

ARIZONA FLIGHT TRAINING WORKGROUP  
PRESS RELEASE  
May 29, 2003

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**Arizona Flight Training Workgroup Improves Flight Safety**

In an organized industry effort to improve statewide flight safety, aviation professionals have banded together to form the Arizona Flight Training Workgroup (AFTW). Workgroup members include flight school managers, flight instructors, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), airport operators, and the military. Active members meet regularly to share their knowledge and training techniques to improve pilot judgment and reduce airplane accidents.

The group is currently addressing many issues including: common flight school practice areas and frequencies, procedures for practice instrument (IFR) approaches, and locations and descriptions of local aerobatic flight areas.

Mike Halloran, FAA Safety Program Manager at the Arizona Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), first established the AFTW in June 2002. The FSDO staff enforces FAA regulations and coordinates safety programs with industry managers and leaders. Mr. Halloran states, "Bringing together people of shared purpose and giving them an open forum to communicate safety issues in their line of work fosters the resolution process. The Arizona Flight Training Workgroup is comprised of these types of volunteers who are dedicated to improving aviation safety by addressing and resolving safety of flight issues in the Arizona Airspace."

Specifically, the AFTW has led the way in improving aviation safety throughout the state by:

- Developing standardized procedures for flight training in the Casa Grande/Stanfield area in an effort to reduce mid-air collision hazards in busy, uncontrolled airspace.
- Standardizing air traffic/pilot radio communication procedures at Phoenix metro area airports.
- Distributing information about noise abatement procedures and encouraging compliance through a voluntary "Pilot Noise Abatement Pledge" inspired by the program initiated by Scottsdale Airport. The AFTW is encouraging other airports and flight schools to begin similar programs at their facilities.

More information is available online at: [www.aftw.org](http://www.aftw.org).