



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)
HURLBURT FIELD FLORIDA

Colonel Michael E. Conley
Commander
1st Special Operations Wing
212 Lukasik Ave, Suite 315
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5269

Mr. Alan C. Pierce
Franklin County Director of Administrative Services
34 Forbes Street, Suite 1
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Dear Mr. Pierce,

In response to your request for a letter of comment from Hurlburt Field regarding our use of Apalachicola Regional Airport (AAF) for training and operations, we offer the following information.

Four squadrons from three Special Operations Wings at Hurlburt Field use AAF approximately 11-12 times per month. This includes the use of AAF by our U-28 aircraft approximately three times per month for pilot training and pilot proficiency, and C-146 aircraft approximately twice weekly for instrument approach practice, non-towered procedures, and various exercises. The close proximity of AAF to Hurlburt Field make it ideal for off-station training. The appeal of AAF also includes the multiple intersecting, and relatively short, runways which force pilots to discern quickly the best available options during simulated emergency procedures, circling approaches, and Visual Flight Rules-pattern traffic orientation.

One improvement to AAF that would be advantageous to our operations would be the addition of an Instrument Landing System (ILS). Precision approach training is a requirement for pilots to receive full proficiency in their airframe. Currently, AAF serves to fulfill all other training requirements, but aircrews must relocate to other airfields to accomplish precision approach training. If AAF added an ILS, U-28 and C-146 pilots would have the ability to complete all required training and proficiency items at one consolidated location. Over the course of a month, this would save thousands of pounds fuel and dozens of hours of transit time to another airfield to satisfy training and proficiency requirements.

I hope this information proves useful in your pursuit of enhancing AAF's capabilities. We appreciate the ability to use your airfield and look forward to a continued partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. E. Conley", is positioned above the typed name.

MICHAEL E. CONLEY, Col, USAF
Commander