



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.