-4, 1-5-94; Res. No. 04-25, 10-6-04; Res. No. 04-30, 12-1-04)

§ 8.5. Definition of Dangerous Weapon.

A dangerous weapon includes, by way of illustration and not limitation:

(1) any pistol, revolver, rifle, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or

(2) any knife with a blade longer than four inches, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, sand club, sandbag, bow and arrow, or

(3) any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nun cacao, shuriken, or fighting chain, or

(4) any disc of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed