

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

1110.141

10/15/2004

SUBJ: VERTICAL FLIGHT COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE. This order establishes the Vertical Flight Committee (VFC). This is an intra-FAA committee.

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification; Air Traffic Services; Airports; Research and Acquisitions; to the Assistant Administrator for Aviation Policy, Planning, and Environment; to the director level in the Flight Standards Service; Aircraft Certification Service; Air Traffic Planning and Procedures; Terminal Business Service; Air Traffic System Requirements Service; Airway Facilities Service; to the Office of System Capacity; Aviation Research; Communication Navigation, and Surveillance Systems; Air Traffic Systems Development; System Architecture and Investment Analysis; Aviation Policy and Plans; Airport Safety and Standards; Airport Planning and Programming; and to the William J. Hughes Technical Center.

3. BACKGROUND. New technology, standards, and operational procedures are currently under development for aviation navigation, communication, air traffic control, and cockpit display of critical information. Sophisticated helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft currently being manufactured and under development will be in a unique position to take advantage of these improved services. The development of these services and procedures for helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft and the efficient integration of these aircraft into the National Airspace System (NAS) have been identified as important priorities. The number of operational programs and initiatives relating to the development and improvement of air and ground infrastructure for helicopter and tiltrotor operations have grown significantly over the past several years. There is a need for coordination and prioritization of these programs within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The VFC will also enable FAA to present coordinated positions with regard to helicopter and tiltrotor services and regulations when dealing with other agencies, national and international organizations, and industry.

4. SCOPE. The committee provides advice and recommendations to the Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification on matters relating to regulations and services provided to helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft. The advice and recommendations will include the impact of helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft on the NAS and whether there is a need for additional vertical flight research, regulations, and facilities to ensure safety and system efficiency. The Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification will provide helicopter and tiltrotor regulatory and service information to the Administrator and to the associate administrators as requested.

5. OBJECTIVES. The VFC will:

- a.** Ensure that legislated requirements for helicopter and tiltrotor initiatives are incorporated into FAA's program.
- b.** Incorporate recommendations of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, FAA's Safer Skies Program, and the Terminal Area Operations Aviation Rulemaking Committee into FAA's helicopter and tiltrotor initiatives.
- c.** Serve as the focal point for coordinating initial FAA actions of interest on helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft to other government agencies and industry.
- d.** Serve as the focal point within FAA for helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft issues and initiatives affecting more than one line of business.
- e.** Review FAA policy, plans, programs, and regulations to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the needs of helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft.
- f.** Make recommendations to facilitate the efficient integration of helicopter and tiltrotor aircraft into the NAS to enhance safety, improve capacity, and reduce delay for all system users.
- g.** Make recommendations for development and improvement for air and ground infrastructure for helicopter and tiltrotor operations.
- h.** Review the status of helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft plans and programs of interest to FAA within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Defense, International Civil Aviation Organization, foreign aviation authorities, industry, and academia. Based upon the review, provide periodic status and reports on research, regulatory initiatives, and programs that are of interest to FAA management.

6. COMPOSITION. The National Resource Specialist for Helicopter Operations, in the General Aviation and Commercial Division (AFS-800), in the Flight Standards Service, serves as chairperson of the committee. The committee membership includes representatives from:

- a.** Flight Standards Service.
- b.** Aircraft Certification Service.
- c.** Air Traffic Planning and Procedures Program.
- d.** Office of Communications, Navigation, and Surveillance Systems.
- e.** Office of Airport Safety and Standards.
- f.** Office of Aviation Research.
- g.** Office of System Capacity.
- h.** Office of Airport Policy and Plans.

NOTE: The chairperson will also maintain a list of technical specialists consisting of subject matter experts from FAA and other government agencies. The chairperson may request these technical specialists to attend VFC meetings and to provide technical expertise when appropriate.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES. The committee reports to and is sponsored by the Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification.

a. The VFC will meet at locations and times designated by the chairperson. Members should give priority to work required for the VFC.

b. Costs associated with travel for the VFC will be borne by member organizations. All travel arrangements required for this effort will be the responsibility of individual members.

c. During the work of the VFC, electronic means of communications will be maximized. Correspondence will be handled through e-mail when possible.

d. Status and issue reports will be provided to associate administrators monthly, and will be provided to the Administrator upon request.

e. Staff support for preparing and distributing agendas for meetings, keeping minutes of meetings, issuing committee reports, maintaining committee records, and performing other administrative committee activities will be provided by AFS-800.

/s/ Marion C. Blakey
Administrator