

# FAA

## ISN'T TELLING THE WHOLE TRUTH about contracting-out Flight Service Stations

"Air Traffic Services Brief" ([www.aopa.org/whatsnew/air\\_traffic/a76\\_process.html](http://www.aopa.org/whatsnew/air_traffic/a76_process.html)) contained misleading information from the FAA about the A-76 process designed to identify government functions that can be contracted out to private companies.

### **FAA says A-76 will not result in the contracting-out of Flight Service Stations.**

#### ***The facts:***

Under A-76, services not identified as "inherently governmental" can be contracted-out. The Bush administration has already identified air traffic control as not "inherently governmental." Flight Service **can** be contracted-out.

### **FAA says the FSS functions in Alaska have been excluded from the A-76 process.**

#### ***The facts:***

Alaska has been excluded only from this year's A-76 review. Upon completion, FAA can do what it wants to FSS in Alaska.

### **FAA says the cost of providing service to the pilot is approximately \$15 per contact.**

#### ***The facts:***

This is misleading. Many costs allocated to "Flight Service Programs" do not directly pertain to the services provided by the controllers. ASOS and AWOS, for instance. FAA's "cost" is also distorted by including excessive overhead, like high-paid management positions.

### **FAA says current modernization plans are behind schedule and over budget.**

#### ***The facts:***

Many projects are now nearing deployment. They will dramatically modernize the world of Flight Service. FAA had funding to deploy two or three OASIS per month - but they're only scheduling one.

### **FAA itself agrees: Contracting-out will result in Fee For Service and will hurt the quality of service provided.**

An FAA 1996 study said that the commercialization of Flight Service would result in a "**lower quality of service and a fee for service.**"



**We urge AOPA members  
and leadership: Say "no"  
to user fees and  
degradation of services.  
Before it's too late.**

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
AIR TRAFFIC SPECIALISTS



(<http://www.naats.org>)

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