

FICAN

Federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise

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FICAN Charter June, 2008

1. BACKGROUND

In 1992, the Federal Interagency Committee on Noise (FICON) published its findings in a report entitled *Federal Agency Review of Selected Airport Noise Analysis Issues*. To foster the research, FICON recommended that a new federal interagency committee be formed with a mandate to provide forums for debate of future research needs and to encourage new development efforts in these areas. Specifically, the FICON report stated that "a standing federal interagency committee should be established to assist agencies in providing adequate forums for discussion of public and private sector proposals, identifying needed research, and in encouraging the conduct of research and development in these areas". FICON recommended that the initial agenda include:

- Research into community reactions to aircraft noise, including sleep disturbance, non-auditory health effects, and speech interference, as well as the development of improved assessment criteria for these effects.
- Investigation of the differences in the ways aircraft noise, surface transportation noise (e.g., from highways and railways), and general background noise are perceived and additional Research and Development (R&D) on the "masking" effects of various types of non-aircraft noise when compared with aircraft noise.
- Evaluation of possible modifications to the land-use compatibility table, developed by the Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise in 1980 to improve its usefulness for routine land-use planning and for noise-sensitive land-use planning.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) committed to the establishment of an interagency committee in its November 1993 Report to Congress on Effects of Airport Noise, and subsequently convened the Federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise (FICAN) in November 1993.

2. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

FICAN is responsible for carrying out interagency coordination on matters related to aviation noise research in the United States.

The other purposes of FICAN are to:

- Develop recommendations on needed R&D for aviation noise and identify issues of related public interest;
- Review technical literature and forward findings to policy-makers;
- Serve as a focal point for public, private and government discussions on aviation noise R&D;
- Conduct or participate in public conferences or symposia to exchange information on R&D findings, and to present and discuss new aviation noise topics of public concern; and



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- Maintain a web site for dissemination of FICAN findings and activities on aviation noise.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Federal agencies having an interest in aviation noise and not subordinate to another agency can be a voting member of FICAN. Membership in FICAN is secured by execution of a Letter of Understanding by a duly authorized official. Each agency participating in FICAN is committed to provide appropriate representation to all proceedings. Each participating agency provides administrative support commensurate with its level of participation in FICAN either directly, or by contributing funding for a central administrative support contract.

Participating agencies appoint a FICAN representative and may appoint an alternate. Current members include:

- Department of Transportation
 - Office of the Secretary
 - Federal Aviation Administration
- Department of Defense
 - US Army
 - US Navy
 - US Air Force
- Department of Interior
 - National Park Service
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration

FICAN is led by a Chairperson selected by majority vote from the members every two years.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Meetings

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise are held quarterly. Meetings may also be called at the discretion of the Chair. Each meeting is hosted by a member agency. Meetings and teleconferences will be announced in advance and conducted in accordance with an agenda. Meeting announcements and agendas will be distributed to FICAN members.

Meetings are open to members only; however, FICAN may invite outside parties to make presentations. Minutes documenting action items and responsibilities will be circulated to all members following each meeting. Members unable to attend may send their agency's designated alternate.

4.2 Quorum and Decision-making

A quorum consisting of two-thirds of the members is required for decisions to be made. A quorum is not required for meetings to take place. Decisions may be made at scheduled FICAN meetings, during



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teleconferences, or by email. The preferred process for decision-making is by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the issue may be decided by a majority of all the members.

4.3 Contract Support

FICAN may contract with outside parties to support its activities. Contract support includes, but is not limited to:

- Research and Data Gathering
- Event Coordination and Planning
- Speakers' Stipends
- Printing and Publishing, and
- Administrative Assistance

5. WORK PRODUCTS

FICAN will maintain a website which provides:

- FICAN purpose and scope
- Overview of activities
- List of members
- Copies of all reports, positions, and statements
- Information on aviation noise of interest to the general public
- Links to member agencies and other relevant sites

FICAN will prepare and distribute among its members reports on any studies it undertakes.

FICAN may prepare positions or statements on subjects of interest, reports on topics chosen for research, comments on research and reports it is asked to review, or issues requested by member agencies.

FICAN may hold public workshops or symposia on topics of interest to affected communities.

6. FUNDING

Member agencies will contribute to a pooled fund to administer FICAN's activities.



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