Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: JUN 2 3 2014

To: [redacted] Director Central Service Area, North, AJT-C

[redacted]

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

Subject: Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center Interpretation Request Concerning Civil Aircraft Formation Flights in Class A Airspace

We reviewed and researched the question of Civil formation flight join up in Class A airspace. Your question is, "Is it within Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations for Air Traffic Control (ATC) to issue a clearance to join up in formation flight with civilian aircraft on Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) flight plans in Class A airspace?" It is not within FAA regulations, or Orders, for ATC to issue a clearance to join up civil aircraft in formation flight in Class A airspace.

Military Assumes Responsibility for Separation of Aircraft (MARSA) requirements were developed to allow military formation flights and air refueling missions. MARSA does not apply to civil aircraft.

If you should have any questions, please contact [redacted] En Route Procedures Group, AJV-823, at [redacted]