

2/27/2019

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2019-5/10-1

1603259

To: FAA (ATM ZSE ARTCC)

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AWP-600, AFS-280, AFS-200, AJV-5, AFS-400, Director of Air Traffic Operations WSA North), A4A, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, CAPA, ATSAP, ATSG, IATA, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: Similar Sounding Fix Names WINEN/WYYNN

We recently received an ASRS report describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dennis Doyle at (408) 541-2831 or email at dennis.j.doyle@nasa.gov



Aviation Safety Reporting System
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



ACN: 1603259

Time

Date: 201812

Local Time Of Day: 0601-1200

Place

Locale Reference.ATC Facility: ZSE.ARTCC

State Reference: WA

Altitude.MSL.Single Value: 41000

Environment

Aircraft 1

ATC / Advisory.Center: ZSE

Make Model Name: B737 Undifferentiated or Other Model

Person 1

Function.Flight Crew: Captain

Function.Flight Crew: Pilot Not Flying

ASRS Report Number: 1603259

Events

Anomaly.ATC Issue: All Types

Anomaly.Deviation - Track / Heading: All Types

Anomaly.Deviation - Procedural: Clearance

Detector.Person: Air Traffic Control

Result.Flight Crew: Became Reoriented

Result.Air Traffic Control: Provided Assistance

Narrative 1

Reaching cruise altitude, ZSE cleared flight to WINEN waypoint. We then commented on how the Controller pronounced the waypoint wrong as we thought his intention was to clear the flight to WYYNN waypoint due to early hours. Soon after, we received short vector for traffic. ZSE then re-cleared us to WINEN and we re-entered WYYNN and read back the pronunciation for WYYNN waypoint. In retrospect, the Controller pronounced his intended waypoint correctly, but I replied with his pronunciation the first time even though I thought he was incorrect in pronunciation. My understanding, at the time, was the Controller was clearing the flight to WYYNN and pronouncing it as WYNN-N. Several minutes later, the Controller queried us as he showed us off course. We replied we were previously cleared direct WYYNN and doing the same. He then advised us that we were now cleared to WINEN as filed. He went on to say that this occurs "all the time" and they were trying to "get it fixed." The flight proceeded as filed and landed uneventfully.

Synopsis

B737 Captain reported navigating to wrong waypoint WYYNN instead of WINEN due to communication issue with ATC and fix name similarity.