NEWS RELEASE
Florida Officials Monitor Change in Aviation Threat Levels

For Immediate Release
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The United States Department of Homeland Security raised the aviation threat level from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High), today for all commercial flights operating within the United States and internationally. The threat level was raised to Red (Severe) for commercial flights flying from the United Kingdom to the United States. The decision to raise the threat level is based on the recent arrests of a number of suspected terrorists that were allegedly plotting against flights originating in the United Kingdom with final destinations in the United States.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey said, “At this time, there is no specific intelligence that suggests a Florida connection to these recent arrests, nonetheless, Florida’s seven regional domestic security task forces have been alerted to the increased threat level, and they will be taking appropriate steps to protect our state. The public should take comfort in the fact that Florida has a sound domestic security strategy and that we will continue to monitor these activities with the assistance of our federal, state and local law enforcement partners.”

“Given these recent developments, when traveling, the public can expect to see some inconveniences in light of the increased threat level. These measures are in place to ensure the safety of our residents and the visitors that come to our state,” said Craig Fugate, Director of the Division of Emergency Management. “I encourage you to continue with your everyday lives while continuing to be vigilant. As always, if you see any suspicious persons or activities, I strongly encourage you to report them to local law enforcement authorities immediately.”

For additional information on preparing for threats such as these, please visit www.floridadisaster.org, www.ready.org, and www.fdle.state.fl.us

On page two of this release information is provided concerning travel restrictions that have been put in place by the Department of Homeland Security.

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Changes in Threat Level for the Aviation Sector

The U.S. threat level is raised to **Severe**, or **Red**, for all commercial flights flying from the United Kingdom to the United States.

The United States threat level is raised to **High**, or **Orange**, for all commercial aviation operating in the U.S., including international flights. Flights from the U.S. to the U.K. are also **Orange**.

All travelers on commercial U.S. carriers and on all flights into the U.S., please be advised of the following changes to airport screening procedures:

- NO LIQUIDS OR GELS OF ANY KIND WILL BE PERMITTED IN CARRY ON BAGGAGE. ITEMS MUST BE IN CHECKED BAGGAGE. This includes all beverages, shampoo, sun tan lotion, creams, tooth paste, hair gel, and other items of similar consistency.
- Exception: Baby formula and medicines must be presented for inspection at the checkpoint.
- Beverages purchased in the boarding area (beyond the checkpoint) must be consumed before boarding because they will not be permitted on board the aircraft.
- Passengers traveling from the U.K. to the U.S. will be subject to a more extensive screening process.
- These measures will be constantly evaluated and updated when circumstances warrant.
- Air Passengers are being advised to:
  - Pack lightly, without clutter to facilitate easier screening
  - Arrive at least two hours early at the airport
  - Cooperate with TSA personnel at checkpoints and at all gates
  - Be attentive and vigilant to any suspicious activity and report it to authorities