

12/28/2022

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2022-145/10-12

1946005

To: FAA (ATM ZLA ARTCC, AJV-A)

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

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

Re: Similar Sounding Fix Names - CADAB/CABAB

We recently received ASRS reports 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 1946005

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202210
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale SBP.Airport
State CA
Altitude - AGL 0

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions VMC

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower SBP
Make Model Name Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part 121

COMPONENT 1

Aircraft Component ACARS Printer

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Captain
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Not Flying
ASRS Report Number 1946005

PERSON 2

Function - Flight Crew First Officer
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Flying
ASRS Report Number 1946007

EVENTS

Anomaly Aircraft Equipment Problem - Less Severe
Anomaly Deviation - Track / Heading - All Types
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Clearance
Detector - Person Air Traffic Control
Detector - Person Flight Crew
Result - Flight Crew Became Reoriented
Result - Flight Crew Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued Advisory / Alert
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued New Clearance

NARRATIVE 1

Confused fix CADAB for fix CABAB. Cleared as filed. Release said, after SID to CABAB intersection. Both I and First Officer (FO) read it as CADAB. The font used on the Company release is very difficult to distinguish a "B" from a "D". Either fix could logically be used for our routing and CADAB actually made more sense as CABAB would take us through an active MOA and required ATC to vector us around the active MOA.

Change the font used on the release to one that is more legible on our EFB instead one that mimics a paper release.

NARRATIVE 2

When inputting the filed out into the FMS the fix that should have been CABAB was put in as CADAB. We typed out route into our iPads as well so use for rout verification. Both pilots are familiar with the area and knew of local MOA airspace to be HOT. After passing PRB VOR we turned south and departure noticed and gave us a northern heading. NorCal Approach vectored us north for 10-15 minutes before giving us direct CABAB again.

This was a misreading for the release by 1 letter that was hard to read with the font looking at a B vs a D. Also when I did this same flight 2 weeks earlier it was a southern departure. The point did make sense to us because it was close by and along a route that made sense for that direction of flight. We were also dealing with continuously changing weather in ZZZ trying to plan alternates and different fuel loads to safely perform the flight.

I have found a simple technique, I found out that we can actually copy the route off the release and paste it into the route on our charts app. This way I can compare how the route as a whole and not just a waypoint also matches up against what is in the FMS and know that my human factor should not be a factor when typing.

SYNOPSIS

Air Carrier flight crew reported a heading and clearance deviation when they understood CADAB but were actually cleared to CABAB.