

12/10/2021

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2021-182/8-11

1849863

To: FAA (ATM ZDV ARTCC, ATM D01 TRACON)

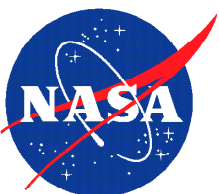
Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-280, AFS-200, ANM-500, Director of Air Traffic Operations CSA), A4A, ALPA, AMFA, APA, ASAP, ATSG, CAPA, IAM, IATA, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NTSB, PAMA, SWAPA, TWU

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

Re: ZDV DEN Arrival Procedures

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 1849863

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202110
Local Time Of Day 0001 to 0600

PLACE

Locale ZDV.ARTCC
State CO
Altitude - MSL 17000

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions VMC

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Center ZDV
Make Model Name Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part 121

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Captain
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Not Flying
ASRS Report Number 1849863

EVENTS

Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly Deviation - Track / Heading - All Types
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Clearance
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published
Material / Policy
Detector - Person Flight Crew
Result - Flight Crew Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued New Clearance

NARRATIVE 1

On check in with Denver Center, while descending via the NIXX3 RNAV Arrival, I was told that "Denver is landing south". When I asked what runway to expect, Denver center responded that "we do not assign runways anymore, Denver Approach assigns your runway". I had not been handed off to approach when the aircraft was overhead JPAGE, still without a runway assignment. Because I was coming from the southeast, I made the decision to fly the Runway 17 transition. When I was finally handed off to approach control I informed them on initial check in that I had not yet received a runway assignment and that I was flying the 17 L/R transition. The Approach Controller was noticeably irritated and stated, "you are landing Runway 16R" then gave us a westerly heading and altitude to descend to. Based on the overheard communications from other aircraft arriving to Denver, there was much confusion on what STAR arrival transitions to fly. It is my understanding that, without further clarification from ATC Approach, I should have treated JPAGE as a "clearance limit" and entered the hold upon arrival. I decided against that drastic measure. This is yet an additional negative trend that I have observed upon arrival to Denver that should be addressed. Is this a recent change of procedures between Denver approach and Denver Center?

SYNOPSIS

Air Carrier pilot landing DEN reported Denver Center advised them they had to wait until communicating with Denver TRACON to receive an arrival runway which caused confusion and uncertainty as to which transition to

fly. The reporter heard other arriving aircraft experience the same confusion with Denver TRACON over the correct route to fly.