Illegal interference with commercial flights since 9/11

14 October 2001	Sibir Airlines	Tupolev Tu-154	Black Sea

Shot down by a Ukrainian defence forces surface-to-air missile being used in an exercise. It missed a target drone and locked on to the Tu-154. All 78 people on board died.

7 May 2002	China Northern Airlines	Boeing MD-82	Nr Dalian airport, China

The report found this was caused by an act of suicide, but not by a terrorist. A passenger who had bought a great many life insurance policies just before the flight took an explosive or incendiary device into the rear of the aircraft, probably the toilet, and started a fire that deprived the crew of control. All 112 people on board were killed.

9 June 2002	Ethiopian Airlines	Fokker 50	Ethiopia

Two men armed with knives threatened to take over the aircraft and were immediately killed by on-board security staff.

15 October 2002	Saudi Arabian Airlines	Airbus A300B4	Sudan

A passenger with a hand gun tried to take over the aircraft, which was en route from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to Khartoum, Sudan. The would-be hijacker was overpowered by security guards and the aircraft landed safely at Khartoum

17 November 2002	El Al Israel Airlines	Boeing 757-200ER	En route

On a flight from Tel Aviv, Israel to Istanbul, Turkey, a man had an argument with one of the cabin crew. He said he did not intend to hijack the aircraft, but the security crew did not take any risks.

27 November 2002	Alitalia	Boeing MD-80	En route

On a flight from Bologna, Italy to Paris Charles de Gaulle a man claiming to be from Al-Qaeda threatened to blow the aircraft up. He surrendered.

28 November 2002	Arkia	Boeing 757-300	Nr Mombasa airport, Kenya

Two shoulder-launched missiles were launched at the aircraft just after its take-off from Mombasa for a return flight to Tel Aviv, Israel, but they missed and the pilot elected to continue to the destination. Simultaneously a hotel in Mombasa used extensively by Israeli tourists was blown up by suicide bombers, killing 13 people on the ground.

20 February 2002	AIRES Colombia	DHC Dash 8-300	Colombia

Four guerrillas hijacked the aircraft on a flight from Neiva to Bogota and forced the pilot to land at a provincial airfield, where they kidnapped a politician who was on board.

24 January 2003	Sichuan Airlines	Embraer ERJ-145	Nr Chegdu, China

A passenger was injured when a man with home-made explosives tried to hijack the aircraft. The attacker himself was injured, and was immobilised by crew.

7 February 2003	THY Turkish Airlines	Airbus A310-300 Istanbul	Turkey

A hijacker took two cabin crew hostage after landing at Istanbul from Ankara. He said he had explosives and demanded to be flown to Russia. Turkish security forces stormed the aircraft and arrested the man.

19 March 2003	Aerotaxi	Douglas DC-3	Cuba

Six men with knives and the emergency axe hijacked the aircraft while it was on a Cuban domestic flight and demanded to be flown to Miami. The aircraft was intercepted by two US F-15s and a Black Hawk helicopter and forced to land at Key West, Florida. The men were arrested.

28 March 2003	THY Turkish Airlines	Airbus A310-300	Nr Istanbul, Turkey

A man hijacked the aircraft shortly after take-off and demanded to be flown to Germany. He was told the aircraft would have to refuel at Ankara, where he allowed the passengers to disembark but tried to keep the crew on board. He was arrested. His motive appears to have been a family reason.

31 March 2003	Cubana	Antonov An-24	Cuba

The aircraft was hijacked by a man who claimed to be carrying grenades and wanted to go to the USA. At Havana the aircraft was refuelled and the passengers were released, after which it took off for Key West, Florida.

29 May 2003	QuantasLink	Boeing 717	Australia

An angry passenger tried to gain access to the cockpit en-route Melbourne-Launceston. He was subdued by crew and passengers, the aircraft returned to Melbourne and he was arrested.

19 August 2003	Air Algerie	Boeing 737	Algeria

A man used the threat of a grenade to attempt to hijack a flight from Algiers to Oran. The crew told him they needed to refuel at Oran, where he was arrested.

22 November 2003	European Air Transport	Airbus A300B4	Baghdad, Iraq

The aircraft was hit by a shoulder-launched surface to air missile while carrying out a steep climb away from Baghdad, Iraq to return to Bahrain. The left wingtip was hit, emptying the outer fuel tank and starting a fire that could not be extinguished. All hydraulic systems were drained within seconds and the crew managed to return to land at Baghdad using engine control alone.

24 August 2004	Sibir Airlines	Tupolev Tu-154	Glubocki, Russia

An explosion destroyed the aircraft in flight, killing all 46 people on board. It was believed to have been caused by a Chechen woman passenger with explosives strapped under her robes. The event happened almost simultaneously with another aircraft that also suffered the same fate. They both departed from Moscow Domodedovo airport, which has dramatically boosted its security procedures and equipment since then.

24 August 2004	Volga Aviaexpress	Tupolev Tu-134	Buchalki, Russia

An explosion destroyed the aircraft in flight, killing all all 44 people on board. It was believed to have been caused by a Chechen woman passenger with explosives strapped under her robes. The event happened almost simultaneously with another aircraft that also suffered the same fate. They both departed from Moscow Domodedovo airport.

29 September 2004	Kato Air	Dornier 228-200	Nr Bodo airport, Norway

A passenger attacked both pilots and a passenger with an axe while the aircraft was on final approach to land at Bodo. Several passengers managed to restrain him and though injured, the pilots managed to land the aircraft. According to reports, the man had just been refused asylum in Norway.

12 September 2005	AIRES Colombia	DHC Dash 8-300	Bogota airport, Colombia

A passenger in a wheelchair and his son tried to hijack the aircraft but the authorities managed to persuade them to surrender. Local press reports say the man's application for social security had been refused.