

Dear Sir,

I have been employed at a psychiatric hospital as a psychiatric technician years ago. I learned something important there about human behavior. We had a great deal of violence by patients against the staff and other patients, as well as self-inflicted injury. Then we increased the staff and were trained in subduing violent patients. We had a procedure whereby we were able to sound an alarm and call available male staff from the other wing. I found that violence was reduced to almost nothing by a show of force. We would surround the patient with 5 male staff. I, as one of the restraint captains, would talk calmly to the patient to persuade him to desist and allow us to put restraints on him. If he moved aggressively, I moved toward him. When I moved, the others would follow instantly. This show of force worked wonders in bringing peace to the wards. The patients felt less willing to act out, and the other patients felt much more secure. When there was an adequate show of force, it changed the will of the violent. When there was not, they acted out and injury was caused. This is no different with those who would cut the throats of stewardesses. If you have an adequate show of force it will subdue the would-be violent. Martial arts, wrestling and the chance occurrence that they will be an adequate number of men to subdue is no deterrent in such a case as a suicidal high jacking. Such a man will not stop until his mission is accomplished, or he is dead. Although Muslim high jackers are fanatical and crazy, they are much more capable of design and planned violence than mental patients. Much greater show of force is necessary to deter or stop them.

One more thing - the customer has a right to receive the best protection under the law as they travel. If they don't get it, they will be too afraid to fly. If they are afraid to fly, that is a sign to our enemies that they are stronger and they will take all advantage of us. If the patron is assured of being on the winning side in a conflict, they will be of much greater assistance in a confrontation. Hand to hand combat against a suicidal fanatic without weapons that can kill is foolish.

Sincerely,

Alan Allison