



United States Department of the Interior
Office of Aviation Services
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Boise, Idaho 83706-3991

In Reply Refer To:

March 5, 2021

Memorandum

To: Anthony Lascano, FWS National Aviation Manager
John Buehler, NPS National Aviation Manger
Brad Gibbs, BLM National Aviation Manager

From: Mark Bathrick, Director, Office of Aviation Services (OAS)

Subject: Policy Exception to DOI Fleet Pilot Flight Evaluations (351DM3, OPM-16 and OPM-22)

DOI policy requires Visual Flight Rules (VFR) flight evaluations and associated training on an annual basis. However, due to the COVID 19 worldwide pandemic and associated travel restrictions in many regions of the United States, flight training and flight evaluations have been difficult to accomplish over the preceding 12 months. The reported death toll from COVID 19 has exceeded 500,000. Many areas of the country have started to report a reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases and the FDA has given emergency approval for the use of the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine supply remains limited at this time and may not be available to most DOI personnel in the immediate future. There have also been several new COVID-19 variants identified in numerous states where bureau pilots are stationed and OAS inspectors travel. South African, Brazilian and United Kingdom variants have been documented in the U.S. and may make the containment of the virus more difficult and our continued vigilance important to our long-term success.

On December 9th, 2020 I approved and provided to each of you an exception to policy for annual evaluations and any current special use authorizations through March 31, 2021. I also promised any necessary updated guidance to you no later than March 15, 2021.

After having reviewed the current COVID-19 situation, I am extending this exception to policy as it pertains to annual flight evaluations and current special use authorizations for fleet pilots that are currently carded for such flights. This policy exception applies to VFR flight evaluations and in-person flight training (351DM3, OPM-16 and OPM-22). This exemption does not provide relief for Continue Education Units (CEU) requirements identified in OPM-22. These required training credits can be completed remotely and fleet pilots must have 30 CEU's prior to being issued a new OAS-30 pilot card.

The attached list provides information on pilot evaluations. OAS inspectors will continue to administer flight evaluations when the risk of COVID-19 is sufficiently mitigated for OAS inspectors and the bureau pilots we support. Based on current data on the continued COVID-19 spread, the presence of new and possibly more virulent variants and the current progress of vaccinations, I am



extending the policy exception until **May 31, 2021** for those that need it. Should it become necessary to extend this exception further, I will issue further guidance no later than May 15, 2021.

The following stipulations will remain applicable to this continued exception to policy:

- Pilots must complete online or distance learning education credits to fulfill the CEU requirements in OPM-22.
- In-person flight training and flight evaluations will proceed when possible with the appropriate mitigations to reduce COVID-19 risk.
- Aviation Managers will work with their bureau pilots to ensure safety plans are in place and human factors are emphasized. The physical isolation associated with CDC recommendations that may result in less flight time could have negative impacts.
- Pilot cards (OAS-30) will be issued with the new expiration dates for those individuals under this exception. Pilots must have the valid card in their possession while exercising aviation duties requiring such.
- Bureau pilots will work closely with their OAS regional Pilot Inspectors to schedule evaluations when appropriate with the goal of reestablishing applicable base months for evaluations.

I realize this pandemic has impacted all our lives in ways we could have never envisioned just twelve months ago. The safety of DOI personnel and their families remains our highest priority. We will continue to observe CDC recommendations to slow the spread of the disease while we anticipate the vaccine distribution and immunization program and begin to implement strategies to conduct in-person training and evaluations. We have all been through a lot and we will get through this together. We are eagerly anticipating a return to more normal operations soon; however, we cannot afford to let our guard down prematurely. If you have any questions please contact **Frank Crump, Eastern Regional Director** at (770) 280-7245 / frank_crump@ios.doi.gov or **Kevin Fox, Alaska Regional Director** at (907) 787-9245 / kevin_fox@ios.doi.gov.

Attachment: Fleet Pilot Evaluation Status

OAS Pilot Table

| Last Name | First Name | Reg Office | Date of VFR Eval | Expiration | Proposed Extension | Notes |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| BLM | | | | | | |
| GUSSE | WALKER | AKRO | 11/19/2020 | 11/30/2021 | N/A | |
| MAZUR | STEVE | AKRO | 9/22/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| MCCURDY | MIKE | AKRO | 9/14/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| MCMILLAN | SETH | AKRO | 9/15/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| MCCORMICK | BOB | WRO | 3/1/2021 | 3/31/2022 | N/A | |
| MASCHERONI | ANDRE | WRO | 10/6/2020 | 10/31/2021 | N/A | |
| LENMARK | PAUL | WRO | 10/5/2020 | 10/31/2021 | N/A | |
| ALLEN | LISA | WRO | 10/1/2020 | 10/31/2021 | N/A | |
| GERMANN | HANS | WRO | 10/22/2020 | 10/31/2021 | N/A | *Developmental pilot |
| SWISHER | CHRIS | WRO | 10/15/2020 | 10/31/2021 | N/A | *Developmental pilot |
| FWS | | | | | | |
| BAYLESS | SHAWN | AKRO | 10/30/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| BOSCH | BRANDON | AKRO | 5/23/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| COGGINS | LEWIS | AKRO | 3/1/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| DANIELS | CHRISTOPHER | AKRO | 9/4/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| GREELEY | CHRIS | WRO | 8/19/2020 | 8/31/2021 | N/A | |
| GREIL | TOM | WRO | 9/21/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| GULDAGER | NIKILINDA | AKRO | 9/25/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| HILWIG | KARA | AKRO | 8/14/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| HURD | SHAY | AKRO | 6/6/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| KADRMAS | NEIL | ERO | 10/28/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| KONEFF | MARK | ERO | 10/16/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| LIDDICK | TERRY | ERO | 10/28/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| LUBINSKI | BRIAN | ERO | 9/17/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| MALLEK | EDWARD | AKRO | 7/25/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| NIGUS | BERETT | AKRO | 6/11/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| OLSON | NATHAN | AKRO | 8/26/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| PEPIN | DAN | AKRO | 7/17/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| PRATT | BEN | AKRO | 8/17/2020 | 8/17/2021 | N/A | |
| RAYFIELD | JOHN | ERO | 9/17/2020 | 10/31/2021 | N/A | |
| RHODES | WALT | WRO | 9/22/2020 | 9/30/2021 | N/A | |
| REES | KURT | AKRO | 10/17/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| RIPPETO | DAVID | AKRO | 2/15/2020 | 2/28/2022 | N/A | |
| SCOTTON | BRAD | AKRO | 7/25/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| SHELDEN | STEPHAN "DAN" | AKRO | 9/24/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| SHERMAN | LEE | WRO | 8/19/2020 | 8/31/2021 | N/A | |
| SPANGLER | ROB | WRO | 11/3/2020 | 11/30/2021 | N/A | |
| SUNDOWN | ROBERT | AKRO | 9/19/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| THORPE | PHILIP | WRO | 11/15/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | *Scheduled mid-March |
| VANHATTEN | GARETH "KEVIN" | AKRO | 5/3/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| WATTS | DOMINICK | AKRO | 9/26/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| WILKERSON | GARRETT | ERO | 7/23/2020 | 7/31/2021 | N/A | |
| WILSON | HEATHER | AKRO | 8/5/2019 | /31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| WORTHAM | JAMES | ERO | 11/20/2019 | 9/31/2021 | N/A | |
| YATES | SARAH F. | ERO | 10/16/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| NPS | | | | | | |
| ANDERSON | PAUL | AKRO | 11/9/2020 | 11/30/2021 | N/A | |
| BELL | STEVEN | AKRO | 9/4/2020 | 9/4/2021 | N/A | |
| ELLIS | DARRYL | AKRO | 7/29/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| ENZFELDER | GLEN | WRO | 12/9/2020 | 12/31/2021 | N/A | |
| GOODWIN | FRED | ERO | 1/29/2020 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| GRENDA | ADAM | AKRO | 8/27/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| HAMON | TROY | AKRO | 8/26/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| HOWELL | GALEN | WRO | 11/30/2020 | 11/30/2021 | N/A | |
| LARSEN | AMY | AKRO | 5/22/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| RICHOTTE | RICHARD | AKRO | 7/2/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| SAMPLE | SCOTT | AKRO | 10/1/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| TAYLOR | SCOTT | WRO | 1/12/2021 | 1/31/2022 | N/A | *Amphibs due in July 2021 |
| THOMPSON | NICHOLAS | AKRO | 11/12/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| WARREN | JIM | WRO | 12/1/2020 | 12/31/2021 | N/A | *Developmental pilot |
| WELTY | DONALD | AKRO | 7/3/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| USPP | | | | | | |
| EVASICK | RYAN | ERO | 6/27/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| HAAPAPURO | ERIC | ERO | 8/6/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| PERKINS | CHRISTOPHER | ERO | 8/5/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |
| WRIGHT | KEATON | ERO | 8/6/2019 | 3/31/2021 | 5/31/2021 | |