

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N JO 7210.971

Air Traffic Organization Policy

Effective Date:
March 4, 2026

Cancellation Date:
July 9, 2026

SUBJ: WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

- 1. Purpose of this Notice.** This notice amends FAA Order JO 7210.3, Facility Operation and Administration, paragraph 5-3-4 WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS.
- 2. Audience.** This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations Services, Safety and Technical Training, and all associated air traffic facilities.
- 3. Where can I Find This Notice?** This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the Air Traffic Plans and Publications website at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.
- 4. Background.** The National Winter Season Operations Plan (NWSOP) updates annually; therefore, it was decided that the responsibilities outlined therein should not be contained in FAA Order JO 7210.3. With this understanding, several subparagraphs under 5-3-4 a (1) have been deleted and replaced with the National Winter Season Operations Plan (NWSOP) website link for the most current information. Additionally, hurricane and tropical cyclone mission responsibilities have been updated to ensure timely information is used for planning and dissemination by the ATCSCC and the ARTCC's.
- 5. Procedures/Action.** Amend FAA Order JO 7210.3 by changing the following paragraphs to read as follows:

5-3-4. WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

Title through Subparagraph a, No Change

1. Winter season missions are flown in support of the National Winter Season Operations Plan (NWSOP). The Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH) will publish the Winter Season Plan of the Day (WSPOD) by 1830 UTC. The WSPOD provides mission information and includes aircraft type and call sign, departure airfield, route of flight, and dropsonde release points.

Subparagraph (a) through (e), Delete

NOTE—

1. The 53WRS and NOAA AOC are responsible for coordinating airspace access directly with DoD for missions on the U.S. east coast.
2. The current season NWSOP is available at <https://www.icams-portal.gov/resources.htm>.

2. TEAL or NOAA flights may request CARCAH to relay an en route clearance request to the ARTCC if the flight is unable to contact ATC.

NOTE—

ATC responsibilities pertaining to clearance requests via CARCAH are described in FAA Order JO 7110.65, paragraph 9-2-19, Weather Reconnaissance Flights.

Subparagraph a3 through b3(b), No Change

(c) Review the Mission Coordination Sheet.

(d) Designate the primary ARTCC when the reconnaissance/research flights are expected to operate through airspace managed by multiple ATC facilities.

Subparagraph b3(e) through b4(e), No Change

(f) When designated by the ATCSCC as the Primary ATC Facility, or when the reconnaissance/research flights are expected to operate only through airspace managed by your facility, ARTCC responsibilities include:

(1) When necessary, coordinate with CARCAH and aircrew(s) on flight plan specifics.

(2) If the mission profile changes, coordinate with the ATCSCC and ensure other affected ATC facilities are aware of the change.

No further changes to paragraph

6. Distribution. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, and System Operations, and Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

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For Jon M. Stowe
Acting Director, Policy, AJV-P
Mission Support Services
Air Traffic Organization (ATO)