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INFO HQ AFFSA ANDREWS AFB MD//CC/XA/XO/XAX//
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SUBJECT: PRIORITIZATION SCHEME FOR NON-RVSM COMPLIANT AIRCRAFT AND
“USAGE GUIDE” FOR DOD PRIORITY MISSION WEB SITE

REF: DRAFT FAA NOTICE 7210.XXX “DOMESTIC REDUCED VERTICAL
SEPERATION MINIMUM (DRVSM)”

1. IT HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY OVER 100 DAYS SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RVSM IN THE STATES. AS WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR RVSM OPERATIONS IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS LEVELS OF IMPACT TO OUR OPERATIONS. PRE-COORDINATION FOR NON-RVSM COMPLIANT AIRCRAFT WAS NEVER WIDELY ACCEPTED BY AIRCREWS, NOR RECEIVED THE PROPER ACCOMMODATION (PRIORITY) THAT WAS AGREED UPON WITH THE FAA DUE TO DIFFICULTY PREDICTING TRAFFIC LEVELS OR CONTROLLER WORKLOADS DURING THE PRE-COORDINATION PROCESS. WHILE “FILE-N-FLY” ALLOWS MANY OF OUR NON-EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT ACCESS TO DRVSM AIRSPACE, THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS WHERE MISSION CRITICAL FLIGHTS WERE DENIED ACCESS INTO DRVSM AIRSPACE DURING PRE-COORDINATION OR VIA “FILE-N-FLY” PROCEDURES. SOME AIRCREWS AND UNITS DEVELOPED WORK-AROUNDS RATHER THAN ASKING FOR ACCOMMODATION, WHICH HAS ALSO IMPEDED THE IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS AND GATHERING DATA REGARDING LEVELS OF ACCOMMODATION TO IDENTIFY FLAWS WITH THE FAA/DOD AGREEMENT. NOW, THE FAA PLANS TO ELIMINATE THE EXISTING PRE-COORDINATION PROCESS (REF. A). THE PRIMARY MEANS OF ACCOMMODATION FOR NON-COMPLIANT FLIGHTS IN DRVSM AIRSPACE WILL BE “FILE-N-FLY.”

2. ON 12 MAY, ALL REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATION BY NON-RVSM AIRCRAFT WILL BE DONE ON FREQUENCY WITH THE APPROPRIATE CONTROLLER AND TREATED AS “FILE-N-FLY.” TO ASSIST IN GAINING ACCESS FOR MISSION CRITICAL FLIGHTS, A NEW PRIORITIZATION SCHEME THAT INFORMS THE FAA OF “MISSION CRITICAL” FLIGHTS WAS DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION WITH THE FAA.

THIS SCHEME IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A GREATER ASSURANCE OF ACCOMMODATION FOR PRIORITY FLIGHTS THAN VIA "FILE-N-FLY" OR THE PREVIOUS PRE-COORDINATION PROCESS. AS OF 12 MAY, DOD AIRCRAFT ARE EITHER DESIGNATED AS "PRIORITY" OR NOT. THOSE FLIGHTS DESIGNATED AS A "PRIORITY" WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY THE FAA; HOWEVER, ACCOMMODATION STILL REMAINS TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE BASED ON TRAFFIC AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS. THE PRIORITIES DETAILED BELOW ARE INTENDED EXCLUSIVELY FOR USE BY PRIORITY DOD FLIGHTS/AIRCROWS NEEDING ACCOMMODATION TO ACCOMPLISH "MISSION CRITICAL" FLIGHTS AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE ROUTINE DOD FLIGHTS A MEANS TO CIRCUMVENT THE NORMAL DRVSM "FILE-N-FLY" ACCOMMODATION PROCESS.

3. DOD PRIORITY MISSION CRITERIA:

A. AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN ACTIVE CONTINENTAL DEFENSE OR HOMELAND DEFENSE MISSIONS; OR

B. AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS THAT WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT UPON COMBAT OPERATIONS OR READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES; OR

C. AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED FEDERAL AND STATE EMERGENCY PLANS, MEDICAL EVACUATIONS OR SEARCH AND RESCUE; OR

D. AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN TRANSPORT OF COMBATANT, SPECIFIED OR UNIFIED COMMANDERS, TYPE/MAJOR COMMAND COMMANDERS AND KEY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (E.G. 4-STAR AND EQUIVALENTS OR HIGHER/CODE 3 OR ABOVE)

4. 12 MAY WILL ALSO MARK THE START OF THE DOD PRIORITY MISSION (DPM), A NEW WEB SITE ([HTTP://WWW.FLY.FAA.GOV/RVSM](http://www.fly.faa.gov/rvsm)) AND PROCESS THAT ALLOWS DOD TO DESIGNATE FLIGHTS FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. THE DOD AND FAA AIR TRAFFIC ORGANIZATION WILL BE THE ONLY USERS OF THE DPM SITE. DOD WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO ENTER DATA AND REVIEW INFORMATION IN THE DPM SITE. THE FAA WILL HAVE READ-ONLY ACCESS.

A. DOD PERSONNEL WILL USE THE WEB SITE TO DESIGNATE FLIGHTS FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN RVSM AIRSPACE.

B. INDIVIDUAL SERVICE UNIT/ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOUNTS WILL NEED TO BE REGENERATED AND USED TO ACCESS THE DPM SITE. TO OBTAIN LOGIN PERMISSION, RECOMMEND EACH ORGANIZATION DEVELOP AN ORGANIZATIONAL NAME/EMAIL ADDRESS AND PASSWORD TO ALLOW MULTIPLE INDIVIDUALS TO INPUT MISSION DATA INTO THE DPM WEBSITE UNDER ONE EMAIL ADDRESS AND PASSWORD.

C. TWENTY-THREE FAA FACILITIES WITH RVSM AIRSPACE WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE WEB SITE. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UNITS AND EACH OPERATIONAL SUPERVISOR WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE READY ACCESS TO THE WEB SITE SO THEY CAN ASCERTAIN WHETHER A DOD EXCEPTION IS A PRIORITY FLIGHT.

5. DOD UNITS SHOULD ENTER THE INFORMATION IN THE DPM WEB SITE NO LESS THAN AN HOUR IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED DEPARTURE TIME. IN THE EVENT THAT A DESIGNATED PRIORITY FLIGHT IS NOT KNOWN IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO BE ENTERED AT LEAST AN HOUR IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED DEPARTURE TIME, A PHONE CALL TO THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UNIT OF THE

DEPARTURE RVSM FACILITY IS REQUIRED. THOSE PHONE NUMBERS ARE CURRENTLY PUBLISHED WITHIN THE FLIP AP/1 PLANNING DOCUMENT. THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UNIT WILL THEN COORDINATE THE INFORMATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE OPERATIONAL SUPERVISOR/CONTROLLER-IN-CHARGE. (IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DATA FOR SHORT-NOTICE PRIORITY FLIGHTS BE ENTERED IN THE DPM WEB SITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS ENSURES THAT THE FLIGHT'S STATUS CAN BE TRACKED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE OR DENIALS.) DOD MAY ENTER A PRIORITY FLIGHT IN THE DPM WEB SITE UP TO ONE ADMINISTRATIVE DAY IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED DEPARTURE DAY AND TIME. A PRIORITY FLIGHT WILL REMAIN ON THE ACTIVE PAGE OF THE WEBSITE FOR 8 HOURS AFTER THE PROPOSED DEPARTURE TIME. (FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS TO THE DPM WILL ALLOW SORTING OF FLIGHTS BY DEPARTURE TIME MAKING IT MORE OPERATIONALLY FRIENDLY.) IF A PRIORITY FLIGHT DOES NOT DEPART WITHIN 8 HOURS OF ITS PROPOSED DEPARTURE TIME, IT MUST BE REENTERED INTO THE DPM WEB SITE. TO MAXIMIZE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ACTIVE PRIORITY OR DOD "FILE-N-FLY" FLIGHTS ARE ACCOMMODATED, DOD SHOULD CANCEL ANY PRIORITY FLIGHT ENTRY NO LONGER VALID.

6. DATA TO BE ENTERED INTO DPM WEB SITE:

([HTTP://WWW.FLY.FAA.GOV/RVSM](http://www.fly.faa.gov/rvsm))

- A. CALL SIGN
- B. ORIGIN POINT/POINT REQUIRING ACCESS TO DRVSM AIRSPACE
- C. DESTINATION
- D. REQUESTED ALTITUDE
- E. POC WITH CONTACT INFORMATION
- F. PROPOSED DEPARTURE TIME
- G. NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT IN FORMATION, WHEN APPLICABLE

7. SOMETIMES THE CALL SIGN MAY NOT BE KNOWN AT THE TIME THE DATA IS ENTERED, OR MAY BE CHANGED AFTER THE DATA WAS INITIALLY ENTERED INTO THE WEB SITE. IN THIS EVENT, THE ORIGINATOR NEEDS TO UPDATE THE WEB SITE TO REFLECT THE ACTUAL CALL SIGN. THE FAA WILL NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO EDIT ENTRIES IN THE DPM WEB SITE. WITHOUT THE ACTIVE CALL SIGN ON THE DPM WEB SITE, SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CANNOT BE AFFORDED TO THE FLIGHT.

8. PRIORITY FLIGHTS WILL CONTINUE TO FILE FLIGHT PLANS IN THE NAS AS THEY DO TODAY. THERE WILL BE NO PRE-APPROVAL PROCESS OR NEGOTIATIONS FOR THESE FLIGHTS. THERE WILL BE NO PROCEDURE FOR PILOTS TO INFORM CONTROLLERS OF THEIR PRIORITY STATUS ON FREQUENCY. THESE FLIGHTS WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR ACCOMMODATION IN RVSM AIRSPACE BASED ON THE INFORMATION ENTERED IN THE DPM WEBSITE. WHEN THE FLIGHT REQUESTS ACCESS TO RVSM AIRSPACE, THE CONTROLLER WILL RELAY THE REQUEST TO THE SUPERVISOR/CONTROLLER-IN-CHARGE, WHO WILL REVIEW THE DPM SITE TO DETERMINE THE PRIORITY STATUS OF THE DOD EXCEPTION. SUPERVISOR-TO-SUPERVISOR AND SUPERVISOR-TO-CONTROLLER COORDINATION IN ADVANCE OF THE FLIGHT WILL IDENTIFY THE FLIGHT AS A PRIORITY FLIGHT REQUIRING SPECIAL

CONSIDERATION. ACCOMMODATION OF ANY NON-RVSM EXCEPTIONS REMAINS TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE BASED ON TRAFFIC AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS.

9. I WANT TO REITERATE THE CONTINUED NEED TO USE THE STANDARDIZED FORM TO DOCUMENT DRVSM AIRSPACE ACCESS DENIALS FOR “FILE-N-FLY” AND PRIORITY FLIGHTS. THE DENIAL FORM IS INCLUDED IN FLIP AP/1 PLANNING DOCUMENT UNDER DRVSM GUIDANCE AND POSTED TO THE DINS NOTAM WEBSITE (<HTTPS://WWW.NOTAMS.JCS.MIL>) UNDER “DRVSM INFO.” THIS FORM IS INTENDED FOR POST-FLIGHT DOCUMENTATION OF DRVSM AIRSPACE DENIAL RESULTING IN ADVERSE MISSION IMPACT.

10. THE NEW “PRIORITY FLIGHT” PROCEDURES DO NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR MAJCOMS TO REVIEW STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, EXISTING LETTERS OF AGREEMENT (LOAS), AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS) TO REDUCE DRVSM IMPACTS. COMMANDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MITIGATE DRVSM IMPACTS/CHALLENGES THROUGH LIAISON WITH REGIONAL/LOCAL MILITARY AND FAA REPRESENTATIVES. INCORPORATING LOAS TO ACCOMMODATE ROUTINE NON-RVSM OPERATIONS, INCLUDING FLIGHT TIMES AND ALTITUDES, WILL ALSO ENHANCE FAA ACCOMMODATION TO DOD FLIGHTS.

11. REQUEST DISSEMINATE/RETRANSMIT TO ALL AVIATION ACTIVITIES FOR APPROPRIATE AIRCREW AND FLIGHT PLANNING TRAINING ON THESE NEW PROCEDURES.

12. HQ AFFSA POCS FOR DRVSM IMPLEMENTATION ARE LT COL GARY DANIELSON, DSN 857-2223 AND MR. ALLAN STORM, DSN 857-2146. IN ADDITION, USAF PERSONNEL MAY CONTACT HQ AFFSA VIA EMAIL AT DRVSM@ANDREWS.AF.MIL FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING RVSM POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR USAF AND DOD FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

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APPROVED:

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