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TWA PILOT DALE HUPE AND WIFE
Stronger hijacking laws needed

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Hijack Drama

Wounded Pilot's Story

Washington

The pilot of a TWA jet said yesterday that when a hijacker shot him in the stomach "that was the best feeling I ever had. We knew we had him stopped then."

Captain Dale Hupe, talking for the first time with newsmen in his hospital room, said he agreed with a decision to shoot out the tires of the jet airliner, and he said an FBI agent was the real hero of the episode.

Hupe was piloting the jet with 57 persons aboard June 4 on a flight from Phoenix, Ariz., to Washington when a hijacker took over and demanded that \$100-million ransom be delivered to Dulles International Airport. The drama came to a blazing finish at the airport after the

hijacker forced the jet to make a second landing at Dulles.

Hupe said he decided to jump the hijacker when he saw the man firing into the cabin and thought he was aiming at passengers. The pilot, a 50-year-old former Marine Corps flyer, said he had pushed away his seat belt earlier and had signaled his co-pilot to be ready to lunge at the hijacker when he was distracted.

Hupe said the hijacker had a razor in his left hand and was firing a gun with his right when they lunged at him. The captain said the hijacker turned and pulled the trigger of the gun point blank in Hupe's stomach.

Despite being wounded, Hupe said, he knew then that

they had the hijacker stopped.

Agents arrested Auther G. Barkley, 49, of Phoenix in the jet and charged him with aircraft piracy and interfering with a flight crew.

Hupe, who underwent surgery in the nearby Fairfax Hospital for the stomach wound, said yesterday that the crew realized immediately the hijacker was extremely upset when he commandeered the plane, but it was not until later they concluded that he meant to kill everyone aboard.

The crew cut pilot told newsmen that he feels there should be stronger laws to prevent hijacking, or more rigid interpretation of existing law.

Associated Press