

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WITH WEAPONS

By Michael Price

Recently, four of us, all NW Chapter members, traveled to Mexico with rifles with no problems, except the delay caused by TSA in Houston which caused us to miss our connecting flight home.

But a member of another Washington State SCI Chapter, on a trip booked with a different Mexican outfitter on a different day than us, arrived at the airport ready to go and was not allowed to board the airplane because he did not have the paperwork required. **He did not go on the hunt** after spending hours on the phone, the fax, etc. to no avail and returned home frustrated and angry. The last I heard, he might be out/lost the substantial money paid to the outfitter and might have to pay a rescheduling fee to the airline to use the money paid for the airline ticket.

The airline we traveled on to Mexico, requested the following prior to boarding:

1. Our passport.
2. A copy of the Client Contract we obtained from our booking agent.
3. A copy of the Mexican government, "Weapons Importation Document" for each rifle, obtained from our outfitter. (Cost \$100 ea.)
4. A copy of US Customs, "Certificate of Registration for Personal Effects Taken Abroad".
5. Guns in locked hard sided cases. (Some of us had the ammo in original boxes in gun case, others in locked suitcase.)

When we arrived in Mexico we were met by our outfitter, the Mexican customs personnel, and the Mexican Army with more firepower than we had. Thank God our outfitter could translate. Our outfitter had the required separate Mexican government (\$50.) "Weapons Transport" certificate and after thorough gun case checks by their personnel we were able to depart the airport, but any time we were on a public road, whether it was paved or dirt, the rifles had to be in a locked hard sided case.

The rules are different for almost every country and every airline and changing frequently. You must research ahead of time the requirements of the country you are visiting and the airlines requirements. Don't expect it to be the same as it was the last time you traveled, and do not expect the outfitter to do it for you, even though he should advise as to what is needed,. Also don't expect the airline check in person to know the rules. Our info was required to be checked & sent ahead and the check in person did not know that, until a co-worker over heard and advised her. A lot of the new rules are new US Federal laws and are being interpreted and adhered to differently by different airlines, so be prepared with **everything that could be required** .

And after all the work and research, you will probably find someone interpreting it differently, so try to bring the rules with you of what is expected, that was printed off their web site.

Good Luck Traveling and Good Hunting,
Mike