

Boeing Commercial Airplanes

BOEING RESPONSE STATEMENT FOR NEWS MEDIA QUERIES

SUBJECT: Claims of hacking IFE systems

SUMMARY:

An FBI warrant, issued in the matter of an airplane passenger allegedly claiming to gain access to airplane flight-control systems by hacking into In-Flight Entertainment systems, recently generated significant press coverage when the warrant came to the attention of news media.

BOEING RESPONSE STATEMENT:

Boeing has complete confidence in the cyber-security measures of its airplanes. Multiple layers of protection, including software, hardware, and network architecture features, are designed to ensure the security of all critical flight systems from intrusion.

Boeing's cyber-security measures have been subjected to rigorous testing, including through the FAA's certification process, and our airplanes meet or exceed all applicable regulatory requirements.

For questions specifically about an airline passenger's claims of IFE hacking:

Media sources recently reported that a 737 passenger claimed that he used the airplane's In-Flight Entertainment system to access certain flight control systems and alter the airplane's flight. While we do not detail specific cyber-defense measures for security reasons, we believe, based on the airplane's design, that this reported intrusion simply could not have occurred.

For questions specifically about the GAO Report on cyber security:

Boeing respectfully disagrees with elements of this GAO report, which was primarily focused on concerns for the NextGen Air Traffic Control system. This GAO report relies, to a degree, on questionable assumptions about how systems on board airplanes are networked. The report contains some key technical and factual information that is incorrect and should not be considered as a definitive source on the systems architecture on board modern airplanes.

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