

Man charged with carrying concealed weapon at Des Moines airport

Linh Ta, lta@dmreg.com 5:38 p.m. CT June 14, 2017



(Photo: The Register)

A man was arrested Wednesday for possessing a loaded firearm in his carry-on bag at the Des Moines International Airport, according to a police report.

Richard Brian Petersen, 27, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon at an airport checkpoint around 10:30 a.m., according to the report.

Petersen carried a loaded Diamondback .380 in his carry-on bag through the security checkpoint at the airport, according to the report. The gun was loaded with seven rounds.

A Transportation Security Administration employee saw the weapon. Des Moines police was called, and officers took possession of the weapon.

Petersen was released on summons and was able to board his flight. He said he forgot the weapon was in his backpack, according to the report.

This was the second firearm found at the checkpoint so far this year. Last year, three were found, according to a news release from TSA.

Nationwide, TSA officers have found more than 1,560 firearms at airport security checkpoints so far this year. In 2016, TSA officers found 3,391 firearms in carry-on bags, a 28 percent increase from 2015.

Firearms are allowed in checked bags if they are declared to the airline and packed in a locked, hard-sided container.

TSA can levy a civil penalty of up to \$11,000 against a passenger who brings a firearm to the checkpoint. The average penalty for a loaded firearm is \$3,000. The average for an unloaded firearm is \$1,500.

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