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King Brother In Hijack Joke Kicked Off Jet

ATLANTA (AP)—The FBI said today that airlines officials removed the Rev. A. D. King, brother of the slain Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., from an airliner after the minister made a remark about "hijacking."

Special Agent Frank V. Hitt of the Atlanta FBI said the incident was investigated and King was cleared of any law violation. No charges were filed and King was not detained.

In Atlanta, King, 38, said of the incident, which occurred last night: "I made the remark jokingly to a stewardess, 'What are the procedures for hijacking a plane?'" She took it very seriously.

"Then the captain asked me off. I explained to them it was in jest and I regretted it was misunderstood."

Hitt said: "We received an allegation of a crime aboard an aircraft involving A. D. King, brother of the late Martin Luther King Jr. We instituted an investigation of it. A report is being made to the U.S. attorney."

King said he could understand the reaction of the Eastern Air Lines crew and officials in view of recent hijackings of airplanes. He said he agreed to get off the aircraft rather than delay it for a search required by federal regulations.

King had boarded in Atlanta and was headed for Jacksonville, Fla., to meet with sanitation workers, he said. He had arrived in Atlanta earlier from St. Petersburg, Fla., where he has supported a strike by sanitation workers.