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AC NO: 90 - 37

DATE: 6/19/68



ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: FLIGHT OPERATIONS NEAR AIRPORTS

1. **PURPOSE.** This circular is issued to emphasize to pilots the necessity of adhering to good operating practices and procedures, particularly when operating at or near airports.
2. **DISCUSSION.** The historic seasonal fluctuations in student flight training, pleasure flying, and business operations are being supplanted by continuous year-round high levels of flight activity. This increased activity necessitates added attention to compliance with good operating practices and greater operational discipline, especially when flying in the vicinity of airports. Flight safety, traffic pattern capacity, and improved runway "in use" utilization can be achieved by greater in-flight courtesy demonstrated by diligent adherence to good operating practices.
3. **REQUIREMENTS.** The cooperative effort of all pilots, professional flight crews, operators, flight instructors, airport managers, and military base commanders is needed to emphasize awareness of potential traffic conflicts near airports and to initiate appropriate training and educational programs to improve operational discipline during this phase of flight.
4. **ACTION.**
 - a. **Pilots.**
 - (1) Contact the tower at about 15 miles; don't wait until you are close in.
 - (2) Be particularly alert when near an airport -- zig and zag a little when changing altitude.

- (3) Radio, radar, and control personnel are there to serve you-- Use them without worrying about "exactness."
- (4) Tell other occupants in the cockpit to "ride shotgun" and point out traffic.
- (5) Eliminate any question of marginal visibility or cloud clearance by alternative actions.
- (6) Navigation lights and rotating beacons enhance sightings -- Use them.
- (7) Review, understand, and follow the "good operating practices" described in the Airmen's Information Manual.

b. Flight Instructors.

- (1) Place special training emphasis on radio communications, traffic patterns, lookout procedures, clearing maneuvers, and the need for "alertness."
- (2) Demonstrate traffic pattern entry and traffic flow aircraft spacing techniques.
- (3) Visit the control tower, flight service station, and GADO with your students.
- (4) Emphasize maximum use of available radio and radar services.

c. Fixed Base Operators/Airport Managers.

- (1) Meet with your local GADO inspector and air traffic personnel -- review local traffic patterns and procedures.
- (2) Update the posting of traffic pattern visual displays for nearby airports.
- (3) Emphasize the need for "alertness" and operational discipline during flight operations near airports.

James F. Pudolich
Director,
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