

ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2023:1/7-1

1/26/2023

1945571, 1955354, 1950966, 1942592

TO: Airport Manager, Nashville International Airport (BNA), TN., FAA (AAS-1)

INFO: FAA (ATM BNA Tower, ATM BNA TRACON, AAS-300, AVP-1, AVP-200, ASO-600, AFS-260, AFS-200, AJV-A, AJI-144, Runway Safety Team), A4A, AAAE, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, CAPA, IATA, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

SUBJ: BNA Airport VFR Traffic Conflicts and Airspace Incursions

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 several reports from BNA TRACON Controllers and pilots describing traffic conflicts and/or BNA Class C airspace incursions involving VFR aircraft.

(ACN 1945571) A BNA TRACON Controller reported they had to vector an arriving aircraft away from a conflicting VFR aircraft not in contact with ATC. The reporter states this is an ongoing problem and the "...VFR traffic around BNA has become unsafe and too much for safe passenger travel."

(ACN 1955354) General Aviation pilot reported inadvertent BNA airspace incursion while on approach to MQY airport. After being advised by ATC, the pilot exited the airspace.

(ACN 1950966) BNA TRACON Controller reported an aircraft being vectored for an approach at BNA airport requested an additional turn due to a VFR aircraft that was in their flight path. Controller stated VFR aircraft in BNA final approach area are a recurring unsafe situation.

(ACN 1942592) General Aviation pilot reported inadvertent BNA airspace incursion while on approach to JWN airport. The pilot exited the airspace once they became aware of their incursion.

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 1945571

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202210
Local Time Of Day 0601 to 1200

PLACE

Locale BNA.TRACON
State TN
Altitude - MSL 4300

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions VMC

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - TRACON BNA
Make Model Name Large Transport, Low Wing, 2 Turbojet Eng
Operating Under FAR Part 121

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

Make Model Name Small Aircraft, High Wing, 1 Eng, Fixed Gear
Operating Under FAR Part 91

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control Approach
ASRS Report Number 1945571

EVENTS

Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly Conflict - Airborne Conflict
Anomaly No Specific Anomaly Occurred - Unwanted Situation
Detector - Person Air Traffic Control
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued New Clearance
Result - Air Traffic Control Separated Traffic

NARRATIVE 1

Aircraft X was on a vector for a Visual Approach to Runway 2C at BNA. Aircraft Y was not receiving radar service and appeared to be doing airwork SW of BNA. Aircraft X was taken off vector around the VFR traffic due to his proximity. This was 1 of 3 instances where an IFR had to be taken off route for VFR conflicting traffic on this day at the time I am filing. This is a COMMON occurrence. The VFR traffic around BNA has become unsafe and too much for safe passenger travel. We need either an extended Class C or a Class Bravo which FORCES them to call us so we can verify their mode C and provide safety advisories.

SYNOPSIS

A BNA TRACON Controller reported they had to vector an arriving aircraft away from a conflicting VFR aircraft not in contact with ATC. The reporter states this is an ongoing problem and the "...VFR traffic around BNA has become unsafe and too much for safe passenger travel."

ACN 1955354

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202211
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale BNA.TRACON
State TN
Altitude - MSL 3500

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions Marginal
Weather Rain

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower MQY
Make Model Name Small Aircraft, High Wing, 1 Eng, Fixed Gear
Operating Under FAR Part 91

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Pilot Flying
Function - Flight Crew Single Pilot
ASRS Report Number 1955354

EVENTS

Anomaly Airspace Violation - All Types
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - FAR
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published
Material / Policy
Anomaly Inflight Event / Encounter - Weather / Turbulence
Detector - Person Air Traffic Control
Result - Flight Crew Became Reoriented
Result - Flight Crew Exited Penetrated Airspace
Result - Air Traffic Control Issued Advisory / Alert

NARRATIVE 1

On a return flight from ZZZ to MQY, Class C airspace was entered without clearance by an honest mistake. Here is what I recall that led up to the event.

- 1.) Weather was changing quicker than what was forecasted.
- 2.) Area was now under marginal VFR.
- 3.) As I was concerned about the weather, I contacted MQY tower approximately 13-15 NM out to the North vs. flying to a standard checkpoint (the race track).
- 4.) MQY provided clearance for straight in approach to land on Runway 19.
- 5.) A few minutes later MQY called back to indicate BNA approach had contacted them to instruct me to clear Class Charlie airspace.

6.) I immediately turned to the West and started a descent to clear the space and proceeded to the standard checkpoint (race track).

SYNOPSIS

General Aviation pilot reported inadvertent BNA airspace incursion while on approach to MQY airport. After being advised by ATC, the pilot exited the airspace.

ACN 1950966

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202211
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale BNA.TRACON
State TN
Altitude - MSL 4600

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - TRACON BNA
Make Model Name Medium Transport, Low Wing, 2 Turbojet Eng

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

Make Model Name Any Unknown or Unlisted Aircraft Manufacturer

PERSON 1

ASRS Report Number 1950966

EVENTS

Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly Conflict - Airborne Conflict
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published
Material / Policy
Detector - Person Flight Crew
Result - Flight Crew Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result - Air Traffic Control Provided Assistance

NARRATIVE 1

Aircraft X was being vectored for an approach inside the final box for BNA. I issued traffic on the VFR aircraft and issued a turn and descent around the traffic.

Later, Aircraft X reported the traffic in sight and said "we need to turn". I replied approved.

I then asked the pilot if he needed the turn due to him being uncomfortable with the VFR [aircraft] in his flight path and he said "absolutely".

We need a BRAVO [airspace]. These unsafe situations are not going to stop till we get the VFR aircraft out of our final who are constantly in traffic alert situations with controlled aircraft.

SYNOPSIS

BNA TRACON Controller reported an aircraft being vectored for an approach at BNA airport requested an additional turn due to a VFR aircraft that was in their flight path. Controller stated VFR aircraft in BNA final approach area are a recurring unsafe situation.

ACN 1942592

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202210
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale BNA.Airport
State TN
Altitude - MSL 3000

ENVIRONMENT

Weather Haze / Smoke
Weather Turbulence

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

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

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Pilot Flying
Function - Flight Crew Single Pilot
ASRS Report Number 1942592

EVENTS

Anomaly Airspace Violation - All Types
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - FAR
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published
Material / Policy
Result - Flight Crew Became Reoriented
Result - Flight Crew Exited Penetrated Airspace

NARRATIVE 1

I was enroute from ZZZ to JWN and making a visual approach into JWN from the north east when I realized that I had inadvertently turned south to early in toward Nashville BNA airspace. Once I realized my mistake I immediately initiated a climb toward the north west to exit the Class C airspace. I then continued north west until I had a visual on JWN runway to the south. On landing at JWN ground control gave me a number to call. I called the number which was Nashville approach and explained my mistake to the controller I also responded to the questions that he asked me.

In hindsight I will be more inclined to file a flight plan or ask for flight following instead of flying VFR.

SYNOPSIS

General Aviation pilot reported inadvertent BNA airspace incursion while on approach to JWN airport. The pilot exited the airspace once they became aware of their incursion.