



**NATIONAL
BUSINESS AVIATION
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

1200 EIGHTEENTH STREET NW, SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2527
TEL: (202) 783-9000 • FAX: (202) 331-8364
E-MAIL: info@nbaa.org • WEB: www.nbaa.org

October 29, 2003

Thomas Feyer
Letters to the Editor
New York Times
229 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036-3959

Dear Mr. Feyer:

Joe Sharkey's article "Security is Looser on Corporate Aircraft" (October 28, 2003) turned a blind eye to this industry's impeccable safety and security record, which is based on the professionalism of its pilots and ground crews.

Business aviation has a long-established record of security, safety and professionalism. It is also a critical factor in our integrated national transportation system driving productivity gains and economic growth.

We have found that federal regulators and policy makers understand -- much better than Mr. Sharkey apparently does -- business aviation's safety and security record. They are prepared to work with us toward sensible and more uniform standards, and they recognize that thanks to common-sense solutions we are more secure today than we were prior to September 11, 2001.

Mr. Sharkey aptly describes the challenges of creating a security protocol that applies to the widely divergent circumstances of business aviation. Security has always been, and will continue to be a top priority for this industry. Our commitment has led to the development of the Transportation Security Administration Access Certificate program, a vital first step to a comprehensive security policy.

All responsible aviators understand intimately the greater need for security post-9/11. None of our members shirk this duty. They welcome it. Mr. Sharkey's article would perhaps have better informed your readers had it started from this premise.

Regards,

Shelley A. Longmuir
President
(202) 783-9459

cc: Joe Sharkey