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## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N7110.263A

## SUBJ: REPORTING OF SUSPICIOUS AIRCRAFT/PILOT ACTIVITIES

- 1. PURPOSE. This Notice provides interim guidance for Air Traffic Control personnel regarding responsibilities for reporting suspicious aircraft/pilot activities. This guidance supplements applicable emergency, interceptor, hijack, and other special operations procedures as specified in FAA Orders 7110.65, 7610.4, and 7210.3.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION. This directive is distributed to select offices in Washington headquarters, regional offices, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and all air traffic control facilities.
- 3. CANCELLATION. Notice 7110.263, Reporting of Suspicious Aircraft/Pilot Activities, dated September 18, 2001
- 4. ACTION. Facility managers shall ensure that all air traffic control personnel are briefed on this notice prior to working an operational position.
- 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This notice is effective September 23, 2001 at 2000L EDT.
- 6. BACKGROUND. The FAA, Department of Defense, and other national security agencies are coordinating activities to ensure timely and appropriate response to activities that may potentially pose a threat to national security. FAA Order 7110.65, paragraph 9-3-8 provides for maximum assistance in support of national air defense missions.

## 7. GUIDELINES.

- a. Because of the infinite variety of possible suspicious situations, a complete and comprehensive list of suspicious aircraft/pilot activities cannot be prescribed. However, the following constitutes situations that may indicate a suspicious aircraft/pilot activity:
  - 1. Communications are lost or not established AND the aircraft deviates from its assigned route of flight AND the aircraft does not adjust transponder to code 7600 to indicate radio failure.
  - 2. Aircraft is in Hijack status per FAA Order 7110.65, paragraph 10-2-6, and applicable procedures have been followed.
  - 3. Communications are lost or not established AND aircraft fails to display assigned beacon code or an approved emergency or radio failure beacon code.
  - 4. Aircraft deviates from its approved route of flight and refuses to return to it when so requested. (Exercise sound judgement when the pilot is deviating, e.g., weather, emergency, or other circumstance.)
  - Any other situation that may indicate a suspicious aircraft/pilot activity (background noise, change in pilot's voice characteristic's, etc).
- b. Notify your supervisor when you believe a suspicious activity exists or is imminent.

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- TERMINAL: Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) supervisor/controller in charge (CIC) shall notify the operations supervisor/CIC of the overlying Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), Center Radar Approach Control (CERAP) or Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). TRACON supervisor/CIC shall notify the operations supervisor/CIC of the overlying ARTCC/CERAP.
- EN ROUTE: ARTCC/CERAP supervisor/CIC shall notify appropriate Air Defense Sector, Air Defense Control Facility, or Region using established communications hotlines or in accordance with the following contact numbers:

Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS)		Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS)	
DSN:	587-6854/587-6313	DSN: 523-5609/523-5270	
Commercial	(315) 334-6364	Commercial	(850) 283-5270
Mission Crew Comman	nder (315) 334-6311	Mission Crew Commander	(850) 283-5207
ZAU, ZBW, ZDC, ZID, ZKC, ZMP, ZNY, ZOB		ZFW, ZHU, ZJU, ZJX, ZMA, ZME, ZTL	
Western Air Defense Sector (WADS)		Alaska NORAD Region	
DSN:	382-4348/382-4210	DSN:	552-6222
Commercial	(253) 982-4208		
Mission Crew Comma	nder (253) 982-4310		
ZAB, ZDV, ZHN, ZLA, ZLC, ZOA, ZKC, ZSE		ZAN	

- c. The initial report of suspect aircraft shall include the following:
  - 1. Call sign of suspect aircraft
  - 2. Time (UTC)
  - 3. Position in latitude and longitude
  - 4. Heading
  - 5. Speed
  - 6. Altitude
  - 7. Other pertinent information i.e., nature of suspicious activity
- d. Upon notification of the appropriate Air Defense Sector, Air Defense Control Facility, or Region, the ARTCC/CERAP supervisor/CIC shall notify the FAA Washington Operations Center (WOC) at 202-385-4444 and the Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC)
- e. Upon receipt of notification from the ARTCC/CERAP, the ATCSCC shall notify the NORAD USSPACE Command Center at (719) 474-4500.

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