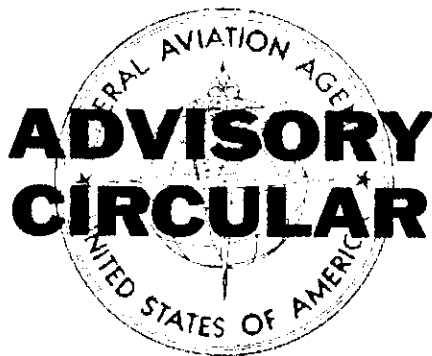


Federal Aviation Agency



AC NO: AC 90-16

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
AND GENERAL OPERATIONS

EFFECTIVE :

10/5/64

SUBJECT : DANGEROUS MISUSE OF RADAR VECTORS

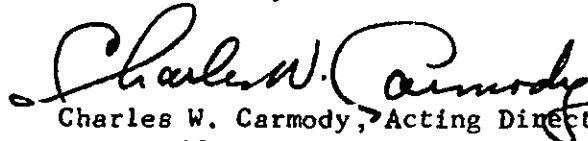
1. **PURPOSE.** This circular advises pilots of a dangerous situation which develops when they follow radar clearances and instructions intended for another person.
2. **DISCUSSION.** The Agency recently detected a hazardous condition caused by pilots who flew radar clearances and instructions issued by air traffic control (ATC) to other pilots. In one recent incident an arriving aircraft was being radar vectored to the ILS final approach course while another aircraft was observed following the same radar instructions. On another occasion, an aircraft was observed following the radar instructions issued to the principal aircraft. In both of these cases it was determined that the pilots who were following the vectors assigned to the other aircraft were complying with the controller's clearances and instructions for purposes of training without realizing this action could result in misidentification and have serious safety repercussions.

Positive identification of aircraft is a basic requirement for the use of radar in the ATC system. One method of establishing identification is based upon a turn of 30 degrees or more, provided that only one aircraft is observed to make a turn and the controller has reasonable assurance that the aircraft is within the area being displayed on the radar. When multitacks of targets are observed responding to identification and vectoring procedures being used, identification becomes difficult, or, if previously established, may be lost. Also, if an observed target responds to instructions intended for an aircraft not yet appearing on the radar display, safety of the pilot for whom the instruction was intended could be compromised. While pilots may intend no harm, continuation of these practices will derogate the radar controllers' capability of correctly identifying radar targets and thus jeopardize the safety of pilots intentionally operating in the ATC system.

10/5/64

The Agency is considering promulgation of a regulatory amendment to Part 91 of the Federal Aviation Regulations which would prohibit pilots from following radar instructions and clearances intended for another person.

3. RECOMMENDATION. It is recommended that pilots do not follow radar clearances or instructions that have been issued to the pilot of another aircraft, unless so authorized by air traffic control.


Charles W. Carmody, Acting Director
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