**NOTICE**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
Air Traffic Organization Policy

**N JO 7110.787**

**Effective Date**:
December 01, 2022

**Cancellation Date**:
April 20, 2023

**SUBJ**: Law Enforcement Operations and Sensitive Government Missions

**1. Purpose of This Notice**. This notice amends FAA Order JO 7110.65Z, Air Traffic Control, by revising paragraph 9-2-12, Law Enforcement Operations, to include policy and procedures pertaining to Sensitive Government Missions.

**2. Audience**. This notice applies to the following Air Traffic Organization (ATO) service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations Services, Safety and Technical Training, and all associated air traffic facilities.

**3. Where Can I Find This Notice**? This notice is available on the MyFAA employee website at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/ and on the air traffic publications website at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/.

**4. Cancellation.** This notice cancels upon publication of FAA Order JO 7110.65AA, Basic, effective April 20, 2023.

**5. Explanation of Policy Change.** This change retitles paragraph 9-2-12, reformats the paragraph by reorganizing and modifying the existing subparagraphs a and b, and adds procedures required to ensure the effective use of sensitive government mission beacon codes and call signs. This change also eliminates outdated terminology and aligns the language with updates to other orders.

**6. Procedures/Action.** Amend FAA Order JO 7110.65Z by changing paragraph 9-2-12 to read as follows:

**9-2-12. LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS AND SENSITIVE GOVERNMENT MISSIONS**

**a.** Provide the maximum assistance possible to law enforcement aircraft when requested.

**1.** If requested by the pilot/flight crew, communicate with law enforcement aircraft on a separate and unique communications frequency whenever possible.

**2.** Ensure assistance to law enforcement aircraft does not compromise approved separation minima or place the aircraft in unsafe proximity to terrain, obstructions or other aircraft.

**3.** When requested, assist law enforcement in locating suspect aircraft.

**4.** Forward any information received pertaining to stolen aircraft to the OS/CIC for reporting on the Domestic Events Network (DEN).

***REFERENCE***− *FAA Order JO 7210.3, Para 2−7−7, Cooperation With Law Enforcement Agencies.*

**b.** Sensitive government missions.

**1.** Sensitive government missions include inflight identification, surveillance, interdiction and pursuit activities conducted by government aircraft for national defense, homeland security, and intelligence or law enforcement purposes.

**2.** Provide support to national security and homeland defense activities as specified in paragraph 2-1-2, Duty Priority.

**3.** To facilitate accomplishment of sensitive government missions, exemptions from specified parts of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations have been granted to designated departments and agencies. Each organization's exemption identifies its responsibilities for notifying ATC of its intent to operate under an exemption before commencing operations.

***REFERENCE***− *FAA Order JO 7210.3, Para 19−3−1, Authorizations and Exemptions from Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR).*

**4.** Departments and agencies that conduct sensitive government missions are assigned U.S. special call signs. Additionally, some have pre-assigned beacon codes to permit them to apprise ATC of ongoing mission activities and solicit air traffic assistance. To support these sensitive government missions, ATC must:

**(a)** Not change the sensitive beacon codes requested or displayed by these operators.

**(b)** To the maximum extent possible, ensure the full call sign designator of aircraft conducting sensitive government operations is entered into FAA automation systems.

**(c)** Not alter or abbreviate the U.S. special call signs used by aircraft for sensitive government operations.

***REFERENCE***− *FAA Order 7110.67, Air Traffic Management Security Services for Special Operations***.**

No further changes to paragraph.

**6. Distribution**. This notice is distributed to the following ATO service units: Air Traffic Services, Mission Support Services, System Operations Services, and Safety and Technical Training; the Air Traffic Safety Oversight Service; the William J. Hughes Technical Center; and the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

**7. Background**. In support of national defense, homeland security, intelligence or law enforcement operations, System Operations Security assigns beacon codes and U. S. Special call signs for sensitive government operations. In order to ensure effective air traffic services to these missions, it is necessary the requested and/or displayed beacon codes not be changed and call signs remain unaltered by ATCS personnel during those operations. Paragraph 9-2-12 was also rewritten to eliminate outdated terminology, as well as to harmonize the language contained therein with other orders such as FAA JO 7210.3 and FAA JO 7110.67.

Michael R. Beckles

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