



NTSB Public Aircraft Forum

Defining Public Aircraft

UNCLASSIFIED

Discussion by:
Joel Voisine
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National Nuclear Security Administration



An Executive Agency under the Department of Energy

The NNSA is responsible for the management and security of the Nation's nuclear weapons...

Within NNSA the Office of Secure Transportation (OST) provides:

- Safe and secure ground transportation of nuclear weapons, components and SNM
- **Safe and secure air transportation of nuclear weapons components and SNM**
- **Conduct other missions supporting the national security of the United States**

Within OST the Aviation Operations Division (AOD):

- **24/7 emergency response for national nuclear emergencies (exercises)**
- **Transport nuclear limited life components (tritium)**
- **Transport federal nuclear couriers / escorts conducting ground convoy operations**
- **Transport special / sensitive cargo**
- Conduct federal and contractor transport for site visits, training, administrative reasons, etc. when cost justified



Public Aircraft



AOD currently conducts these missions as a GOCO with a Part 121 Certificate holder operating and maintaining the government airplanes

- 2 DC-9 freighters
- 1 Learjet 35
- CAS as necessary

Approximately 90% + of AODs missions are conducted as public aircraft.

How does AOD determine whether or not a mission is public or civil?

- Evaluate the mission statement – Define the purpose and necessity for which the aircraft is being dispatched
- Agency legal review
- Defined our public aircraft missions in the AOD Aviation Policy and Procedures Manual (Part 125 Manual)
- DOE oversight

Passengers vs. qualified non crewmembers

- “Associated with the performance of” test
- Passengers cannot be transported in the same airplane as explosives, 40mm grenades, fully automatic weapons, shape charges, breaching charges, LN2 (for cryogenic cutters) etc. and tritium in the amounts required by the AOD mission.



Public Aircraft



Future Operational Construct:

- GOGO. AOD will operate the airplanes and a services contractor will maintain the airplanes in accordance with the AOD 14 CFR Part 125 (LODA) and the FAA approved maintenance program.
 - 2 Boeing 737-400 Combi airplanes
 - 1 DC-9 freighter
 - 1 Learjet 35
- AOD has no intent to deviate from its FAA approved maintenance program.

Reasons for the change:

- NNSA Workforce Study determined that pilot functions were closely associated with the performance of an inherently governmental function
- Security – Post 9/11 security has increased in the nuclear arena. HRP - Q Clearances are required of Feds
- Safety – Government has direct interface with the FAA. Government can initiate quality aspects to its programs (SMS, ISO)
- Operational Control - Government initiates, operates, makes changes to and terminates any flight
- Avoid commercial purpose challenges

Boeing 737-400 Combi





BACK-UP SLIDES



Civil / Public



USC Title 49, 40102 - Public Aircraft

- An aircraft used only for the US Government
- An aircraft owned or operated by the government
 - except when an aircraft is used for commercial purposes
 - or, when used to carry an individual other than a crewmember or qualified non-crewmember (QNC).

AC 00-1.1 Government Aircraft Operations defines QNC as:

- one “whose presence is required to perform” and performing a task or duty directly related to an ongoing governmental function. (LLC movement, agent convoy operations, emergency response exercises, etc.)
- or one “associated with the performance of”, while not directly engaged in performing the governmental function, are present on the aircraft in connection with the function. (WSI ammunition packers, contractor convoy operations)
- Excludes flights to training. OST believes that flights to training are “associated with the performance of” and the agents are QNC.

Civil aircraft – aircraft that are not public.