

**ALBUQUERQUE CENTER, ALBUQUERQUE TOWER, ALBUQUERQUE SOARING CLUB,  
AND SANDIA SOARING ASSOCIATION**

**Letter of Agreement**

Effective: March 7, 1997

**SUBJECT: GLIDER AND ULTRALIGHT VEHICLE OPERATIONS IN THE SANDIA NORTH  
AND SOUTH ATC ASSIGNED AIRSPACE (ATCAA's)**

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- 1. PURPOSE.** This letter of agreement (LOA) establishes the Sandia North and South ATCAA's and outlines procedures within Class A airspace for glider operations scheduled by the Albuquerque Soaring Club and ultralight vehicle operations scheduled by the Sandia Soaring Association.
- 2. CANCELLATION.** Albuquerque ARTC Center and Albuquerque Soaring Club Letter of Agreement dated June 1, 1992, Subject: Glider Operations in Positive Control Area (PCA).
- 3. SCOPE.**
  - a. The procedures outlined herein are applicable to Albuquerque Center (Center), Albuquerque Tower (Tower), Albuquerque Soaring Club (ASC), and Sandia Soaring Association (SSA) for operations conducted in the Sandia North and South ATC Assigned Airspace (ATCAA's).
  - b. The provisions of this agreement apply only to pilots and aircraft operating within the ATCAA(s) scheduled by the ASC/SSA (see Annex 1).
- 4. RESPONSIBILITIES.**
  - a. **The ASC President and the SSA President shall:**
    - (1) Ensure pilots operating under this Letter of Agreement are thoroughly familiar with and comply with its provisions.
    - (2) Review this letter of agreement annually with their memberships.
  - b. **Glider and Ultralight Pilots shall:**
    - (1) Become sufficiently familiar with local terrain features to use visual reference to remain within the ATCAA(s).
    - (2) Assume responsibility for separation from each other when more than one glider and/or ultralight is using the same ATCAA(s).
  - c. **The Tower and Center shall ensure non-participating IFR aircraft remain clear of the active ATCAA(s).**

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**5. PROCEDURES.**

**a. Airspace.**

**(1) Pre-Flight Coordination.**

(a) The ASC/SSA representative shall call the Center Traffic Management Coordinator/Military Operations Specialist (TMC/MOS) at (505) 856-4591 thirty minutes prior to the intended use time with the requested:

1 ATCAA(s).

2 Use times (in UTC). ATCAA(s) shall be requested for periods not to exceed three hours. Requests for periods of use in excess of three hours shall be made at least four hours in advance.

3 Altitudes/flight levels. Altitude block requests above FL230 should be confined to additional increments of FL180-260, FL180-330, FL180-390, or FL180-450.

**Note:** Previously approved time periods and/or altitude blocks may be amended with prior coordination via telephone or via a direct request from a pilot.

(b) The TMC/MOS shall contact the North Specialty Area Supervisor in Charge (ASIC) who shall coordinate with the ASIC at Albuquerque Tower. The North ASIC shall approve or disapprove the use of the airspace.

1 Approval is on a first-come, first-served basis. An approval shall specify the ATCAA(s), time period (not to exceed 3 hours), and block of altitudes; e.g., "Sandia North and South ATCAA's approved from 2000-2300 UTC, FL180 through FL230."

2 If unable to approve the ATCAA(s) at the times and altitudes requested, the disapproval should be accompanied by a suggested alternate time period and/or altitude block which can be approved; e.g., "Unable to approve Sandia North ATCAA FL180 through FL330; however, FL180 through FL280 can be approved during the requested times."

(2) **Recall.** In the event of adverse weather or emergencies, the North Area Supervisor In Charge (ASIC) may recall the ATCAA(s). The TMC/MOS shall call the ASC at (505) 832-9921 or the SSA at (505) 884-7077/298-2922 to coordinate the recall. The ASC/SSA shall contact the gliders and/or ultralights and have them vacate the airspace.

(3) **Post Flight Coordination.** When all aircraft have vacated the ATCAA(s) the ASC/SSA shall notify the TMC/MOS and release the airspace back to the Center.

**b. Communications.** On the initial coordination for airspace, the ASC/SSA representative shall also advise the TMC/MOS of:

(1) The method of ATC communications to be used by radio-equipped aircraft (e.g., Club frequency of 123.3 or Albuquerque Center on 132.8).

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(2) The telephone number where a Club representative can be contacted.

**c. Glider/Ultralight Vehicle Operations.** ASC/SSA pilots shall:

(1) Operate in the ATCAA(s) only at altitudes and during time periods approved by the Center.

(2) Conduct glider/ultralight operations in visual meteorological conditions (VMC).

(3) Not fly when flight visibility is less than five miles.

(4) Not fly within less than 1,000 feet vertically and less than one mile horizontally from any cloud formation.

(5) Comply with applicable Federal Aviation Regulations, but are authorized to deviate from the requirements of FAR 91.135 - Operations in Class A Airspace and FAR 103.17 - Operations in Certain Airspace.

(6) Enter and exit through the floor of the ATCAA(s) and within its horizontal boundaries. Entry/exit takes place when the climb/descent is made through FL180.

**Note:** The base of the airspace is FL180 regardless of the altimeter. When the local altimeter is below 29.92, Center and Tower shall not assign non-participating IFR aircraft 17,000 feet MSL when operating below the base of the ATCAA(s).

(7) If equipped with a two-way radio, monitor 123.3 or 132.8, as coordinated, while operating at or above FL180.

**6. ATTACHMENT.** Annex 1 depicts the Sandia North and South ATCAA's.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Michael R Thompson  
Air Traffic Manager  
Albuquerque ARTCC

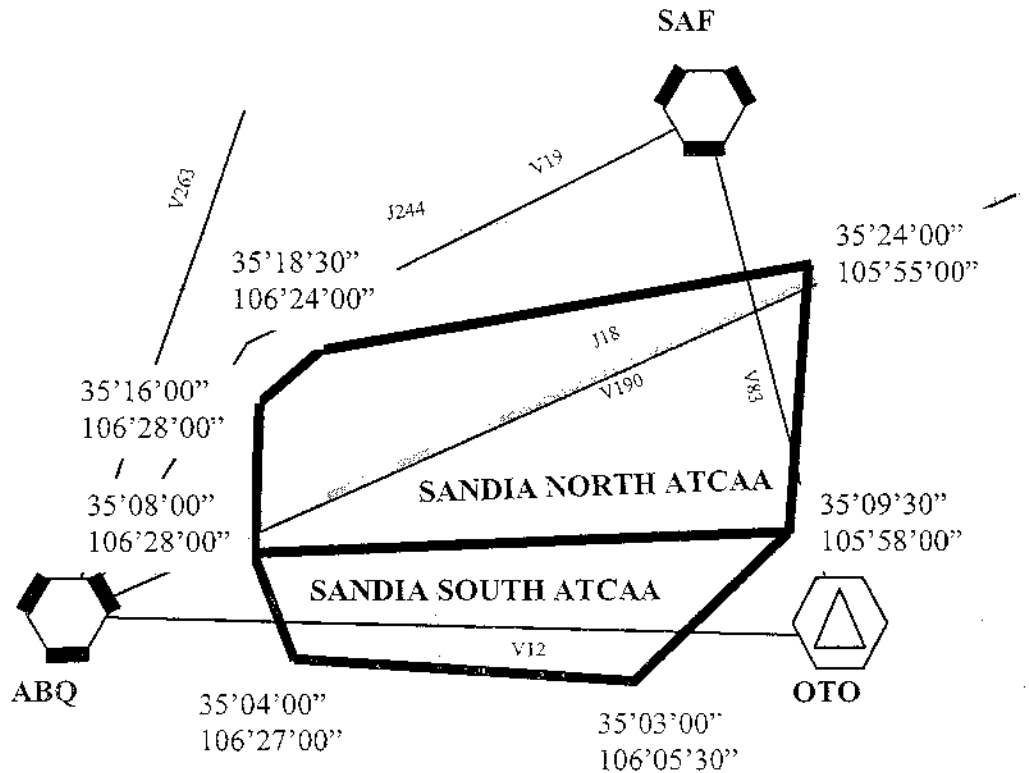
\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Kenneth Jensen  
President  
Albuquerque Soaring Club

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Mike Baldrige  
Air Traffic Manager  
Albuquerque ATCT

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Brent DePonte  
President  
Sandia Soaring Association

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ANNEX 1



**SANDIA NORTH ATCAA FL180 - FL450, AS ASSIGNED BY ATC.  
SANDIA SOUTH ATCAA FL180 - FL260, AS ASSIGNED BY ATC.**

Each area maybe released for soaring activities alone or in conjunction with each other. However, when both areas are released simultaniuosly, the Albuquerque Soaring Club/Sandia Soaring Association shall be responsible for seperation of all soaring activities within both areas.

COMMUNICATION FREQUENCIES  
Club Operations - 122.9, 123.3, or 123.5  
Albuquerque Center - 132.8



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

Air Route Traffic Control Center  
8000 Louisiana Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Sandia Soaring Association  
P.O. Box 9304 AMF  
Albuquerque, NM 87119-9304

Dear Sandia Soaring Association:

There is an amendment to the Albuquerque Center, Albuquerque Tower, Albuquerque Soaring Club (ASC), and Sandia Soaring Association (SSA) Letter of Agreement. The Albuquerque Soaring Club has changed its recall number to (505) 832-2222. Paragraph 5.a.(2) of the Letter of Agreement should read:

(2) **Recall.** In the event of adverse weather or emergencies, the North Area Supervisor In Charge (ASIC) may recall the ATCAA(s). The TMC/MOS shall call the ASC at (505) 832-2222 or the SSA at (505) 884-7077/298-2922 to coordinate the recall. The ASC/SSA shall contact the gliders and/or ultralights and have them vacate the airspace.

Please make the necessary pen and ink changes to your copy of the Letter of Agreement. Contact Support Specialist Barbara Ell at (505) 856-4531 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Mallen  
Air Traffic Manager

ZAB-530:barbara.ell:bl:9/11/01:wp:w/data/LOAs/Soaring/Abq\_soar/Memos/SSA  
recall#change

