



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

Federal Air Marshal Division

Wm. J. Hughes Technical Center  
ACT-700, Building 201  
Atlantic City, NJ 08405

August 18, 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Several years ago, after the Rodney King incident, members of the law enforcement community approached Rorion Gracie and asked him to develop a program that would give police officers the ability to control violent suspects, insure the safety of the officer and be court defensible. The result was G.R.A.P.L.E. (Gracie Resisting Attack procedures for Law Enforcement), which has been very well received and is now taught to members of the FBI, Secret Service, Navy Seals, Army Rangers and many other federal, state and local law enforcement professionals.

In 1996, to address the need for more realistic self-defense training for women, Rorion once again developed a cutting edge program, RAPESAFE, a system which provides any woman, regardless of age, size or physical ability, with the tools required to escape a sexual assault. He is now working with school districts, PTA's and universities nationwide to have the RAPESAFE program available to female student across the country.

Rorion advised me that he now has developed G.A.R.D. (Gracie Air Rage Defense), a program designed to train airline personnel to control unruly passengers. I have no doubt that this course, like his other specialized courses, will set the standard for training of its kind. I cannot imagine a more qualified individual to tackle this increasingly frightening reality faced by airlines personnel on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Adam Kistler  
Chief Instructor  
Close Quarters Countermeasures  
HQs, Federal Air Marshal  
Division

CC: Mr. Spiro Demetriadi