

GWBA News

Greater Washington Business Aviation Association, Inc.

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GWBAA Speaks at FAA ADIZ Hearing

GWBAA President Bob Blouin Speaks at FAA Public Hearing on ADIZ Proposal:



On January 18, GWBAA President Bob Blouin read formal remarks into the record at the second FAA public meeting for public input on its proposal to make permanent the Washington DC, Air Defense Identification Zone ("ADIZ"). As seen in the photo to the left, the ADIZ has all but emptied the general aviation ramp at Reagan National Airport, among other negative consequences for GA.

Blouin's remarks centered on three key points:

- Making the ADIZ permanent would set a very bad precedent. If this government initiative is finalized, it would not be long before other cities would demand that they too need an ADIZ, to "protect" them from some unknown threat.
- The government and aviation communities worked very hard to get the airlines up and flying after the terrorist attacks – so why are we, four years later, still pressing our government to work with us on solutions to get back the access that we lost four years ago? We have intelligent people on both sides of the issue, and it is time to set in motion those people and resources to work to regain our airspace.
- All aviation relies on student and private pilots to "back fill" for retirements at Part 121, 135 and 91 flight departments. Making the ADIZ permanent would put a burden on these new pilots that would discourage them from ever obtaining a license. Prospective pilots would have to move out of the Washington, DC area to find reasonable training.

Please take this opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process: Comments can be filed before February 6, 2006 in docket FAA-2003-17005 using any one of the following methods: the DOT docket website at <http://dms.dot.gov>; the government-wide rulemaking website at <http://www.regulations.gov>; mail or hand delivery (Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm) to the DOT Docket Management Facility, 400 Seventh Street SW, Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, D.C. 20590; or fax at (202) 493-2251.

Potomac TRACON Tour and ADIZ Seminar:

In a related development, FAA has announced that it will hold a free informational seminar on the ADIZ and how pilots can comply with its requirements. Called "Operation Raincheck," the seminar also will include a tour of the Potomac Consolidated TRACON in

Warrenton, Virginia. Two identical sessions have been scheduled for 10am to noon and 1pm to 3pm on Saturday, February 11. Each attendee needs to provide his or her name; the names of any guests that will attend with him/her; each attendee's country of citizenship; and a session preference to randolph.horner@faa.gov. Please also supply separate e-mail addresses for guests, if possible.

Airlines Seek to Shift Trust Fund Burden to GA:



According to media reports, commercial airlines are expected to push Congress to shift a greater percentage of the burden of funding FAA to the pockets of general aviation operators. As readers of GWBAA News may recall, Congress will soon begin consideration of the 10-year FAA reauthorization bill which will need to be enacted by 2007. John Meenan, CEO of the Air Transport Association, has been specifically quoted as saying that operators of corporate jets should pay a larger share because they carry passengers who would otherwise travel on commercial airlines. NBAA already is on record as opposing such proposals, and GWBAA expects to coordinate with NBAA in opposing any proposals by which commercial airlines would seek to shift their own economic problems to GA.

CRS Releases Report on Securing General Aviation:

The Congressional Research Service ("CRS") has released a report, "Securing General Aviation," which evaluates the security risks posed by general aviation. Although the report does note some vulnerabilities and recommends certain improvements, it also generally concludes that GA poses minimal security risks. In particular, the report concludes that a one-size-fits all approach to GA security is not practical; that airspace restrictions, standing alone, are ineffective; and that the GA industry has made significant voluntary efforts to improve security. A copy of the CRS report is available on the GWBAA website at <http://www.gwbaa.com/securingga.pdf>.

Northeast Faces Airspace Overhaul:

FAA's Eastern Region Air Traffic Division is in the process of developing a plan to reorganize the airspace in the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia area, which FAA says would improve safety, reduce delays and handle growing air traffic. FAA recently released a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the plan, and has asked for comments on four options: No Action; Modifications to Existing Airspace; Ocean Routing Airspace; and Integrated Airspace Alternative. A series of 30 public workshops will be held in February, March and April to solicit input from users; meeting notices will be posted on the website for the plan, <http://www.faa.gov/nynjphl airspace redesign>. Written comments about the plan also can be submitted by e-mail to faa.deis@ngc.com.

FAA Reminds Aircraft Owners to Update Registrations:

On December 9, 2005, FAA has published a notice reminding aircraft owners to check that their registrations are up to date. Although FAA previously has stated that this information

is important to ensure that owners receive safety and maintenance information, the current notice also states that, effective February 1, 2005, noncompliant owners and operators may be denied access to the National Airspace System (NAS) and otherwise sanctioned. Aircraft owners can check and update their registration information online at <http://registry.faa.gov>.

Potomac Airfield Reopens:



Effective December 16, 2005, Potomac Airfield was reopened to traffic; readers may recall that it was shut down by TSA on November 2, 2005 due to a dispute over its compliance with TSA regulations, as reported in a prior issue of the GWBAA News. According to AVweb.com, owner David Wartofsky stated that the one silver lining of the dispute was that it resulted in a useful dialogue with TSA; "More communication is going on now about some operational realities." For more information about the dispute or Potomac Airfield in general, visit the airport's website at <http://www.potomac-airfield.com>.

Lockheed Martin Plans AFS Station In Loudoun:

According to media reports, Lockheed Martin Corporation plans to open a \$7 million Eastern Automated Flight Service Station in Ashburn in March 2007—part of the company's two-year consolidation of 58 automated flight service stations to 20 locations for the Federal Aviation Administration. The project will replace FAA operations Leesburg Executive Airport and create 200 jobs in Loudoun County during the next 30 months. Lockheed began operating the existing Flight Service Station at Leesburg in October 2005, when the station's 40 government employees became Lockheed employees.

Upcoming Aviation Events:

GWBAA is in the process of finalizing its events schedule for 2006. GWBAA currently expects to hold a general membership meeting at the Manassas Airport in April; an event in conjunction with the NBAA forum on June 8 (see below); and a golf tournament in September, with additional events to be announced as the year progresses. More details will be included in the next newsletter. Other upcoming events of interest include:

- February 11: Potomac TRACON Tour and ADIZ Seminar (see article on pp. 1-2).
- June 8: NBAA will hold its annual business aviation regional forum – a day-long learning and networking event designed to meet the needs of the regional business aviation community – at Dulles Airport. For more information, visit <http://web.nbaa.org/public/cs/forums/20060608>.
- June 9-25: The Studio Theatre will present "Charlie Victor Romeo," a play which re-enacts actual Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) recordings. For more information, visit <http://www.studiotheatre.org/plays/index.php?type=3>.
- July 6-8: The World Airline Historical Society will hold its 30th Anniversary Collectibles Show in Tysons Corner, Virginia – an opportunity to socialize and add to one's stock of memorabilia. For more information, visit <http://www.ai2006.com>.

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GWBAA Offers Online Benefits:

We are continuing to add member information for the GWBAA electronic membership directory – <http://www.gwbaa.com/directory.html>. This service is available to GWBAA members at no cost. If you would like to post your company information please contact Bob Blouin via email at info@gwbaa.com.

GWBAA Contacts:

Send any ideas or comments for future newsletters or for GWBAA in general to info@gwbaa.com or any of the following people:

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GWBAA's success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation.

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