

Hostile Aircraft Threats and NRC Licensed Facilities



FCIX, June 9-10, 2015

Bern Stapleton

**Chief, Emergency Operations Branch
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Hostile Aircraft Threats

- September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks
- Prior to 9/11, protection of facilities/material related to:
 - Controls for access to facilities and materials
 - Controls/Safeguards on radioactive materials
- February 2002 NRC Order requiring reactor licensees to develop specific guidance and strategies to effectively protect equipment and personnel under the circumstances associated with loss of large areas of the plant due to explosions or fire.
- May 2003 Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and NORAD on communication of aircraft threats

Aircraft Threat Response

- 10 CFR 50.54 (hh) (1) Criteria for action if the licensee is notified of a potential threat:
- Verification of the authenticity of threat notifications;
- Maintenance of continuous communication with threat notification sources;
- Contacting all onsite personnel and applicable offsite response organizations;
- Onsite actions necessary to enhance the capability of the facility to mitigate the consequences of an aircraft impact;
- Measures to reduce visual discrimination of the site relative to its surroundings or individual buildings within the protected area;
- Dispersal of equipment and personnel, as well as rapid entry into site protected areas for essential onsite personnel and offsite responders who are necessary to mitigate the event; and
- Recall of site personnel.

Deliberate Aircraft Attacks

- 1976 Pilot flew an aircraft into apartment complex where ex-wife lived (USSR)
- 1977 Disgruntled former employee (pilot) flew aircraft in Connair complex (Australia)
- 1982 Pilot engaged engine thrust-reversers in flight. First Officer and Engineer partially regained control (Japan)
- 1994 Stolen aircraft intentionally crashed on White House south lawn (Wash DC)
- 1999 First Officer crashes Egypt Air 990 into Atlantic after pilot leave cockpit (off East Coast)
- 2001 Multiple airplane hijackings and crashes by terrorists (NYC, DC, and PA)
- 2002 Pilot crashes into Bank of America Plaza (Florida)
- 2010 Pilot crashed into IRS facility in Austin (Texas)
- 2015 Co-pilot locks out Captain and crashes plane into mountain (France)

NRC Operations Center

- **Located in Washington DC**
- **Four regional offices**
- **HQ Operations Center staffed 24/7 by two Operations Officers**
- **Primary Mission to receive information, facilitate decision making and respond to significant events**
- **Communications capability with other Federal Agencies**

Exercises and Scenarios

- NRC Headquarters conducts four major exercises per year
- Full participation in biennial national level exercise
- Additional role playing licensee and regional exercises
- Regional offices conduct four to six exercises per year
- Support to licensees on scenario development
- NRC has conducted hostile action based scenarios for fuel cycle licensees