DENTAL GEAR DELAYED FLIGHTS, TIED UP TRAFFIC AT MIAMI AIRPORT, LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES SAY

News / Airports / Routes

Flights were delayed for hours, traffic was backed up outside the terminal and armed police in riot gear boarded a **Miami** flight to Barbados over concerns that **dental** equipment posed a threat to passengers and pilots.

According to law enforcement sources on Tuesday, Transportation Security Administration workers at American Airlines Concourse D allowed a dentist through with a carry-on bag stocked with fillings and other dental supplies. It wasn't until he boarded the flight just before 6 p.m. Monday that agents at the plane's entrance became curious.

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The flight from Miami International Airport to Bridgetown was ordered stopped and two security checkpoints were shut down as armed police wearing helmets boarded the plane and ordered passengers to put their hands on their heads. Much of the incident was captured on social media.

Witnesses said police quickly found the dentist, questioned him, searched his bag and eventually let him go. It was unclear Tuesday if the dentist, who hasn't been named, made his flight. FBI spokesman Mike Leverock said Monday that the man cooperated and faces no charges.

On Tuesday, Leverock offered no more details and local law enforcement officials weren't talking. TSA regional spokesman Mark Howell said his agency would release a statement some time Tuesday afternoon, but refused to comment until then.

Several major airports across the world and in major cities throughout the United States have upped security since Russia's Metrojet flight 9268 went down over Egypt two weeks ago. The incident is believed to have been caused by an explosion aboard the plane.

Monday's incident at MIA affected 50 incoming and outgoing flights and shut down two concourses for almost three hours. Nine flights were diverted. Traffic was so backed up that passengers said they got out of cars and walked to the ramp with their luggage.

Cheri F. McGuire, who posted photos and video of the incident on her Twitter account, said after flight 2393 spent two hours on the tarmac, she and other passengers were ordered off the plane. By 9 p.m. everything was back to normal at MIA.

11 NOVEMBER 2015

SOURCE: AVIATIONPROS
ARTICLE LINK:
https://50skyshades.com/index.php/news/airports-routes/dental-gear-delayed-flights-tied-up-traffic-at-miami-airport

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