

9/17/2024

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

2024-173/10-24

To: Airport Manager, Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA), VA, FAA (AAS-1, ATM DCA Tower, ATM PCT TRACON) 2152047

Info: FAA (AAS-300, AVP-1, AVP-200, AJV-A, AJI-144, AEA-600, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA North, Runway Safety Team), A4A, AAAE, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, CAPA, ATSAP, ATSG, IATA, IBT, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

Re: DCA Approach Procedure Issues

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](mailto:becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov).



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



**ACN 2152047****DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence	202408
Local Time Of Day	1801 to 2400

**PLACE**

Locale	DCA.Airport
State	DC
Altitude - AGL	600

**AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X**

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

**PERSON 1**

Function - Air Traffic Control	Local
ASRS Report Number	2152047

**PERSON 2**

Function - Flight Crew	First Officer
ASRS Report Number	2152975

**EVENTS**

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
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	Executed Go Around / Missed Approach
Result - Flight Crew	Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued New Clearance
Result - Air Traffic Control	Provided Assistance

**NARRATIVE 1**

Aircraft X was inbound and cleared to land Runway 19 roughly 8 miles out. Aircraft X was over Rosslyn when I observed them not making normal left-hand turn that lines them up on the modified base to final for Runway 19 as they can't make a straight-in over the White House. I inquired with Aircraft X if they were lining up for Runway 19 as they appeared to be lined up for [Runway] 15. Aircraft X then advised they were going around. I issued them a heading in accordance with our LOA (Letter of Agreement) with PCT and asked Aircraft X for the reason for the go-around before I transferred contact to PCT for resequencing. Aircraft X advised that they were in fact lined up for the wrong runway.

This is the 4th instance since the implementation of the new approach that has lined up for the wrong runway that I have personally seen. This is the first time it has happened while I was working LC (Local Control). There is something seriously wrong with this approach that has the potential to cause a serious safety event on an active runway that we have to cross with approximately 90% of our departures in a south operation. I was told that Company has instructed their pilots not to fly the approach until proper training can take place which was said to be sometime in a few years.

## **NARRATIVE 2**

Cleared for LDA Runway 19 and was mistakenly lined up for Runway 15. Did a go-around and came back around for the Runway 19.

Runway 15 is close proximity to 19.

The LDA 19 into DCA is offset so extra due diligence on briefing and cross-checking this is essential.

## **SYNOPSIS**

DCA Tower Controller reported an aircraft conducting the new approach lined up with Runway 15 instead of Runway 19. Since the new approach was implemented, the reporter stated there have been multiple instances of aircraft lining up for the wrong runway while on this approach. Air carrier First Officer reported going around after realizing the aircraft was mistakenly lined up for the wrong runway.