

12/11/2023

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2023-208/10-28

To: Airport Manager, Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA), VA, FAA 2040559
(AAS-1, ATM PCT TRACON)

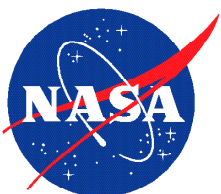
Info: FAA (AAS-300, AVP-1, AVP-200, AJV-A, AJI-144, ATM DCA Tower, AEA-600, AFS
-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA North), A4A, AAAE, ALPA,
AOPA, APA, ASAP, CAPA, ATSAP, ATSG, IATA, IBT, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA,
NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

Re: DCA VOR and DCA NDB - Not Colocated

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 2040559

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence	202309
Local Time Of Day	No Local Time Of Day Stated

PLACE

Locale	DCA.Airport
State	DC

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - TRACON	PCT
Make Model Name	Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part	121

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew	Captain
ASRS Report Number	2040559

EVENTS

Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Anomaly Detector - Person	Ground Event / Encounter - Ground Equipment Issue Flight Crew

NARRATIVE 1

DCA VOR (111.0 MHz) and DCA NDB (332 kHz) share the same three letter identifier despite the fact that the two nav aids are physically located 5.6 NM apart. This causes pilot confusion when selecting the DCA nav aid in an FMS or GPS navigation database. I believe this is a serious safety risk that the FAA needs to fix by re-designating the DCA NDB to another three letter identifier. Additionally, I believe the two nav aids having the same identifier violates FAA Order 7350.9FF paragraph 1-2-5.

It appears that the DCA NDB used to be the LOM for Runway 1 which was decommissioned in october but retained as an NDB. At that time the identifier changed from "DC" to "DCA." There are only three examples total of shared VOR/NDB idents in the NAS and the other two involve facilities that are colocated on the airport (SYA and TUT). This is the only example of two nav aids with the same three letter identifier that are physically not colocated in the same location or even on the same airport landing area. The FAA needs to resolve this ASAP.

SYNOPSIS

Air carrier Captain reported an NDB and VOR share DCA as an identifier even though they are not colocated creating confusion when entering the identifier into an FMS or GPS system.