

August 20, 2013

**Meeting Summary, July 23, 2013**  
**Tactical Operations Committee (TOC)**

The second meeting of the Tactical Operations Committee (TOC) held on July 23, 2013 at the Headquarters of RTCA in Washington, DC, convened at 10:00 a.m. The meeting discussions are summarized below. The following attachments are referenced:

Attachment 1 - List of Attendees

Attachment 2 - Presentations for the Committee (containing much of the detail about the content of the material covered)

Attachment 3 – April 8, 2013 Meeting Summary

Attachment 4 – NOTAM Task Group Terms of Reference

Attachment 5 - Regional Task Group(s) Terms of Reference

Attachment 6 - VOR MON Task Group Terms of Reference

**Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Co-Chairs, Mr. Jim Bowman, Vice President of Flight Operations at FedEx Express, and Ms. Heidi Williams, Vice President of Air Traffic Services and Modernization at Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), called the meeting to order and welcomed the TOC members and others in attendance. All TOC members and attendees from the public were asked to introduce themselves (TOC and General Public Attendees are identified in Attachment 1). One new member was recognized: Peter Cerda from IATA.

Mr. Bowman and Ms. Williams provided an overview of activities since the last meeting including the creation of the Terms of Reference that define the Taskings being discussed during the meeting. A critical part of the process was identifying leadership and the appropriate organizations to participate in the activities. Ms. Williams commented that the various Task Groups are now positioned to launch the “real work” of the Committee.

### **Designated Federal Official Statement**

Designated Federal Official (DFO), Ms. Lynn Ray, Vice President Mission Support, Air Traffic Organization (ATO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), read the Federal Advisory Committee Act notice governing the open meeting.

### **Approval of April 8, 2013 Meeting Summary**

The Co-chairs asked for and received approval of the written Summary for the April 8, 2013 meeting (Attachment 3).

### **FAA Report**

Ms. Ray provided an update on the uncertainties surrounding FAA funding for FY 2014 and the recent hearing by the House Aviation Subcommittee on NextGen implementation. She discussed the efforts of the recently appointed FAA Deputy Administrator, Mike Whitaker, to brand NextGen and work towards achieving implementation successes, and highlighting and promoting those successes. She also explained a merging of Terminal and Enroute functions in the FAA's Air Traffic Organization to align services and support for the operational delivery of services. A request was made by a Committee member to receive an updated chart after the organizational changes are made.

### **NextGen Advisory Committee**

RTCA's Andy Cebula, Vice President of Strategy and Programs, provided a briefing of the recent meeting of the NAC and its recommendations. This included approving three sets of recommendations for transmittal to the FAA:

1. Report on Data Sources for Measuring NextGen Fuel Usage, one of the metrics for tracking and analyzing the impacts of NextGen deployment, developed by the Business Case and Performance Metrics Work Group.
2. Recommendation for Implementing the Categorical Exclusion contained in the FAA Modernization Act of 2012, the new statutory authority for a streamlined environmental review process developed by the CatEx2 Task Group.
3. Recommendation for increasing utilization of Performance Based Navigation (PBN) by identifying barriers to implementation along with a list of mitigation strategies developed by the Operational Capabilities Work Group.

At the request of the FAA, the NAC also recommended potential future Taskings for the FAA's consideration:

- NextGen Activity Prioritization – responding to budget pressures and sequestration, review current FAA plans and activities that have an effect on the implementation of NextGen and

develop a prioritized list of Tier 1 (consensus on activities that should continue no matter what) and Tier 2 (consensus on things that should continue, resources permitting) recommendations.

- Revised Prioritized List of NextGen Integrated Capabilities and Locations - develop a shorter (i.e., 3-5) list of locations for deployment of selected capabilities in the near-term.
- Blueprint for Success of Performance Based Navigation - develop a checklist for planning and executing new procedures (including all necessary technical and non-technical aspects) that can be used to guide future PBN initiatives.
- Minimum Performance Requirements for Selected Integrated NextGen Capabilities - using the output from the Revised Prioritized List of NextGen Integrated Capabilities and Locations Task, including both cockpit avionics and ground automation across domains (e.g., PBN, time-based metering, ATC Automation, Optimized Profile Descents (OPDs), surface traffic management), identify minimum performance requirements, determine applicability of Best-Capable, Best-Served for the capabilities and consider the capabilities as defined in the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU).
- Develop goals associated with the NextGen Performance Metrics as appropriate to measure the effectiveness of NextGen implementation.

### **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)**

Mr. Joshua Gustin, FAA Director of Aeronautical Information Management, provided the background of the FAA's interest in Tasking the TOC with the evaluation and comment on the FAA's program to modernize the Federal NOTAM System. He then introduced Mr. Glenn Sigley, Manager of AIM Systems Group for the FAA, who briefed the Committee on the Pilot's Bill of Rights NOTAM Improvement Program (NIP) and on-going efforts to modernize the Federal NOTAM System (NFS).

Following the briefing, Mr. Gustin explained the FAA's approach to sorting and filtering that is based on the NOTAM data being digitized. He also outlined the FAA's efforts to obtain participation by airport operators in the filing of NOTAMs with an emphasis on small airports. A member of the Committee commented that NOTAM improvements are a good investment by the FAA.

Other Committee members commented on the need to prevent duplication of output information and another that international community participation in the FAA NOTAM system is important and the FAA must facilitate their involvement. The Committee also engaged in a robust conversation about the need to filter data to make it useful for pilots and others needing information contained in NOTAMs. Access to the system by air traffic controllers was also identified as a relevant issue, along with education and outreach to NOTAM users.

In summary, Ms. Ray emphasized that the issues the FAA wants the TOC to address cover the policies surrounding the NOTAM system rather the technology. She also commented that industry participation was a critical step in this process.

The Terms of Reference establishing the NOTAM Task Group that will also serve to advise the TOC in its role as the NOTAM Improvement Panel were approved by the Committee (Attachment 4). Tom Kramer of AOPA and Mark Cardwell of FedEx Express were also approved as the co-chairs for the Task Group.

### **Regional Task Groups (RTGs)**

The Committee received a briefing on the various issues of interest to aircraft operators in the areas identified for inclusion in the TOC RTGs. The Committee also discussed the next steps for the Groups. Ms. Ray emphasized the need for coordination between the TOC, the RTGs and the FAA so that the issues can be addressed from a local perspective, but under the appropriate requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The Committee then approved the Terms of Reference (Attachment 5) establishing the following RTGs and leaders:

- Eastern - Bill Cranor, JetBlue and Glenn Morse, United Airlines
- Central - Mike O'Brien, American Airlines and Edwin Solley, Southwest Airlines
- Western - Dan Allen, FedEx Express and Bob Lamond, National Business Aviation Association

### **VHF Omni-directional Range (VOR) Minimum Operating Network**

Ms. Deborah Lawrence, FAA Navigation Programs Manager, explained the FAA's plans for the VOR Minimum Operational Network (MON). The FAA is seeking industry recommendations associated with the plans to reduce the number of VORs by approximately half by 2020.

In response to a question about the proposed Terms of Reference and the scope of the Tasking, Ms. Ray clarified that the TOC was being asked to both review the FAA's plans, as well as make additional recommendations.

The Committee also discussed participants in the VOR MON Task Group to include aircraft operators and pilots (GA and air carrier), DoD, NATCA, GAMA, and Thales. The Terms of Reference identifying Heidi Williams of AOPA and Paul Railsback (later replaced by Don Dillman) of A4A as the co-chairs were approved by the Committee (Attachment 6).

**Anticipated issues for TOC consideration and action at the next meeting**

At the next meeting, the Committee will receive recommendations for consideration from the NOTAM and the VOR MON Task Groups, and reports from the RTGs.

**Other business**

No other business was raised.

**Adjourn**

Co-Chairs Bowman and Williams ended the meeting of the Committee at 3:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the TOC is November 7, 2013 in Washington, DC.