



Airport Tenants and Community Update

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy responds to community concerns

After receiving input from community members and the City of Mesa (City), CAE Oxford Aviation Academy (CAE Oxford), a commercial airline pilot training academy at Falcon Field Airport, has agreed to voluntarily make changes to aircraft flight operations to help reduce noise impacts. These changes are in addition to their continuing commitment to comply with the voluntary noise abatement procedures that were established at the airport in 2009 by a task force consisting of community members, CAE Oxford (formerly Sabena and CAE), and other airport tenants.

In 2013, CAE Oxford consolidated its flight training programs at Goodyear Airport and Falcon Field to Falcon Field only. As a result, flight training activities increased at the airport and noise complaints from nearby residents increased. Residents specifically expressed concern about the repetitiveness of “touch-and-go” operations. During a touch-and-go operation, an aircraft lands on a runway and takes off again without taxiing off the runway first. Pilots typically circle the airport to then repeat the maneuver.

Beginning Monday, February 17, 2014, CAE Oxford instituted new operating procedures. Their touch-and-go operations are conducted *only* between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Between 5 p.m. – 8 a.m., student pilots are required to taxi off the runway and then taxi back to the end of the runway to take off again. This reduces the number of repetitive operations. It also enables aircraft to take off again from the end of the runway (rather than the middle) and climb to a higher altitude before flying over residential areas.

Bruce Van Allen, CAE Oxford Global Business Leader, said, “CAE Oxford Aviation Academy is proud to be part of the Mesa community. We have made substantial investments at Falcon Field, and our 180 employees represent \$20 million each year of economic benefit to the Mesa community. We understand the concerns of our neighbors and we are working with the City of Mesa, the Airport Director, and the community on alternatives that will be beneficial to both parties.”

Other steps that CAE Oxford has implemented include:

- 1) CAE Oxford has formally notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic control tower at Falcon Field that they and their pilots have no issues with allowing larger corporate jets to have take-off and landing priority. This has been a concern expressed by corporate tenants who bring jobs and commerce to Mesa.
- 2) The purchase of additional state-of-the-art flight simulators to use in its curriculum. Because these simulators replicate so closely the actual flying of an aircraft, the students are able to spend more time learning in the simulator and less time actually flying in aircraft.
- 3) In-flight aircraft proximity warning systems installed on the Academy’s aircraft, which notify the pilot of other aircraft in the vicinity, help to improve safety in busy air space. The systems also help monitor aircraft locations so that CAE Oxford can re-locate their aircraft to other flight training areas when the Falcon Field air space becomes congested.
- 4) CAE Oxford is transitioning its fleet to four-seat aircraft that will allow them to carry more students at one time. This results in decreased flights in and out of Falcon Field because the

aircraft can land at other Valley airports, change student pilots and continue training without returning to Falcon Field to switch out students.

- 5) In addition to the limitations on touch-and-go operations between 8 a.m.-5 p.m., CAE Oxford flight instructors and students are encouraged to go to other airports for touch-and-go activities when their curriculum and student proficiency allows.
- 6) CAE Oxford pilots are instructed to adjust aircraft propeller rotations (RPMs) earlier in the landing process to help reduce noise when aircraft are on their final approach to the runways.

Some members of the community expressed a strong desire for CAE Oxford to install noise mufflers on their aircraft. CAE Oxford volunteered to work with the City, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), and community members to further explore the required process to have noise mufflers certified by the FAA for use on aircraft owned by CAE Oxford. Mufflers are not currently certified on their specific type of aircraft and must be certified by the FAA before they can be used.

In addition to the voluntary measures being taken by CAE Oxford, the City implemented the following changes:

- 1) The existing Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) lights located on each runway are used by pilots to help ensure that they are approaching the runway at a safe angle when they are landing. The City received approval from the FAA to set the new PAPIs at a 4 degree setting. Previously the PAPIs for Runways 4R/22L were set at 3 degrees. By adjusting the lights higher by one degree, this increases an aircraft's altitude (and thus reduce associated noise) by approximately 92 feet when it is one mile away from the end of the runway.
- 2) In addition to notifying airport tenants and users, the City also sends email notifications to neighbors when runways are expected to experience higher-than-normal use, such as when one of the two runways is closed for construction, causing increased use of the second runway. Residents who wish to receive Falcon Field Airport e-mail notifications can register at <http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/enotifications> or contact the Airport administration office at 480-644-2450 or Airport.Info@MesaAz.gov.

Community meetings will continue to be held to ensure that residents and Falcon Field tenants and users can continue to communicate and work together to reach a healthy balance between the needs of neighbors and Airport users. The City appreciates all of the time and effort that all the interested parties are putting forth to find and implement these reasonable solutions. We also appreciate all our tenants' and pilots' continuing efforts to "fly friendly" and our community's support for the long-term success of Falcon Field.