

Example: Lawful Use of Discernible Traits

Scoring points under SPOT does not constitute unlawful racial or ethnic profiling. Under SPOT, two individuals of different races or ethnicities who exhibit the same behaviors recognized under SPOT must be evaluated under the same standards.

Read the following example and be prepared to discuss this situation.

US intelligence sources report that five male terrorists, all approximately 30 years old, from a particular ethnic group are planning to use commercial jetliners as weapons by hijacking them at an airport somewhere in Northern California. Intelligence sources further report that this may occur during the next two to three days and in an attempt to conceal weapons and their actual intent, the men will be dressed and carrying accessible property so as to appear to be traveling on a hiking vacation.

Before allowing men meeting that description to board commercial airplanes in Northern California airports during the next two to three days, TSA personnel and other Federal and State authorities may subject them to heightened scrutiny.