
US Considers Replacing Boarding Passes With Biometric Checks - Administrator

WASHINGTON, July 29 (Sputnik) - Passengers may be more effectively and quickly identified if biometric checks are introduced at airports instead of boarding passes, Transportation Security Administrator Peter Neffenger said at a US House Committee on Homeland Security hearing on Wednesday. "We can eliminate the boarding pass," Neffenger said. "[T]he idea that you are your boarding pass and, if I can tie you biometrically to a reservation, to an identification, and I can do so in a verified way than one - that moves you through the process faster." Neffenger's proposed solutions come in response to severe criticism of TSA because of its inability to identify weapons and explosives at airport checkpoints in 67 out of 70 airport security tests across the United States. The TSA was also unable to detect 73 commercial airport workers who had links to terrorist activities, but were given access to secure airport areas, according to a report by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. Neffenger said an individual's biometric identity could become "the boarding pass of the future." He explained that each airline has a different style of boarding passes, and the differences make it more difficult and time consuming for TSA checkers to inspect them. A biometrics system, Neffenger added, could remedy the situation by eliminating boarding passes altogether. However, biometric systems check would be effective if the biometrics information were linked to government intelligence systems as well as passengers were required to go through scanners that detect metallic and non-metallic-based threats, Neffenger concluded.