Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: ***September 27, 2016, (Original signed document on file)***

To: Air Traffic Organization Service Centers Directors
Air Traffic Organization Air Traffic Service Area Directors

From: [redacted], Director, Air Traffic Procedures, AJV-8

Subject: Interpretation Request from Eastern Service Center (ESC), to JO 7110.65, Paragraph 9-2-10, Washington, DC, Special Flight Rules Area (DC SFRA)/ATC Security Services

We are in receipt of your request for an interpretation pertaining to JO 7110.65, Paragraph 9-2-10, Washington, DC, Special Flight Rules Area (DC SRFA)/ATC Security Services.

The question asked was, "Are traffic advisory services required to be provided to aircraft operating within the DC SFRA?" This question was generated as a result of a Non-Compliant High rating Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (PCT TRACON) received during a recent External Compliance Verification (ECV) being conducted by the ESC Quality Control Group (QCG). The rating involved the SFRA positions at PCT. Upon review of the ECV, The Non-Compliant High rating becomes a question of, "Is the SFRA position required to provide traffic advisories?"

The answer to whether traffic advisory services are required to be provided to aircraft by the PCT SFRA positions is no. The PCT DC SFRA position responsibility is to provide Security Services/Tracking in accordance with JO 7110.65, paragraph 9-2-10a, Subparagraph 2.

PCT created three DC SFRA positions to provide security services for the DC SFRA. Position responsibilities are accomplished in accordance with JO 7110.65, Paragraph 9-2-10, Washington, DC, Special Flight Rules Area (DC SFRA)/ATC Security Services. The DC SFRA positions are providing security services, not air traffic services. They are not control positions. Paragraph 9-2-10a, Subparagraph 2, specifically states basic separation services to aircraft do not apply to security tracking.

Pilots that want air traffic services are instructed by the SFRA position to contact the appropriate air traffic sector that will provide those services. Pilots are notified that air traffic services are not provided for the DC SFRA via an FDC NOTAM, 160210 SFRA, FDC 6/2062, (KFDC A0036/16). The NOTAM states:

SECTION III, RESOURCES:

H. THE TRANSPONDER REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTAM ARE ESTABLISHED SOLELY FOR SECURITY TRACKING PURPOSES AND DO NOT IMPLY THE PROVISION OF ATC RADAR SERVICES, UNLESS ATC SERVICES ARE REQUESTED AND APPROVED.

I. THE COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTAM ARE ESTABLISHED TO MAINTAIN THE ABILITY TO IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATE SECURITY-BASED INSTRUCTIONS, NOT FOR NECESSARILY FOR ATC SERVICES, UNLESS ATC SERVICES ARE REQUESTED AND APPROVED.

If you have any questions about this interpretation, please contact [redacted], AJV-82, at [redacted]