



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Central Region
Iowa, Kansas,
Missouri, Nebraska

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Kansas City, Missouri 64106
(816) 329-2600

January 5, 2016

Mr. Jerald Eichelberger
Mid-Continent Airport
Wichita FSDO-07
1801 Airport Road
Wichita, KS 67209

Parachute Safety Analysis for Lawrence Municipal Airport

Dear Jerry,

There have been requests for parachuting operations at the Lawrence Municipal Airport (LWC). In order to help LWC officials respond appropriately to the requests, we request your assistance by conducting a safety analysis of the airport. The intent of the analysis is to determine if parachute operations can be safely accommodated and if any specific airport and/or air traffic provisions must be implemented to ensure operational safety.

In addition to provisions that must be put in place to safely accommodate parachute operations, the airport would appreciate guidance in determining safe Parachute Landing Areas (PLAs). If not included in the report, this is something that can be discussed at a later date after the study is complete.

One of the concerns the airport has expressed with accommodating parachute operations is the potential conflict this may cause with the life flight service provided at the airport by Life Star. Please take this emergency operation in to consideration in your analysis.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if you need additional information. Our Compliance Specialist, Lynn Martin, will be the FAA Airports Division point of contact for this effort. Lynn can be reached at 816-329-2644.

Sincerely,

Jim A. Johnson
Manager
Central Region
Airports Division



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: December 28, 2016

To: Mr. Kevin Willis, Manager, Office of Airport Compliance (ACO-100)

From: Kieran Katlin O'Farrell, Manager-General Aviation Operations Branch AFS-830

Prepared by: Mike Millard (AFS-830)

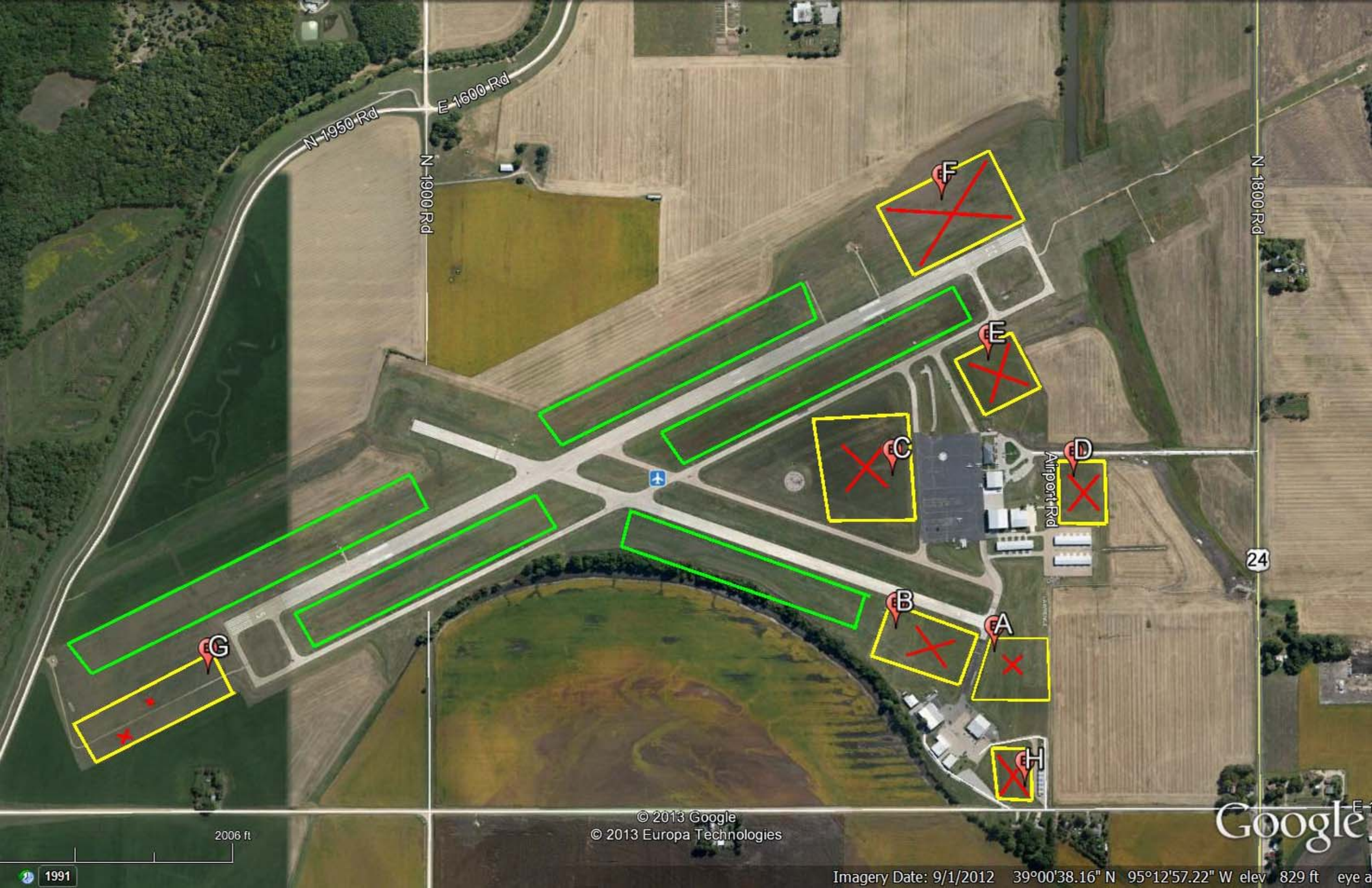
Subject: Lawrence Airport (LWC), Lawrence, KS. Parachute Landing Area Assessment

As requested by the FAA Office of Airports Division (ACO-100, Gabriel Mahns) and the General Aviation and Commercial Division (AFS-800), a desk audit (an examination of documents that is done off site) of proposed parachute landing areas on Lawrence Airport (LWC) was conducted by Mike Millard (AFS-830). Using the proposed parachuting landing area diagram (attached) and Google Earth measuring tools to evaluate if eight (8) proposed locations on the airport (lettered A-H) have adequate space to accommodate the parachute operations.

Upon review of the information gathered during the desk audit assessment, it is determined that three (3) of the proposed parachute landing areas will accommodate US Parachute Association B, C, D license holders, and Tandem parachute operations. The three acceptable areas are C, D, or E, with area C being considered the best option because of its location and size.

As previously identified during the Wichita Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) safety review on February 3, 2010, skydive operations can be supported on the airport provided certain provisions are met (see attached). A plan needs to be developed to implement the identified provisions before operations begin.

Utilizing any of the three proposed parachute landing area's (C, D, or E) provides risk mitigation by placing approximately four tenths (.4) of a mile between the parachute landing area and the airports life flight helicopter operation based on the airport. The size of the proposed landing areas can accommodate US Parachute Association B, C, D license holders, and Tandem parachute operations, while limiting Solo Student and A license holders. This provides risk mitigation by having more experienced and accurate skydivers utilizing the parachute landing area. Additional risk mitigation will be established by developing a plan to incorporate the provision established by the Wichita FSDO safety review.



N 1950 Rd
E 1600 Rd

N 1900 Rd

N 1800 Rd

Airport Rd

24

2006 ft

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Google

Imagery Date: 9/1/2012 39°00'38.16" N 95°12'57.22" W elev 829 ft eye a

1991



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: February 3, 2010

To: Nicoletta Oliver, Airports Division, ACE-600

From: Manager, Flight Standards District Office, ACE-FSDO-07

Prepared by: Joseph D. Behrends, (316)-941-1224

Subject: Request for Safety Determination, Informal Complaint, Mr. William
McCauley

This memo is in response to an Airports Division request for a safety determination of a proposed parachute operation at the Lawrence Municipal Airport (LWC). The City of Lawrence denied Mr. McCauley access to LWC for his commercial aeronautical skydiving business, on the grounds that such operations are unsafe. This office was tasked to complete a safety review of the proposed parachute operation at LWC to substantiate this claim. Based upon the results of the safety review, it has been determined that the proposed parachute operation on the LWC airport can be supported from a safety standpoint provided the following provisions are met.

Airport Considerations:

- a. Weather conditions must be VFR and present no hazard for the jumpers or present visibility conditions which preclude pilots from maintaining visual contact with jump participants.
- b. United States Parachute Association's (USPA) Basic Safety Requirements must be followed.
- c. Numerous areas on the field comply with USPA Basic Safety Requirements regarding Drop Zone Requirements, however, an agreement between the parachute business and airport management must be reached regarding a location on the airfield for a drop zone. Alternate Landing Areas must be established prior to parachute operations.
- d. A NOTAM must be established to advise all users of the LWC airport of the parachute jump activities.

- e. The jump aircraft pilot will establish and maintain communication with Kansas City Center, and visually scan the area to ensure aircraft are not entering or maneuvering within the traffic pattern prior to authorizing jumpers to depart the aircraft.
- f. Radio transmissions will be conducted by the jump aircraft on the LWC CTAF frequency to alert anyone in the area that jump activities are in progress.
- g. Jumpers will be briefed of the requirements and recommended procedures in AC 90-66A Paragraph 9(e), to maintain directional control at all times and remain clear of the runways, taxiways, aprons, and their associated safety areas.
- h. Runway Safety Areas (RSA) should be defined and clearly marked prior to the commencement of a parachute operation.
- i. Airport management will ensure the Airport Facility Directory and the Kansas City Sectional are updated to reflect a designated Parachute Drop Zone has been established at LWC.
- j. Airport management will ensure the advisory information is updated to advise all who utilize LWC airport that a Parachute Drop Zone has been established and its location on the airport.
- k. Airport management will advise all operators based at LWC airport of the establishment and location of a Parachute Drop Zone at the airport.

Air Traffic Control Considerations:

- a. A report from Kansas City ARTCC states that there exists a considerable volume of IFR and VFR air traffic in the area especially on the Jayhawk STAR Arrival. The center of the arrival is located 4 NM Southeast of LWC. The parachute activity must be restricted to a 2 NM radius of the airport center to minimize conflicts. Traffic advisories should be provided to participating aircraft during parachute operations.
- b. A complicating factor is that a recurring TFR exists over Kansas University sports stadium during sports activities. The TFR encompasses a 3 NM radius which intersects with LWC airport. Flight operations are allowed into the airport with coordination with ATC. However, parachute operations require coordination and a waiver with the TSA if the jumps are conducted during the active TFR time. The responsible person must receive prior approval from TSA before beginning the parachute operations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office at your convenience.