

6/24/2020

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2020-53/10-5

1742236

To: FAA (ATM D01 TRACON, AJV-A)

Info: FAA (AFS-280, AFS-200, ANM-500, ANG-1, AVP-1, AVP-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations WSA North), A4A, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, CAPA, EAA, IATA, ICASS, ICAO, IPA, NAFI, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

Re: Similar Sounding Fix Names AAILE/FLAIL

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 Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.



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



ACN: 1742236

Time

Date: 202005

Local Time Of Day: 0601-1200

Place

Locale Reference.Airport: DEN.Airport

State Reference: CO

Altitude.MSL.Single Value: 28000

Environment

Flight Conditions: VMC

Aircraft 1

ATC / Advisory.Center: ZDV

Make Model Name: Commercial Fixed Wing

Person 1

Function.Flight Crew: Captain

Function.Flight Crew: Pilot Flying

ASRS Report Number: 1742236

Events

Anomaly.ATC Issue: All Types

Anomaly.Deviation - Track / Heading: All Types

Anomaly.Deviation - Procedural: Clearance

Anomaly.Deviation - Procedural: Published Material / Policy

Detector.Person: Flight Crew

Result.Flight Crew: Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification

Result.Air Traffic Control: Issued New Clearance

Narrative 1

We were filed to DEN on the AALLE1 Arrival. At some point we were given delay vectors and received a clearance direct AAILE, AAILE ONE arrival. I was unaware that ATC pronounces AALLE as AAILE. The only arrival that ends in AIL is the QUAIL 1. A quick look at fixes into DEN also shows a waypoint FLAIL on the AALLE arrival. I expected AALLE to be pronounced like ALLEY. In any event there are too many waypoints that sound similar flying into DEN.

Synopsis

Air Carrier Captain reported similar sounding fix names AAILE/FLAIL caused confusion and a route deviation during arrival to DEN airport.