

Daily News
4/16/91

Patient snips JFK security

By JAY MAEDER

Daily News Staff Writer

A scissors-brandishing state hospital patient breached Kennedy Airport security checkpoints and successfully boarded a Phoenix-bound jetliner yesterday afternoon, Port Authority cops said.

Michael Beerman, 49, described as a "developmentally disabled" patient at the Brooklyn Developmental Center, simply ignored security stations and walked in through a set of "out" doors to make his way aboard America West Flight 7 as it readied for departure at 5 p.m., said Port Authority Lt. Michael Murphy.

Problem acknowledged

"I'd say that's a real problem," said Murphy, of the ease with which Beerman got to the plane.

Flight attendants determined that their unexpected passenger was ticketless and had him removed from the plane.

Then, said America West, Beerman bolted away from his escorts, snatched a handful of cash from the till of a duty-free shop and offered to buy his passage.

Arriving PA officers arrested him as he attempted to board the Boeing 757 again. Beerman was held on state robbery and weapons charges.

\$800 in hand

Cops said he had grabbed \$800 from the duty-free shop after frightening away a counter employe with a pair of scissors.

Dick Shimuzu, public relations manager for the Phoenix-based airline, said he could not immediately explain how Beerman could so readily get past terminal checkpoints. The security breach has been reported to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Beerman had been reported missing by the Brooklyn center earlier in the day.

A spokesman there denied that Beerman was an escapee — "He got lost on his way home from school is what happened," he explained — but refused to comment further.