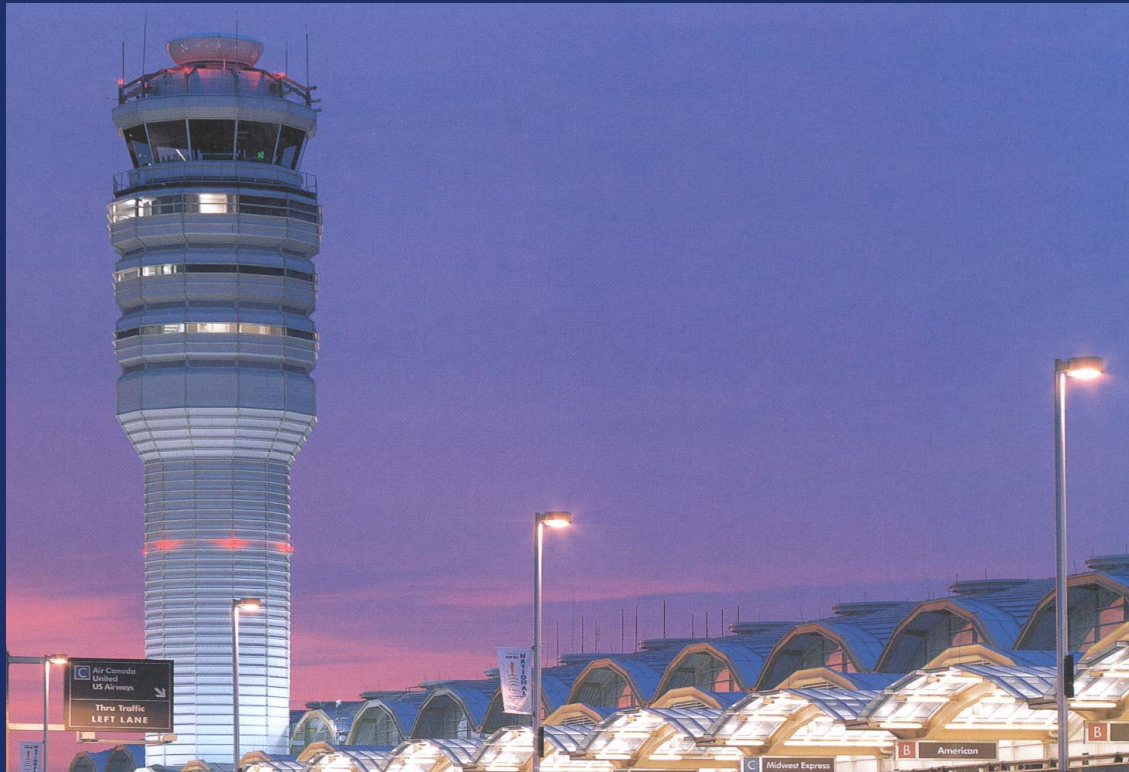


Washington Tower



Helicopter Operations

March 2007



Federal Aviation
Administration

Helicopter Noise Policy

Federal Air Regulation 91.119

Fixed wing aircraft:

Over congested areas: Maintain an altitude of at least 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle and a horizontal radius of at least 2,000 feet from another aircraft

Over other than congested areas: maintain an altitude of at least 500 feet above the surface over open water or sparsely populated areas

The Exception: Helicopters may be operated at less than these minimum altitudes provided that they are conducted without hazard to persons or property on the surface



FAA Report to Congress

- In December 2004, FAA delivered a report to Congress with recommendations on reducing (non-military) helicopter noise effects
- (http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/policy_guidance/envir_policy/media/04Nov-30-RTC.pdf)



Major Findings

- A unique noise model for helicopters should be developed
- Achieve higher altitude flight
- Optimal route planning to avoid noise-sensitive areas
- Use of advanced technologies for route navigation
- Emergency services (law enforcement, medical, fire fighting, public services) should be exempt (during operational portions of flight)
- Helicopter operators and communities should develop voluntary agreements to mitigate helicopter noise



Noise Abatement Policy

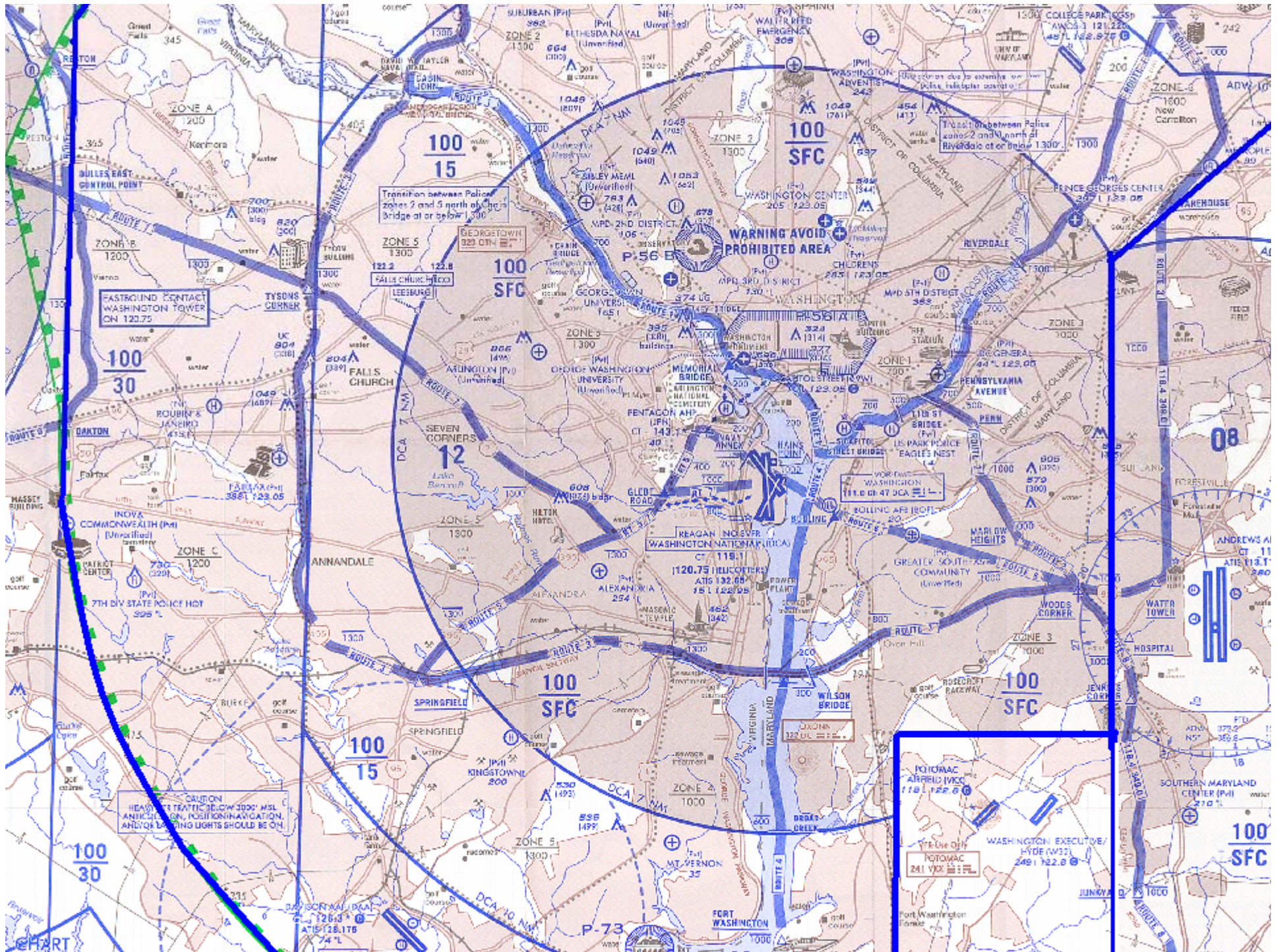
- Noise abatement programs are initiated by non-FAA entities, and are for the most part, voluntary in nature
- FAA ensures air traffic controllers are cognizant of, and do not issue instructions contrary to noise abatement procedures, to the extent they do not impact aircraft safety or air traffic efficiency



Why We're Here

- We have an interest in serving the helicopter operators
- We're concerned about noise; we live in the communities





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