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Episode One...Airport Security. What is Your Perspective?

By Guest Author R. Lloyd Hendricks

Ask me what I know about National Security and my answer would be a resounding “NOTHING.” Ask me how I feel about National Security and you’re in for an earful. For me, the void between what I know and how I feel is vast, and is a dilemma which I’m not sure that I want fixed. Do I need to know the truth about our National Security simply because, like most of you, I have that need to feel safer post 9/11; or do I want to remain uninformed and take what I get from mass media? The truth is, neither option brings any added security, and for my own good, it’s not a wise thing to know all the truth...some of the truth may also be too much. Let me be very clear here, this is not to say that we should be lied to by our Government. Instead, there are some things that we, as regular Joe American Citizens, have no need to know. However, what ever they choose to tell us MUST be the truth. Over the past three months I polled 500 people, asking various questions concerning their feelings about security at our national airports. Their answers proved to confirm my suspicions. Take a read for yourself.

Question 1

Do you feel safer at airports today than you did pre 9/11?

90% of the poll said yes.

Question 2

Do you think that the government is doing all it can to provide enough security at our airports?

45% of the poll said no.

Question 3

Do you think that the Government is doing all it can to make us feel safer at our airports?

97% of the poll said yes.

Question 4

How have you changed your behavior at airports post 9/11?

80% of the poll said they pay more attention to their surroundings.

40% of the poll reported nervous agitated behavior.

93% of the poll reported acts consistent with the feeling of high anxiety.

While this is a simple poll, it nevertheless illustrates the general thoughts of at least a segment of the populace. It is my belief that, should we extrapolate this poll, we would find that the percentages still bear significance worth contemplating. It points to the fact that the results are masked by the partisan idealism, which permeates our political structure. Less than 50% feel that the government is doing enough to provide adequate security, yet 90% say they feel safer at airports. 97% say that the government is doing all it can to make us feel safe, yet only 45% think that enough security is being provided. Even if only 40% display nervous and agitated behavior, evidence of a high priced psychological toll is shown when 80% are forced into heightened awareness, and 93% report feelings of high anxiety. **Are you paying your share of that toll?**