

ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2025-12/8-3

5/28/2025

2226409

TO: FAA (ATM TPA TRACON), Airport Manager, St Pete-Clearwater Int'l Airport (PIE), FL.

INFO: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, ASO-600, AFS-260, AFS-200, AAS-1, AAS-300, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA South), A4A, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, CAPA, ATSAP, ATSG, IATA, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

SUBJ: Airborne Conflicts TPA/PIE

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 following:

ASRS received a report from a TPA TRACON Controller describing an airborne conflict between a light aircraft and another aircraft on approach to PIE Runway 18. Reporter stated that VFR aircraft often cross the PIE Runway 18 Localizer at the glide slope altitude. Reporter further stated that this is a common occurrence and recommended that the TPA airspace be redesigned to improve safety.

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 2226409**DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence	202503
Local Time Of Day	1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale	TPA.Airport
State	FL
Altitude - MSL	2000

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower	TPA
Make Model Name	Military
Operating Under FAR Part	91

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

ATC / Advisory - TRACON	TPA
Make Model Name	Small Aircraft, Low Wing, 1 Eng, Fixed Gear
Operating Under FAR Part	91

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control	Approach
ASRS Report Number	2226409

EVENTS

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Conflict - Airborne Conflict
Detector - Person	Flight Crew
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued New Clearance
Result - Air Traffic Control	Separated Traffic

NARRATIVE 1

Aircraft X was on the PIE Runway 18 LOC at 3,000 feet. Controller noticed Aircraft Y crossing the LOC at 2,000 and had Aircraft X maintain 3,000. This happens routinely as the approaches to PIE are unprotected. VFR aircraft routinely traverse the localizer at 2,500 ft. which happens to be on glide path altitude. Making IFR aircraft delay descent can lead to an unstable approach. At worst, the VFRs can go unnoticed and lead to TCAS RAs and NMACs. Redesign the airspace. The TPA airspace is way out of date and does not meet the needs of the current operation.

SYNOPSIS

TPA TRACON Controller reported a VFR aircraft was crossing the localizer while an IFR aircraft was on the localizer and had the IFR aircraft maintain altitude to avoid an NMAC. The reporter noted that VFR aircraft routinely traverse the localizer at the glide path altitude for the Runway 18 localizer at PIE Airport.