

8/20/09

Falcon Field Task Force

Mission, Goals & Recommended Strategies

MISSION

To suggest reasonable compromises that balance and respond to varying interests regarding how aircraft operations should be conducted at Falcon Field while ensuring the airport's long-term success.

GOALS

1. Update Falcon Field's business/economic plan to ensure the airport remains financially stable, that businesses continue to thrive, and while also ensuring recommendations protect the historical recreational uses at Falcon Field.
2. Identify reasonable ways for aviation academies and flight training schools to meet their business needs while responding to community concerns about flight training operations.
3. Seek reasonable ways to mitigate community safety and noise concerns.
4. Set reasonable procedures and/or expectations for Falcon Field and ensure all airport users are well informed and responsive to these agreed upon standards.

STRATEGIES

By consensus, the task force recommends the strategies below be completed within the framework of these guiding principles: a) Recommendations need to be acceptable to the City and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); b) Rules must be reasonable and seek to balance community concerns and the needs of airport businesses; and c) All operational procedures and guidelines being proposed are to be followed to the maximum extent possible.

1. Work with FAA to create an expectation that (safety and weather permitting) training operations use the north runway (4L/22R) to fullest extent possible.
2. Work with FAA to provide priority of south runway (4R/22L) for non-training general aviation (i.e. recreational, business) and corporate aircraft uses.
Note: Primary reason for items 1 & 2 is to seek more efficient (cutting down on waiting times in the cue) arrivals and departures for corporate and other non-training operations at Falcon.
3. Expect that there be no repetitive training operations at Falcon Field between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. to the fullest extent possible and that all transient training flights (flights that originate from other airports) are discouraged during this time period.
4. Work with FAA to maximize use of the "calm wind" preferred runways of 4L/4R. Note: calm wind refers to use of a preferred runway when weather conditions permit. Runways 4L/4R are selected as preferred because they allow aircraft to minimize impacts to residential areas by flying over the Longbow golf course, industrial areas and the Salt River.
5. Encourage pilots, including those who are receiving flight training, to always fly tight patterns (for example, as close of a pattern to the airport as possible or $\frac{3}{4}$ - to one-mile down wind) and to approach the runways when landing at or above the downward sloping path that is provided by the precision approach path indicator (PAPI) landing aid system. (See attachment 1)

6. Expect that RPM adjustments on aircraft engines are made smoothly and slowly to avoid creating a sudden noise event.
7. Departing aircraft will be expected to climb at V_y (i.e. in an altitude as quickly as possible) until reaching pattern altitude 2400 ft. (See attachment 2)
8. Maintain a min. of 1000' above ground when flying over populated areas, except when landing or taking off. Note: Task force's goal is to expect users to adhere to FAA regulations.
9. In accordance with FAR 91.119, training procedures that simulate an engine failure will be practiced only when there is no doubt that the aircraft can make a safe landing on the runway in the event an actual engine failure occurs.
10. Re-establish and emphasize the firm expectation that takeoffs must be completed according to the established Falcon Field noise abatement procedures (See attachment 3).
11. Expedite construction of 4R runway run-up area expansion to eliminate the need for Sabena to first taxi to Runway 22L (north) and then taxi to runway 4R (south) in order to use the preferred calm wind takeoff runway on 4R. Note: goal here is to make these run-up operations as seamless as possible as a way to further encourage regular use of the preferred runway.
12. Expedite the improvements along the shoulder areas on runway 4L-22R in order to exceed safety standards and to serve as another way to encourage all Sabena training schools to use this north runway for student operations.
13. Identify who is flying into and out of Falcon Field via City data collection. Note: this is public information and is available through the FAA air traffic control. The goal is to better understand who is flying into and out of Falcon Field and as a way to identify patterns that generate complaints and in order to pursue further constructive discussions with the pilots and/or FAA, when warranted.
14. Work with the FAA to explore raising the minimum descent altitude for the non directional beacon (NDB) approach into Falcon Field. Note: this is an instrument on the ground that pilots use when practicing approaches to Falcon.
15. Initiate an educational effort and extensive mailing campaign to all Arizona General Aviation airports, flight schools, flight publications, Airport/Facility Directory SW, dissemination to aviation groups, use of FAA pilot messages (ATIS or AWOS), bulletins to on-base pilots to and other users to make them aware of Falcon's operational expectations, particularly those occurring after tower operating hours.
16. Establish creative programs to positively reinforce those who follow noise abatement and flight safety rules and to help the City create a culture of compliance with these rules and holding each other accountable in constructive ways.
17. Work with FAA tower to ensure good communication. Tower should be asked to record an ATIS message at the end of the tower day that reminds aircraft operators to use the preferred runway (4R) when weather permits, and to remind them that, to the fullest extent possible, no repetitive flight training operations (such as touch and go's or stop and go's) should be conducted between 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m., and that all aircraft training flights that originate at other airports are discouraged during this time period.
18. Acquire an automated surface operating system (ASOS) to advise pilots of current weather conditions on the airport.
19. Submit to the Arizona Department of Real Estate an updated Public Airport Disclosure Map that accurately reflects current traffic pattern airspace boundaries.
20. Place full priority on pursuing the task force's consensus recommendations first. If additional tools, information and/or cooperation required, consider conducting a Part 150 study.