



**Approved by the Tactical Operations
Committee July 2015**

Review of NOTAM Search Phase 2 Implementation

*Report of the Tactical Operations Committee in Response to Tasking from
The Federal Aviation Administration*

July 2015

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Background/Introduction

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is required under Section 3(c) of Public Law 112-153, also known as the 2012 Pilot's Bill of Rights ("PBoR"), to "establish a NOTAM Improvement Panel, which shall be comprised of representatives of relevant nonprofit and not-for-profit general aviation pilot groups, to advise the Administrator in carrying out the goals of the NOTAM Improvement Program." The FAA would like to build on the progress already derived from previously established efforts to digitize NOTAMs to comply with the provisions of this law.¹

The Tactical Operations Committee (TOC) serves as the NOTAM Improvement Panel to further assist the Administration in crafting specific goals and priorities to meet the law's intent and make needed enhancements to the NOTAM program. In this capacity, the TOC is relying on the NOTAM Task Group (TG) to provide specific recommendations on issues related to the NOTAM program.

The work of the panel will yield an increasing amount of standardized digital NOTAMs that can be more easily filtered, sorted, and prioritized. This should result in a significant reduction in the volume of NOTAMs pilots must currently review and allow pilots to focus only on those NOTAMs relevant to their flight plan/path. As a result, pilots will be more confident in the quality and accuracy of this focused NOTAM information, and the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS) will be improved.

The panel is currently in process of providing feedback to the FAA on the implementation of the NOTAM Search website.

Task and Approach

In previous FAA responses to NOTAM Improvement Panel recommendations, the FAA requested "working meeting[s] between the members of the Task Group and the Federal NOTAM System (FNS) engineering and development teams to define stakeholder requirements for some of the specific requests." The Task Group Leadership engaged directly with the FNS team previously and provided clarification of search and filter terms, prioritization of search and filter options and other specific inputs. Much of the input of the NOTAM Task Group formed the NOTAM Search implementation plan for the FAA.

Building upon these interactions, the FAA requested the NOTAM Improvement Panel continue to provide feedback to the FAA after NOTAM Search implementation. The FAA crafted a four phase plan and the NOTAM Task Group agreed to provide feedback after each phase of implementation.

The NOTAM Task Group evaluated the NOTAM Search Phase 2 implementation during May 2015 and compiled feedback. The summary of that feedback forms the body of this recommendation document.

¹ Letter from Elizabeth L. Ray (Vice President, Mission Support Services) to Margaret Jenny (RTCA President) dated July 10, 2013.

Feedback on NOTAM Search Phase 2 Implementation

The following items are new recommendations the NOTAM Task Group identified in its review of the second phase of NOTAM Search:

Training Videos

The Task Group commended the FAA for its rapid development of training videos. The group suggested that narration in the videos would provide a significant improvement in the utility of the videos. The group recommended the FAA add audio to the videos in a future phase of deployment so long as no other elements of the implementation are displaced.

Selection of ARTCC NOTAMs or TFR NOTAMs

In a Flight Path search, the user can select ARTCC NOTAMs or TFR NOTAMs but not both. Based on feedback from the Phase 1 implementation, the FAA is already working on clarifying to the user that ARTCC is a superset of NOTAMs and TFR is a subset. The Task Group continues to support clarification of this through appropriate labeling and updating of the Graphical User Interface. The Task Group also recommends the FAA consider including a training video that clarifies the superset/subset structure of ARTCC/TFR NOTAMs.

Search by Accountability

The Task Group noted that the option to search by “Accountability” is a lesser known categorization to the user community and not currently documented on NOTAM Search. The group recommends the FAA provide clarification and definition of this category in a future enhancement of the User Guide.

Communicating Planned Enhancements

The Task Group recommended the FAA include a list of planned future enhancements directly on the NOTAM Search webpage. This could be in the form of a PDF document of enhancements that changes with each Phased release of NOTAM Search.

Next Steps

The next scheduled releases for NOTAM Search are June 25, 2015 and September 24, 2015. The third phase focuses on User Profile and Filter Enhancements. The fourth phase focuses on ensuring all Pilot Web functionality is replicated in NOTAM Search to allow the sunseting of PilotWeb. The NOTAM Task Group plans to schedule a meeting with the AIM office in the October 2015 to review Phases 3a and 4 in preparation for a submission to the Tactical Operations Committee at the November 2015 meeting.

Appendix A: Members of the NOTAM Task Group

Darrell Pennington, Air Line Pilots Association
Tom Kramer, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Des Keany, American Airlines, Inc.
Jocelyn Cox, CNA
Steve Habicht, CNA
Shaelynn Hales, CNA
Jack Hurley, Delta Air Lines, Inc.
Fred Anderson, Federal Aviation Administration
Ernie Bilotto, Federal Aviation Administration
Gary Bobik, Federal Aviation Administration
Dave Bradshaw, Federal Aviation Administration
Trish Gay, Federal Aviation Administration
Brian Hint, Federal Aviation Administration
Lynette Jamison, Federal Aviation Administration
Scott Jerdan, Federal Aviation Administration
Bob McMullen, Federal Aviation Administration
Diana Young, Federal Aviation Administration
Mark Cardwell, FedEx Express
David von Rinteln, Hewlett Packard
Michael Williams, Hewlett Packard
Jeffrey Miller, International Air Transport Association
Jon Reisinger, Jeppesen
Aaron Wood, Jeppesen
Ashish Solanki, Maryland Aviation Administration
Mark Prestrude, National Air Traffic Controllers Association
Rich Boll, National Business Aviation Association
Bob Lamond Jr, National Business Aviation Association
Trin Mitra, RTCA, Inc.
David Newton, Southwest Airlines
Edwin Solley, Southwest Airlines
Ezra Jalleta, The MITRE Corporation
Jim Mills, U.S. Air Force
Christian Kast, United Parcel Service