

MAPPS Federal Programs Conference
Washington, DC
March 19-21, 2007

Aerial Photography Committee Report

The Aerial Photography Committee Meeting was well attended, both by MAPPS member firms and representatives from both TSA and the FAA. See attached listing.

After introductions, a review was given of past history with TSA and improvements that have resulted, with respect to waiver requests in the Washington DC Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ). The waiver system is being updated to enable an internet-based application and approval process. While part of that change has already taken place, it is not expected to be fully operational until perhaps mid-summer. Waiver applications are now taking approximately 7 days to process, and the goal is to reduce that time to 3 to 4 days.

The TSA representatives, Mr. Reggie Rhodes and Ms. Ada Johnson were reminded of the seasonal nature of aerial survey missions in the DC area, and the request was made for TSA to monitor the volume and allocate additional resources if necessary.

Cassy Crouse (RC&A) requested verification as to whether an approved waiver could be extended prior to its expiration, as this has not always been possible in the past. Mr. Rhodes confirmed there is no need to wait for expiration if an extension is needed.

John Schmitt (Keystone) and Eric Andeline (Aerial Data Service) will research file format types preferred by member firms for compatibility with the new internet-based waiver system.

Darrell Hood attended as a representative from the FAA. After hearing of our liaison history with the FAA and primary points of interest, Mr. Hood agreed to act as our new liaison. With such diverse issues as aircraft modifications, airspace access, ATC controller training and cruising altitudes, Mr. Hood has agreed to either work with MAPPS directly, or try to put us in direct contact with the appropriate individual within the FAA best suited to handle a particular issue. A follow-up meeting with Mr. Hood will be scheduled for late April or May.

The Disney TFRs were discussed, as they have negatively impacted member firms. This will require a legislative remedy, as it is not just a NOTAM requirement, but wording in Public Law that has prevented member firms from even being able to apply for waivers. This matter was taken up by the Aviation Bill Task Force to remedy in the upcoming Aviation bill. In addition to bringing this to the attention of staff for the House Aviation Subcommittee, member firms included this as a talking point in meetings with their elected officials (or assistants) on Wednesday, March 21.

UAVs were also discussed. MAPPS is not necessarily opposed to UAVs unless used exclusively by federal agencies, or by government agencies in competition with the private sector, or if UAV use imposes TFRs, which might negatively impact other (manned) aerial survey operations.

A number of Aviation-related issues were included in the agenda handled by the Aviation Bill Task Force, seeking legislated remedy through the Aviation Bill. Refer to the ABTF report for details.