

SECURITY

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TRAVEL BY COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

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Reference:

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1. Agency policy outlined in reference dictates that when traveling outside the Washington, D. C. area, couriers (including personnel authorized by responsible officials to hand-carry classified material on an emergency basis) will use United States military aircraft, chartered aircraft, or cargo commercial (U.S.) aircraft in lieu of scheduled passenger flights whenever possible to avoid the risk of hijacking. Such personnel are also encouraged to consider the alternative of surface transportation for the same reason.

2. The recent rash of hijackings to Cuba suggests that all employees be reminded of this policy. It also predicates an advisory that classified material should be hand-carried only to meet an exceptionally unique operational exigency. Normally, the transmission of such material should be accomplished via designated Intelligence Community courier systems or in the transmission of Secret and Confidential material by registered mail within the United States.

3. The threat of hijacking consistently poses a risk, but the frequency of such incidents in recent weeks occurring on flights originating from a variety of geographic points within the United States suggests that the threat at the present time is exceptionally high. Effective immediately, those officials authorized to designate emergency couriers to hand-carry classified material will limit their approval of commercial air transportation to an absolute minimum and will pursue other alternatives to meet operational requirements.

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5. In summary, the best defense against compromise as a result of hijacking is to avoid the risk associated with commercial air travel. Maximum use of the designated Intelligence Community courier systems is encouraged, as is the use of registered U.S. mail for the transmission of Secret and Confidential material.

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