



Honeywell Develops System to use Cell Phones During Flights

As reported in [Air Transport World](#) (2/10/05)

Technology Expert Warns: This Could Pose Disaster

CellAntenna Corp. CEO warns of terrorist threats that can occur if cell phones are allowed on airplanes and has devised a plan to counter this threat.

Coral Springs, FL February 10, 2005 - As cellular companies continue to develop technology to allow cell phone use in flight and the FCC ponders the debates about the additional cabin noise this will cause, a much greater threat looms. Howard Melamed, CEO of CellAntenna Corporation and a noted cellular expert warns that the public is unaware of the dangers that the use of cell phones on airplanes can pose.

As [Air Transport World](#) reports, "**Honeywell** is developing technology to allow airline passengers to use their cell phones in flight. The system will be available by the middle of this year. The system will first work with GSM cellular networks, but will be integrated with other networks in the future."

"All cell phones pose a threat as they can easily be implemented as detonation devices," Mr. Melamed states. "It's not just about cell phones on airplanes, it's about large public areas such as airports, sports arenas, public buildings and gathering places. I want to inform the public of the potential dangers that are very real. Now is the time for the American people to rally Congress on this issue," Melamed went on to say. He recently addressed **APCO (the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International)** on this very issue.

It has been reported that the recent bombing in Thailand (1/26/05) was trigger by a cell phone. The October 2002 attack in Bali where 202 people were killed by a cell phone triggered bombing, and in March 2004, more than 200 people were killed on the Madrid train as a result of cell phone triggered bombs. Cell phones have been the triggering devices of choice for terrorists in Iraq.

Currently, there is no plan in place by government officials that can be enabled if a cell phone bomb was to be detonated in the U.S. However, Mr. Melamed has indicated that there is a simple plan that officials can follow to help control the enormous destruction should terrorists start to detonate cell phone bombs in this country.

- 1) First and foremost, **police departments throughout the U.S. need to know where the cell phone towers are in their communities and how to turn them off.** There needs to be a coordinated effort between local law enforcement, cellular carriers and private owners of cellular towers. This way, if one cell phone bomb was to go off in an area, additional cell phone bombs would be immediately silenced. Should a device be discovered prior to detonation, then shutting the towers in the immediate area will prevent harm for bomb squad personnel involved in its deactivation.
- 2) **There should be a ban on the use of cell phones on all domestic and international airline flights.** This will eliminate the threat of a terrorist bringing down an airplane by a cell phone bomb.
- 3) **The American public needs to be aware of these issues and needs to get the government involved.** Until now, the discussion that cell phones can easily be transformed into bombs has been hushed up. Officials may know about it, but there is nothing being done on a national level.

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Madrid Bombing, March 11, 2004

According to Mr. Melamed, the reasons why a cell phone is a prime tool for the terrorist includes:

- Cell phones are concealable and very common
- The battery is of sufficient power to provide the energy needed in a detonation
- They are atomically synchronized giving a level of precision never before realized by a timing device
- They are addressable allowing the terrorist the opportunity to only set off the cell phone when calling from only his cell phone
- The Litium Cobalt Ion battery used in a cell phone in itself can be turned into a bomb, as the material itself is unstable and require an electrical circuit to keep it safe
- They can be easily delivered anywhere in the world

(The above represents only some of the aspects that make the cell phone a choice weapon for the terrorist.)

According to the CTIA, there are over 167 million cell phone users in the U.S. and more than 450 million mobile phone users in Europe.

Melamed states, "I am certainly not saying to eliminate cell phones. That would be insane. I use my cell phone for personal and business use each and every day. But let's keep cellular use safe and smart. Allowing the use of a cell phone on an airplane is like placing an invitation to the terrorist."

CellAntenna Corporation offers several solutions to this very real threat. Among these, cellular jamming devices that jam cell phone signals in vulnerable areas, a device that only the government can legally operate.

CellAntenna, Corporation (www.cellantenna.com) is a leading global company that provides cellular signal solutions, with offices located in Coral Springs, Florida and **London, England**. Mr. Melamed, President of CellAntenna, is a noted expert on cellular technology and has lectured on this topic. He recently addressed **APCO** (the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International) on this issue. In addition, he has been quoted in the New York Times, featured in the South Florida Business Journal and South Florida Sun Sentinel.

Mr. Melamed is available for interviews.

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