

ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

7420.1

5 Feb 73

SUBJ: CERTIFICATED PILOT SCHOOL PRACTICE AREAS

1. PURPOSE. This Order establishes procedures to be followed by Federal Aviation Administration personnel regarding certificated pilot school practice areas.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This Order is distributed to selected offices in Washington, Regional, Area, Aeronautical Center and National Aviation Facilities Experimental Center offices; all Air Traffic Field Offices, Flight Standards General Aviation District Offices and interested aviation public.
3. DISCUSSION.
 - a. The Federal Aviation Administration has in progress significant programs designed to reducing the potential for midair and near midair collisions. Some of these programs pertain to improvements needed on the part of pilots operating in the National Airspace System. However, it appears that some certificated pilot schools may not be taking advantage of the benefits available from these programs. For example, many certificated pilot school operators have apparently designated practice areas for pilot training without coordinating such action with or working in conjunction with Flight Standards or Air Traffic Control Facilities.
 - b. There is concern that certificated pilot school operators may have located student practice areas in proximity to congested traffic areas without regard to airport traffic pattern areas, departure and arrival routes, radar vector areas, high density VFR flyways and so forth. Consequently, it is possible that pilots may be operating in these areas with a false sense of security in the mistaken belief that ATC is keeping other air traffic away from their practice areas.
 - c. These practice areas are not established by regulation and do not qualify to be designated as alert areas. However, the Federal Aviation Administration desires to help pilots undergoing training to acquire sufficient practical experiences in the environment in which they will be required to operate. It should be possible though, to enhance flight safety through coordination and cooperation with certificated pilot school operators toward establishment of pilot training areas away from high density traffic areas.

ution: ZAT-740; FAT-0 (wide); FFS-7 (Wide);
FSS-1 (wide); External

Initiated By: AAT-370

4. ACTION.

a. General Aviation District Offices (GADOs) shall:

- (1) Contact each certificated pilot school operators within their district and request that they forward the location and dimensions of student pilot practice areas to the appropriate air traffic control facility for review.
- (2) Request certificated pilot school operators to coordinate with the appropriate air traffic control facility prior to making additions, changes or deletions to these practice areas.

b. Air Traffic Control (ATC) Facility Chiefs shall:

- (1) Keep certificated pilot school operators informed of terminal area operations, departure and holding patterns and high density VFR flyways.
- (2) Review practice areas received for airspace conflict with existing IFR operations and recommend relocation of the practice areas when conflict exists.
- (3) Cooperate with certificated pilot school operators in establishing practice areas to avoid airspace use conflicts.

c. Flight Standards and Air Traffic Control personnel shall:

- (1) Emphasize, during contact with local pilot groups, the safety aspects of avoiding high density traffic areas when conducting VFR flight training.
- (2) Encourage certificated pilot school operators to meet with GADO and ATC facility representatives and each other to resolve conflicts between practice areas of different schools. Suggest joint use of areas when practicable.
- (3) Avoid creating the impression that the airspace in practice areas utilized by certificated pilot school operators is for the exclusive use of pilot training. Pilots should be reminded of their responsibility for collision avoidance under the flight rules prescribed in Part 91 of the Federal Aviation Regulations.



for GEORGE S. MOORE
Associate Administrator for Operations