

AERONAUTICAL CHARTING MEETING
Charting Group
Meeting 21-02 – October 26 - 28, 2021

RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT

FAA Control #21-02-366

Subject: Put Chart Supplement remarks in list format instead of narrative (word wrap)

Background/Discussion:

The Chart Supplement is difficult to read. Pilots are looking for information, not a story. Airport remarks are in a narrative form, like reading a book. It's difficult to find data quickly.

In conversations with pilots during airport inspections, they expressed that when the narrative gets too long and they simply skip it.

In Michigan, several years ago we switched the remarks section in our State Airport Directory from narrative (word wrap) to one remark per line, as bullet points. Pilots preferred this layout as it proved to be easier to read.

My background:

Responsible for oversight of the Michigan Airport Directory & Aeronautical Chart 35 years.

Airport inspector for 37 years, conducted over 4,000 airport inspections in several states and taught the Airport Master Record Class since the early 2000s.

Airport Manager, Accredited Airport Executive.

Recommendations:

1. **Example:**

Instead of paragraph format:
AIRPORT REMARKS: Attended Mon–Fri 1300–2200Z†, Sat–Sun 1300–2000Z†. Self-service fuel 100LL and Jet A avbl on main ramp. Aircraft taxiing up taxiway D could possibly miss the turn for taxiway A and violate the safety zone for Rwy 07–25. Deer and birds on and invof arpt. Low altitude helicopter ops prohibited invof prison 4 mi northeast. Tower open 1200–0200Z†. Winter afld conditions not monitored when twr clsd.
Use list format:
AIRPORT REMARKS: 1. Attended Mon–Fri 1300–2200Z†, Sat–Sun 1300–2000Z†. 2. Self-service fuel 100LL and Jet A avbl on main ramp. 3. Aircraft taxiing up taxiway D could possibly miss the turn for txy A and violate the safety zone for Rwy 07–25. 4. Deer and birds on and invof arpt. 5. Low altitude helicopter ops prohibited invof prison 4 mi northeast. 6. Tower open 1200–0200Z†. Winter afld conditions not monitored when twr clsd.

Comments:

Submitted by: Randy Collier, Airport Inspector
Organization: Aerologic, LLC
Phone: 517-745-3606
E-mail: Aerologic@outlook.com
Date: September 29, 2021

Please send completed form and any attachments to:
9-AMC-AVS-ACM-Info@faa.gov

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Randy Collier, Aerologic, presented the new recommendation. He proposed that airport remarks in the Airport/Facility Directory (A/FD) section of the Chart Supplement be placed in list format rather than in the current wrap-around text format. Randy asserted this change in format would make the information easier to read and easier to find specific subject information more quickly. He provided [examples](#) in the current and proposed format.

Valerie Watson, FAA/AJV-A250, noted Takeoff Obstacle Notes in the Terminal Procedures Publication were similarly revised to one entry per line and the charting organization has received positive feedback from users on that change. Valerie asked whether audience participants supported this change to the A/FD entries.

Rich Boll, NBAA; Doug Willey, ALPA; and Mike Stromberg, UPS-IPA, all said they fully support this recommendation. Bill Tuccio, Garmin, said he also agrees, however he thinks user evaluations should be done first in order to get pilot feedback. John Collins, ForeFlight, also expressed support for the idea, but he would like to see a numbered list rather than a bulleted list. Randy agreed with numbering the data elements so they are easier to identify and discuss with others. John Barry, FAA/AIR-622, further suggested that if a numbered list was used, it would be helpful to include in parentheses to indicate how many items were listed in case the entry carries over to the next page.

Michael Betz, FAA/TCID1-ZID, would also like to see a standardized format for the order in which the notes are presented. Valerie said it is a legitimate request, however reordering the notes is beyond the scope of this recommendation she suggested that unless the Chart Supplement production team wished to look at that aspect, this proposal would be limited to listing the existing remarks one per line.

Jeffrey Lamphier, FAA/AJV-A240, supports the proposal as well and agrees that it does make the information easier to read. He cautioned that this will increase the size of the remarks section, particularly at larger airports. He also said it's important to still consider the paper users of the Chart Supplement because this change could potentially increase the size of the A/FD section by 25%. With regard to the comments regarding changing the order of the notes, Jeff said that would be a much more complicated change that would have to be worked as a separate recommendation. Entries are pulled directly from the National Airspace System Resource (NASR) database and as new information comes in, it is currently added to the end of the remarks list. Jeff said the next step for the Chart Supplement Team would be to evaluate what automation changes will be required to implement this change.

Jim McClay, AOPA, agrees it is a good idea. He also agrees that consideration needs to be given to the users still using the paper product. He said AOPA would be open to conducting a small survey of its members to get further input.

Valerie summarized the issue and emphasized that this recommendation is limited to changing the format of airport remarks to one remark per line, not reordering the remarks. Jeff and his team will look into this item in greater detail and determine the level of effort that would be required to make this change.

STATUS: OPEN

ACTION: Jeffrey Lamphier, FAA/AJV-A240, will investigate the level of effort required to revise the airport remarks in the A/FD section of the Chart Supplement to a list format and will report back at the next ACM.

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Jeffrey Lamphier, FAA/AJV-A240, acknowledged that this was an excellent recommendation, however the compilation of the Airport Remarks section of airport entries in the Chart Supplement is still a manual process and his team does not have the resources to move forward with the change at this time. If this section of the Supplement were fully automated, Jeff suggested this proposal might be supported. He pointed out that the data is present in the entries, just not in the format desired. If this were a safety issue or a matter of missing data, the FAA would find funding to make the change.

Concerns were raised that there needs to be a long-term strategy to move away from manual compilation. Jeffrey agreed to take those concerns to his management.

Mike Stromberg, UPS/IPA, suggested moving forward with this item on a day forward basis. Jeffrey said his team can look into that option.

STATUS: OPEN

ACTION: Jeffrey Lamphier, FAA/AJV-A240, will investigate the level of effort required to revise the airport remarks in the Chart Supplement to a list format on a day forward basis.

ACTION: Jeffrey Lamphier, FAA/AJV-A240, will take the concerns raised regarding resource allocation to Chart Supplement automation to FAA/AJV-A management.

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Jeff Lamphier, FAA/AJV-A240, reported his team does not have the resources to move forward with this proposal at this time. Just as he reported for 21-01-353, he explained his team is working toward creation of a data inventory of the entire Airport/Facility Directory section of the Chart Supplement to determine the source of each data element and whether or not it is automated. Once they have that inventory they can slowly work toward automation and better addressing stakeholder interests. As with issue 21-01-353, Valerie Watson, FAA/AJV-A250, suggested the item be closed and updates to the Chart Supplement process, including progress in the data inventory/source endeavor be reported in future as part of the Chart Supplement modernization briefing. The audience agreed.

STATUS: CLOSED