

Tactical Air Travel: Surviving TSA/NPE

with Buck Greene for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

No Armed Citizen Likes Air Travel

When you travel by air, you basically have to strip naked. You certainly can't take any weapons of any kind with you, such as guns or knives. But you DO have some options for Non Permissive Environments (NPEs) as established by the TSA. Here is what Buck Greene carried on a recent plane trip to MCS Headquarters. The fundamental rule is:

You don't carry anything you aren't prepared to throw away or have taken from you.

Heavy Metal Pen

While plenty of people carry [tactical pens](#), you actually DON'T want one of those.

- Anything aggressively "tactical" runs the risk of being confiscated.
- A nice, solid metal pen, like the all steel Zebra F701, is fine.
- Remember, these are more like kubotans than stabbing implements.
- They WILL break if you hit hard enough with them; you have to hit to soft targets:
 - The eyes
 - The hollow of the throat
 - The face/cheeks

Flashlight

Flashlights have gotten so cheap and so bright that it takes just a couple of dollars to get a good one. There's no excuse not to have one.

- It can be used as a striking implement.
- It has tremendous utility and safety value, such as when walking in unfamiliar cities at night or when searching your hotel room.

- TSA didn't give my "tactical flashlight," completed with a crenelated bezel, a second glance.
- Choose a metal flashlight, not a plastic one, if you can.
- Flashlights can be fist loads or striking tools.
- You want one that projects from your fist, ideally.

Bandanna

This takes up no room and is one of the most useful survival and utility items you can carry.

- It can be a filter, a head wrap, improvised sunglasses, a carrying implement, bandage.
- Load it with something heavy and you have a sap/blackjack.
- You could also carry a **padlock**, which can act as "brass knuckles."

Power Source

Airports have started installing power jacks and exchangeable batteries. Don't rely on these.

- Carry a power source of your own so that your phone never runs dead.
- Make sure you have the cables you need.
- Whenever you can recharge, do so.

Phone (Prepped)

The power matters because your smartphone is so useful. Prep it with the apps you'll need BEFORE you take off (airplane mode sucks!).

- Getting sitrep intel on where you're going.
- Finding stores that can help you supplement what you've got on you after you land.
- Communicating and getting help if needed.

Prepare. Train. Survive.