

AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM
Instrument Procedures Group
April 26, 2016

RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT

FAA Control # 16-01-324

Subject:

SID/STAR Naming Policy

Background/Discussion:

It is easy to confuse SIDs and STARs that begin with the same letter. For example KOKC has the Ghost.1 and Gulli.1 STARs and the TEBRD.1, THRPE.1, and TRUPR.1 SIDS. It would make it easier on flight crews if the beginning letters were only repeated when necessary (i.e., more than 24 SID's or STAR's). See attached 6 NASA ASRS reports.

Recommendations:

Name SIDs and STARs so that they don't start with the same letter. If unable to name SIDs and STARs in that manner, as an alternative, change the revision number on one procedure to make them different; i.e., TEBRD.1 and THRPE.2.

Comments:

Submitted by: Derek Benda **Organization:**

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Date: 03/18/2016

INITIAL DISCUSSION – MEETING 16-01: Tom Schneider (AFS-420) briefed this item submitted by Derek Benda (Love Travel Stops), stating there have been several ASRS reports on SID/STAR procedure naming when they begin with same first letter or the first two letters. This agenda item is similar to the pronounceable name discussion from earlier (Agenda Item: 15-01-320). Derek recommends naming graphic departure procedures (which consist of graphic ODPs and SIDs) and STARs so they do not start with the same first letter; or as an alternative, change the revision number of one procedure to make them different. Tom said that changing the revision number out of sequence would not work because the graphic departure procedure numbering process serves as indicating an amendment to the procedure has occurred and doing this would become a record keeping (i.e., historical tracking) nightmare. What we could do is provide guidance to the procedure developers to be alert to watch for and avoid similar sounding names during the procedure development and design process. Example draft language was shown ([View](#)) that could go into Order 8260.46 for graphic departure procedures and Order 8260.19 for STARs. Bill Rabek (Atlanta ARTCC) said similar sounding letters when spoken would also need to be considered and cautioned this might be a difficult process to control. Tom said he understood, but the objective was to give the procedure developers guidance to at least look for and avoid, if at all possible, the similar sounding names. Bob Lamond (NBAA) agreed with the direction, but suggested a more general statement, such as

“Consideration of names should be a factor reference similar sounding...” or something along those lines. This takes into consideration regional dialect variations such as southern and foreign accents, adding you will never be able to eliminate the problem, but this will at least be a great help. Bill agreed with Bob’s thoughts, suggesting something like “Be cognizant of similar sounding names...” Question was asked if this should be tied Order JO 7400.2, Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters, tying it to the fix 300 NM discussion, and the responses were no. This particular issue, although tied to a fix name, belongs in the directives supporting specific procedure development. Tom said this issue should be a prime consideration at the beginning of Metroplex project development. Lev Prichard (APA) said, although he found only one instance of this reported in ASRS, he feels it is a problem, and following this procedure naming proposal would add one more layer of protection. Tom asked Jazz Armstrong (FAA/AOV-110) if there was any way that during evaluations these issues could be looked at since it appears system wide. Jazz said he would look in their operating guidelines and determine if feasible, but noting that adding this to their oversight is not really geared to the ATC system itself, so there was uncertainty whether this would be in the scope of their operating practices. Tom said NFDC has stated on a number of occasions that there are many pronounceable names available to use. Gary said the SID/STAR usually has some local area specific “theme” associated with it driving the naming request(s). Gary also asked about facilities that may have 26 SIDs and to use different first letters would be extremely difficult. Bill said ATL just added 22 new STARs on April 12, in addition to existing procedures, and he thinks DFW has more. Bill said the controllers/pilots want them pronounced a certain way and that the spelling may not completely match the pronunciation. In conclusion, short of any major policy changes to the naming processes already in place, it seems best to provide a reminder in our policy directives to have procedure developers consider the similar sounding names of graphic departure procedures and/or STARs while in the development phase.

Status: Tom said AFS-420 will work on the draft language for Orders 8260.19 and 8260.46 and report back at the next meeting. **Item open: AFS-420**

MEETING 16-02: Tom Schneider (AFS-420) briefed ([VIEW](#)) suggested language from Bob Lamond (NBAA) for Order 8260.19 and Order 8260.46 on naming SID/STARs. Gary Fiske (AJV-81) asked if the policy should include a prohibition against using the same first letter for different procedures at the same airport. Tom said the goal is guidance for the procedure developer to give consideration to similar sounding/spelled names, without forcing the facility to request waivers in some cases. Rich Boll (NBAA) said in a cockpit environment it is easy to confuse procedures when names are very similar (one letter apart). Gary said he has not seen any reports of problems. Russ Beatse (Memphis ARTCC) said the FAA does not use similar sounding names on purpose and when any are identified they are changed as soon as possible. He added that there are as many as 26 procedures at some large facilities. The group agreed that this is a human factors issue; specific naming policy guidance will not work all the time, and in many ways this issue is similar to fix naming issue. The FAA will continue to address same sounding procedures at a single location as they are identified.

Status: Tom agreed to remove the language changes from the current draft orders, and NBAA took an IOU to review and report at next ACF. **Item open: AFS-420/NBAA**

MEETING 17-02: John Bordy (Flight Procedure Standards Branch) stated the initial language that was originally proposed for Order 8260.19H was removed (i.e, not published) per agreement at the last ACF/IPG. Rich Boll (NBAA) indicated this item could be closed. John indicated any future issues should be worked on a case by case basis rather than by policy, and therefore recommend this item be closed. No objection was received from the group regarding closure of this item.

Status: Item Closed.