



Noise MATTERS

June 2006 | San Diego International Airport (SDIA) | Volume 21

Airport Authority Approves Increase in Noise Curfew Fine Structure

Beginning July 1, aircraft operators at SDIA will face higher penalties for violating the nightly 11:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. departure noise curfew. On April 3, 2006 the Airport Authority Board accepted the rationale of the Airport Noise Advisory Committee (ANAC) and approved a new fine structure that will be the most stringent of the five commercial service airports in the U.S. that link an administrative penalty to its noise curfew. The present fine structure had remained unchanged since it was adopted in 1989.

ANAC originally proposed a fine increase in 1999 and it was submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to determine if its adoption would put at risk the grandfathered status of the Curfew, which, in turn could put the airport's ability to obtain federal airport improvement program grants at risk. The FAA's General Counsel approved in principle the increased fine structure, but the Authority Board declined to impose it in 2003, opting instead to monitor operator compliance. When the number of curfew violations increased from 23 in 2004 to 41 in 2005, the Board took action.

The current fine structure imposes fines of \$1,000, \$3,000, and \$5,000 for the first, second, and third violation within a calendar quarter. The new fines will increase to \$2,000, \$6,000, and \$10,000 for the first, second, and third (and subsequent) violation within a six-month compliance period, multiplied by the number of violations during the previous six-month compliance period; also, for any additional violations of the curfew beyond three in the compliance period, the Board may terminate or limit

the operating privileges of the aircraft operator.

The nightly curfew applies to all aircraft operations except bona fide emergencies, Life-Flight medical operations, and flights of military necessity. The driving force for adoption of the more stringent fine structure was the input expressed by the noise-impacted community through their members on ANAC.

The number of aircraft operators violating the curfew is very low in terms of the percentage of annual operations. The airport had almost 220,000 operations last year and only 29 penalized curfew violations. About 30% of violations are not penalized due to extenuating circumstances such as weather, maintenance problems, and air traffic control decisions. The community has asked for zero violations of the curfew, and that is what we strive for.

Web-based Aircraft Flight Tracking System

The Airport Noise Mitigation office is currently evaluating web-based products to provide community members with easily accessible near-real time and historic views of aircraft arrival and departure flight operations. Similar systems are in use at other domestic and international airports. They provide internet-based, near-real

time information to community members who are able to view the actual flight path and identification of aircraft operating in the vicinity of the airport. The product will be integrated into the SDCRAA website so it will appear seamless to users. More information will be forthcoming as the program comes online.

Airport Plans to Update its Noise and Land Use Study

The Airport Authority is expecting to update its 1989 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Noise Compatibility Study (14 CFR Part 150) that originally defined the Federal noise compatibility program for SDIA. This planning process identifies local noise issues through plan development and implementation programming. The Study involves interested parties in the process through a public participation program, including a Technical Advisory Committee, to review and comment on all project elements throughout the Study.

The first step of the process will be for the Authority to select a lead consultant through a Request for Qualifications process. The Authority expects that the selection will be completed during the summer.

Expect more information about the Part 150 study forthcoming in future *Noise Matters* newsletters.

AIRPORT NOISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FUTURE MEETING DATES

July 20, 2006 5:30 - 7 p.m.

September 21, 2006 5:30 - 7 p.m.

November 16, 2006 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Commuter Terminal, Third Floor

3225 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101

ENFORCEMENT OF "THE CURFEW" (AIRPORT USE REGULATIONS, TIME OF DAY RESTRICTIONS)

1st Quarter 2006 --- 2nd Quarter 2006 (to date)

Date	Operator	Penalty Assessed
2/04/2006	Dish Direct (G/A)	\$1,000
2/17/2006	jetBlue Airways	\$1,000
2/26/2006	Alaska Airlines	\$1,000
3/18/2006	Delta Air Lines	\$1,000
4/10/2006	US Airways	\$1,000*
4/11/2006	US Airways	\$3,000*
4/18/2006	Hanover Aviation (G/A)	\$1,000*
5/05/2006	ISO Aviation (G/A)	\$1,000*

*Note: These violations are pending before the July 5th Curfew Violation Review Panel (CVRP).

Operators in violation of the Airport Use Regulations, Time of Day Restrictions, may be subject to the following administrative penalties:

1st Offense per calendar quarter --- \$1,000; 2nd Offense per calendar quarter --- \$3,000; 3rd Offense per calendar quarter --- \$5,000. Additional penalties may result in loss of operating privileges.

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority extends its appreciation to **United Airlines** for canceling some flights rather than departing during the Curfew.

"SAN Fly Quiet" Air Carrier Recognition Program

On July 1, 2006, SDIA's Noise Mitigation office will initiate a new program to encourage airlines to operate as quietly as possible. The program encourages a participatory approach in complying with noise abatement procedures and objectives by grading an airline's performance and by making the scores available to the public via web-based products, newsletters, and public meetings.

This enhanced air carrier recognition program will grow and change as new procedures and new technologies are incorporated into the airport's noise abatement program.

Based on similar programs at San Francisco, Chicago, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, it evaluates the environmental quality of each airline's fleet, giving higher scores for newer, quieter aircraft. It will also grade each airline's adherence to standard arrival and departure routing. Thirdly, it will grade air carriers based on the frequency of violations of the time-of-day noise curfew, and publicly recognize them for actions taken to specifically avoid violating the curfew.

Scores will be computed and reports generated semi-annually to reflect recently approved changes to SDIA's curfew violation fine structure. Updates will be presented to the Airport Noise Advisory Committee (ANAC) at their bi-monthly meetings. Frequent contact between the airline corporate headquarters and Noise Mitigation is intended to keep interest high and encourage improvement.

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority has had an air carrier recognition program in place since 1989. Fly Quiet offers a dynamic venue for implementing new noise abatement initiatives by praising and publicizing active and improving participation, rather than perpetuating a system that admonishes violations.

Jim Buckles to Retire

James K. Buckles, the long time air traffic manager at SDIA's Air Traffic Control Tower, will retire July 3 after 39 years in the air traffic control business. Jim has been a stalwart supporter and member of the Airport Noise Advisory Committee (ANAC), the community advisory committee on aircraft noise to the Airport Authority Board.

Jim served his organization (Federal Aviation Administration) and the noise-impacted community surrounding SDIA admirably. We will miss his ability to explain complicated procedures in easily understood terms, his quick wit, and his ongoing attempts to balance the desires of the community with the responsibility of ensuring safe and expeditious movement of aircraft into and out of the airport.

Noise Matters is published periodically for the residents neighboring San Diego International Airport (SDIA). We welcome your comments and suggestions. For additional Airport Noise related information, please call 619-400-2781.
For Noise Complaints 24-Hours, call 619-400-2799

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