Report to COMSTAC of the Operations Working Group

Presented to: COMSTAC
By: Janet Karika, OWG Chair
Wayne Hale, Deputy Chair
Date: April 28, 2016
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Space Support Vehicles

Observations

• COMSTAC observes that the American Space Renaissance Act (ASRA) supports the use of vehicles for commercial compensation for training of spaceflight participants
  – Permits the use of hybrid-launch vehicles, which are simultaneously aircraft and launch vehicles, and do not neatly fit into either category.
  – Permits the use of experimental aircraft, such as former military fighter jets, that are not used during launch.

• COMSTAC observes that the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act (CSLCA) includes two reports that are in work to address this issue, the studies are on-going and industry will provide input.
  – Report 105 requests an FAA study
  – Report 116 requests a GAO study

Recommendation

• COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST should facilitate a briefing to the OWG once the studies are completed.
Section 110: Space Surveillance and Situational Awareness Data

Observation
• COMSTAC observes that the CSLCA requests FAA AST to study the feasibility of processing and releasing safety-related space situational awareness data and information to any entity consistent with national security interests and public safety obligations of the United States, in concurrence with DoD and others.

Recommendation
• COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST should facilitate a briefing to the OWG once the study is completed.
Space Traffic Management (STM)

Observation
- COMSTAC observes the ASRA proposes to authorize the DoT to gather data to provide SSA services and information to customers including the Federal government, foreign countries, and commercial entities.

Finding
- COMSTAC finds that there are a range of options available from a USG operated architecture to a system that incorporates existing commercial sensors and data processing.

Recommendation
- COMSTAC recommends that FAA AST advocate for commercial interests to be incorporated into potential plans FAA AST is building into STM throughout the planning process.
- COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST should brief the OWG on approved provisions of the ASRA that implement elements of STM.
- COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST begin the process of scoping the work required up to and including cost estimates for an STM demonstration.
Section 113: Streamline Commercial Space Launch Activities

Observation

• The CSLCA requests that the FAA assess the current process for the license/permit application and approval for commercial launch and reentry; describe current efforts to streamline, reduce duplication, etc.; and recommend legislation that may further streamline/consolidate etc., in consultation with the DoD, NASA and others.

Recommendation

• COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST should facilitate a briefing to the OWG once the study is completed.
Air Force Commercial Range Requirements

Observations
- COMSTAC observes the commercial launch providers’ requirements at the Federal Ranges are increasing and becoming more complex.
- COMSTAC observes that AFSPC is examining requirements at their federal launch ranges to meet all user requirements efficiently while maintaining range safety.

Finding
- COMSTAC finds that commercial launch providers need strong advocates within the Federal Government to communicate their unique commercial requirements at the Federal Launch Ranges.

Recommendation
- COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST continue to work with NASA, USAF, and other relevant departments and agencies to communicate unique commercial launch provider requirements to the Federal Launch Ranges and FAA licensed spaceports as appropriate.
Spaceport Catalog

Observation
• COMSTAC observes that there is sufficient support within industry, government, and Congress for the creation of a Spaceport Catalog.
  – The ASRA advocates for the creation of an Office of Spaceports within the FAA AST.
  – Six FAA licensed Spaceports have provided data to populate a Spaceport Catalog.
  – The FAA AST supports the development of a Spaceport Catalog.

Finding
• COMSTAC finds the proposed catalog is useful for commercial companies (and possibly governmental agencies) in need of spaceport services.

Recommendations
• COMSTAC recommends that the FAA AST should include the catalog on its website.
• COMSTAC recommends that the COMSTAC and the FAA AST should work collaboratively to develop the process for updates.
The Case for FAA AST Funding

Observations

• COMSTAC observes that the FAA AST needs increased resources to fulfill its mission in an efficient and timely manner.
• COMSTAC observes that the FAA AST’s budget was flat, approximately $17M in both FY15 and FY16.

Recommendation

• COMSTAC recommends that FAA AST provide information on the impacts of funding below the President’s Budget Request level, $19.8M, to the COMSTAC.