



RICHARD H. CARMONA, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
17th Surgeon General of the United States

October 17, 2018

Mr. Doug Parker
Chairman and CEO
American Airlines Group
4333 Amon Canter Blvd.
Ft. Worth, TX 76155

Dear Mr. Parker:

I am one of your long-standing and loyal concierge flyers. In addition, I am a disabled U. S. Army Special Forces combat veteran and I was the 17th Surgeon General of the United States and Commander of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHSCC), one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. I respectfully write to you in hopes of correcting a misunderstanding and inadvertent injustice toward the USPHSCC.

Recently I learned that AA and other organizations have denied our USPHSCC officers the same courtesies afforded our sister military services. These would include, but not be limited to, baggage allowances and early boarding.

As one of the seven uniformed services, the USPHSCC officers represent eleven health related disciplines and are the only uniformed service of health professionals in the world. They serve globally in peace and war in scientific research and care and have served in all U. S. wars and conflicts alongside our military services.

The USPHSCC is also the health corps for the U. S. Coast Guard, which is not a military service, since it is not housed in the Department of Defense, but was based in the Department of Commerce originally and then moved more recently under Homeland Security. Our USPHSCC officers have rules, regulations, retirement standards, ranks, fitness and deployment requirements and protocols identical to the military services.

Although all of our seven uniformed services serve our nation selflessly, with risk in peace and war, it is often forgotten that even in peace our USPHSCC is often exposed to significant risk daily. They are deployed throughout the U.S. and the world as first responders for “all hazards” like emerging infections such as Ebola or for disasters like Katrina or a bioterrorism event.

In addition, the USPHSCC staffs many of our federal government law enforcement agencies in the Department of Justice and Homeland Security, as well as the Departments of State, Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Commerce and Health, and Human Services. In short, the USPHSCC proudly works to keep America healthy, safe and secure on a daily basis just as our sister military services. They are “health warriors”.

In summary, I believe our USPHSCC whose roots date back to 1798, have earned and deserve all the rights and privileges afforded our fellow military services. Policies that arbitrarily or inadvertently exclude the USPHSCC officers from courtesies and recognition afforded to our military seem unfair and unjust. Therefore I would very respectfully request that you consider extending parity to our USPHSCC officers so they are recognized and treated with the respect they have earned, just like our sister uniformed services.

Most sincerely,



VADM (Ret) Richard Carmona
17th Surgeon General of the United States

Cc: Mr. James Currie
Executive Director
Commissioned Officer Association

American Airlines Group
Board of Directors