U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Air Traffic Organization Policy

NOTICE
N JO 7110.461

Cancellation Date:
8/30/07

SUBJ: Hijacked Aircraft and Communications Failure Procedures

1. PURPOSE. This Notice transmits changes to FAA Order 7110.65, Air Traffic Control, concerning handling of Hijacked Aircraft, paragraph 10-2-6, and Communications Failures, paragraph 10-4-4.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This notice is distributed to select offices in Washington headquarters, service center and service area offices, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and all air traffic field facilities.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This notice is effective January 18, 2007 and will remain in effect for 1 year or until the changes are published in FAA Order 7110.65, whichever occurs first.

4. BACKGROUND. The new "M" version of FAAJO 7610.4 contains detailed procedures for handling hijack and suspicious aircraft activities. Changes are warranted in FAAO 7110.65 to reduce information redundancy, ensure consistency, and promote system security.

5. EXPLANTION OF CHANGES.

Paragraph 10-2-6, Hijacked Aircraft: This change reduces and simplifies FAAO 7110.65 information on hijack handling and refers controllers to the more secure and more detailed hijack handling information in FAAJO 7610.4, Special Operations. Also eliminates inconsistent phraseology guidance and removes restrictions against ATC assigning a hijack beacon code.

Paragraph 10-4-4: This change also adds information in the 7110.65 Communications Failure paragraph (10-4-4) to synchronize with the FAAJO 7610.4 regarding suspicious activity.

NOTE: No additional training on the content of this Notice is required for operational personnel who have already completed Module 1 of the standardized training for FAAJO 7610.4M.

6. PROCEDURES.

Amend 7110.65 R, Paragraph 10-2-6, Hijacked Aircraft, to read as follows:

10−2−6. HIJACKED AIRCRAFT

Hijack attempts or actual events are a matter of national security and require special handling. Policy and Procedures for hijack situations are detailed in FAA Order JO 7610.4, Special Operations.

FAA Order JO 7610.4 describes reporting requirements, air crew procedures, air traffic procedures and escort or interceptor procedures for hijack situations.

REFERENCES-
FAAO JO 7610.4, Hijacked/Suspicious Aircraft Reporting and Procedures, Ch 7.
FAAO 7110.65, Code Monitor, Para 5−2−13.

Add sub-paragraph e. to FAAO 7110.65, Paragraph 10-4-4., Communications Failure, to read as follows:

e. If radio communications have not been (re)established with the aircraft after five minutes, consider the aircraft's activity to be possibly suspicious and handle the flight per FAAJO 7610.4, Ch 7, Hijacked/Suspicious Aircraft Reporting and Procedures.

REFERENCE-
FAAO JO 7610.4, Hijacked/Suspicious Aircraft Reporting and Procedures, Ch 7.

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