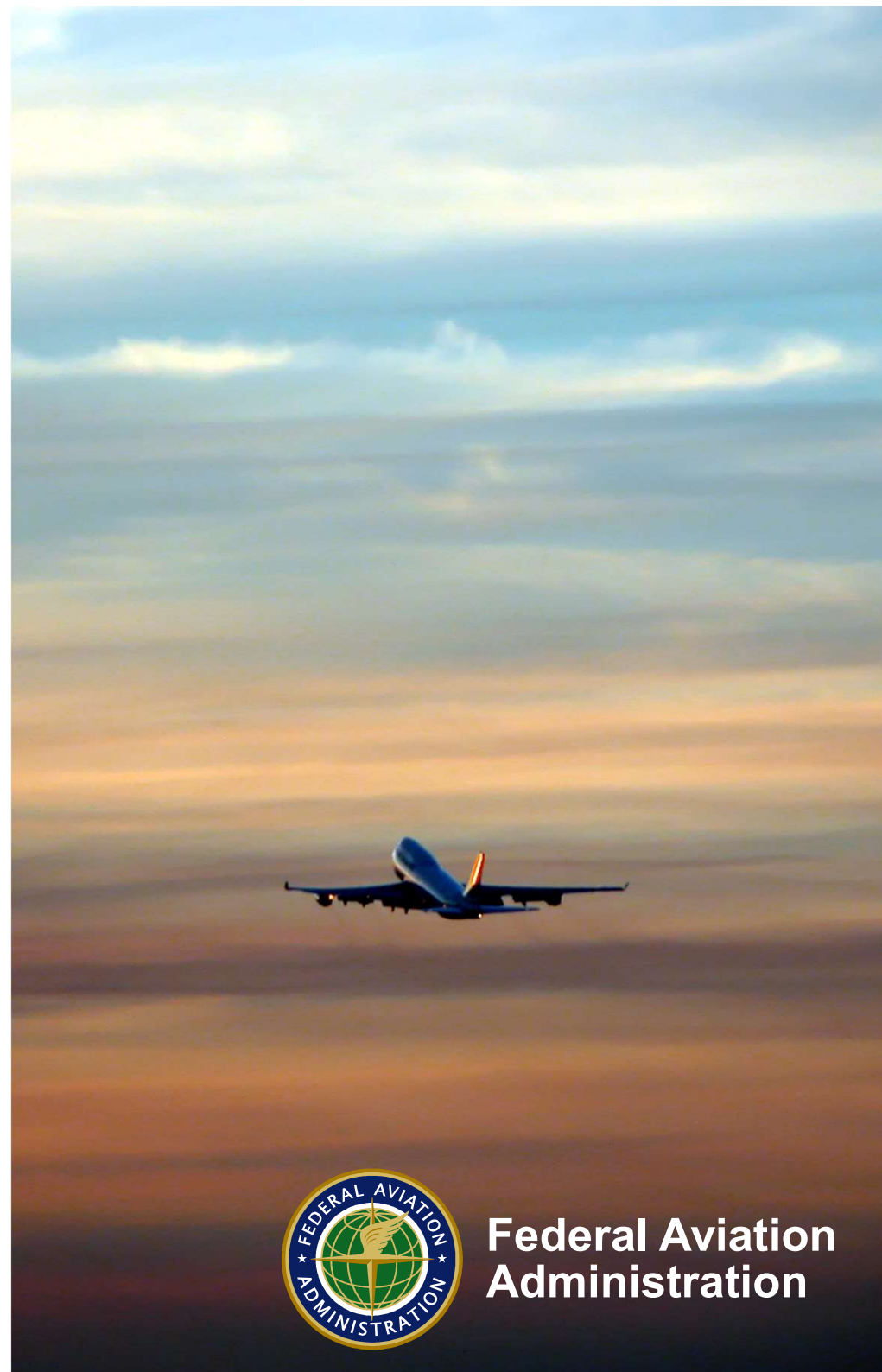


Volcanic Ash Exercise in the Pacific 2025 (VOLPAC25)

Presented to: IPACG/49
By: Ahmad Usmani
Date: 5 December 2024

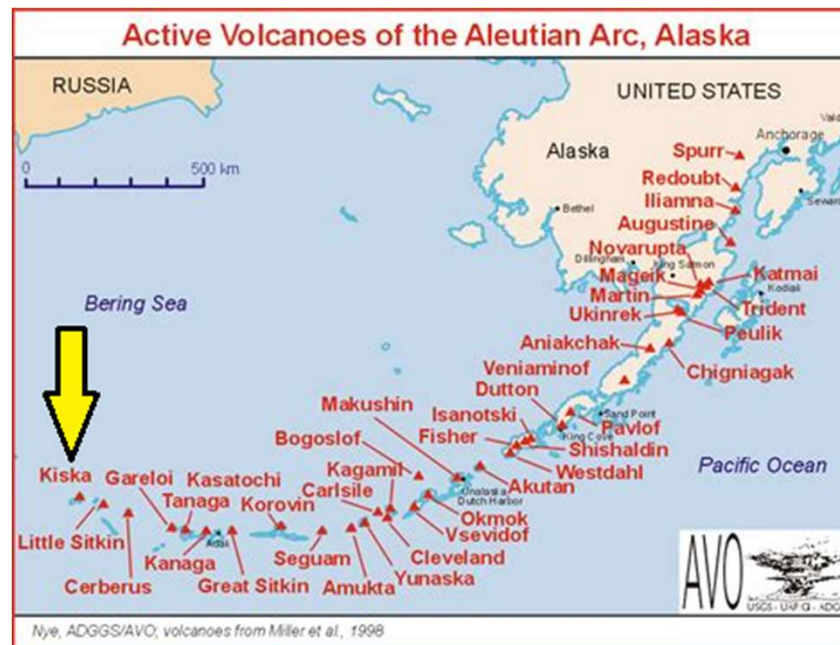


**Federal Aviation
Administration**



VOLPAC 2023

- Held by JCAB and FAA as part of the Informal Pacific ATC Coordinating Group (IPACG)
- Held virtually on 24 July 2023
- Simulated an eruption of Mount Kiska in the Aleutian Islands



Plans for VOLPAC25

- **Run several scenarios for 20-30 minutes each, rather than a single 2-3-hour-long scenario**
 - Will be a “virtual tabletop” exercise – no operational ATC systems
 - To avoid confusion and “exercise fatigue”
- **Nav Canada (Vancouver and Edmonton ACCs) will participate**
 - Will allow earlier reroutes for westbound aircraft
- **One scenario will include quantitative volcanic ash (QVA) information planned for late 2025**
- **Potential additional participants**
 - Pilots, HF radio operators (SF and Tokyo), FAA Command Center, weather providers



VOLPAC25 Scenarios

- **Two scenarios led by JCAB**
 - Eruption volcanoes TBD
 - One scenario will include ash moving from Fukuoka ACC/Tokyo VAAC to Anchorage Oceanic/Anchorage VAAC
- **Two scenarios led by FAA**
 - Eruption of Shishaldin in Aleutians
 - Inspired by eruption of September 2023
 - Closure of NOPAC routes in Anchorage Oceanic FIR
 - Cross-polar routes will remain open
 - Eruption of Mount Baker in Washington state
 - Ash will move from Seattle ARTCC/Washington VAAC to Vancouver ACC/Montreal VAAC
 - Impact to flights between Japan and North America
 - Two versions: with and without QVA



Next Steps

- **VOLPAC25 will be held as a “virtual tabletop” exercise at 2300z on 4 March (11 March as backup)**
 - Finish at 0100Z on 5/12 March, followed immediately by a short debrief
 - Full debrief to be scheduled later
- **Send email addresses of additional participants to Ahmad.Usmeni@faa.gov and Brandon.L.Taylor@faa.gov**
- **Any issues with recording the exercise via Zoom?**

