

# National Air Traffic Controllers Association

## AFL-CIO



The Washington D.C. Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) has done nothing to enhance air traffic safety or national security around the Washington D.C. area and should be abolished immediately. Since its inception, ADIZ has been nothing but a burden on its users, including pilots and air traffic controllers. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) has asked the FAA on numerous occasions to establish guidelines for controllers to use when handling ADIZ traffic. To date, safety is still compromised due to the fact that the FAA has failed to respond to the requests of the air traffic controllers who work the ADIZ on an hourly and daily basis.

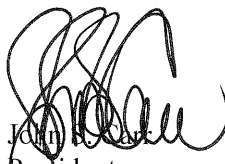
Every air traffic controller at Potomac TRACON handles the ADIZ in a different manner, due to the lack of proper guidelines from the FAA. Pilots get confused on what they should expect because today, they were told something different than what they were told yesterday. Pilots are forced to constantly ensure they are on the correct transponder codes and talking to ATC. This has taken their eyes out of the window, where they should be looking for other traffic to see and avoid. Pilots, under the current NOTAM, are forced to keep in contact with ATC. By doing this, pilots are not able to change to the local Unicom at their destination to see who is in the pattern in a timely manner. This creates an unsafe situation.

The ADIZ has added approximately 30% more traffic to the Potomac TRACON alone, yet controller staffing levels remain the same as they were prior to the ADIZ implementation. The increased workload and unsatisfactory staffing levels have actually served to decrease the margin of safety and security in the airspace over the National Capitol region.

The idea that the ADIZ creates an enhanced level of security is, quite frankly, a joke. I urge the FAA to abolish the ADIZ and continue to use and refine procedures that relate to the Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ), 15 DME from DCA. The ADIZ is not only a burden to its users, it is an unsafe, mixed-bag of personal controller technique without even a veneer of procedure or common sense. The ADIZ was conceived in haste and implemented poorly, and costs the cash-strapped FAA precious millions of dollars annually – while costing the users of the system untold (but certainly significant) amounts of money as well.

The ADIZ does not fulfill its intended purpose. The ADIZ is a bad policy idea, perpetuated by fear and allowed to continue – not because it is worthy or effective, but due to bureaucratic inertia which prevents common sense, good judgement and cogent methods from trumping dread and doubt. The ADIZ does not contribute to but, rather, weakens safety and efficiency while creating a false sense of security in today's air traffic environment.

NATCA's motto is "Safety Above All." We urge the abolishment of the ADIZ for safety, security and efficiency's sake.



John A. Hart  
President  
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