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Jim

Attached is the most recent report we have received here at ASRS. This report was received in March from a Captain of a corporate aircraft. This pilot reports being on the KPEC3 arrival to Las Vegas when encountering "mirror reflections". The pilot reports this was at 13,000 ft (Mean Sea Level).

Regards,

Linda

Linda Connell, NASA ASRS Director
NASA Ames Research Center
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NASA Ames Office (650) 604-0795
ASRS Director Office (408) 541-2827
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Events
Anomaly.ATC Issue: All Types
Anomaly.Flight Deck / Cabin / Aircraft Event: Illness
Anomaly.Deviation - Procedural: Published Material / Policy
When Detected: In-flight
Result.General: Physical Injury / Incapacitation
Result.Flight Crew: Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result.Flight Crew: Took Evasive Action

Assessments
Contributing Factors / Situations: Airspace Structure
Contributing Factors / Situations: Environment - Non Weather Related
Contributing Factors / Situations: Human Factors
Contributing Factors / Situations: Procedure
Primary Problem: Ambiguous

Narrative: 1
While on the KEPEC3 arrival into LAS we were temporary blinded by bright lights (reflections) from the ground. These reflections, coming from the new solar power station were so bright that any attempt to look outside the plane was met with pain and temporary blindness even when looking back inside. Any attempt to see and avoid was useless and trying to find the airport during this time was painful as well. Exposure lasted about 5 minutes. We notified ATC and were told that they get a lot of complaints about these reflections.

Callback: 1
The reporter stated that he was in the left seat and viewed the mirror reflections for only seconds then was able to get his head sheltered below the glareshield and away from the light. However even after the brief exposure, he had blue dots in his vision for about 5 minutes. The First Officer had no way to avoid the light even while not looking directly at it. The First Officer was literally blind for a greater than five minutes and neither pilot's vision was capable of detecting objects outside of the cockpit for a period of time. When the crew reported the event to ATC, the response was "Yes, we get lots of complaints."

Synopsis
A Captain flying the LAS KEPEC3 arrival near the CLARR waypoint reported his vision distortion and First Officer's temporary blindness after encountering the intense sunlight reflection at 13,000 FT.
ACN: 1156120

**Time**
- Date: 201403
- Local Time Of Day: 0601-1200

**Place**
- Locale Reference: ATC Facility: ZLA.ARTCC
- State Reference: CA
- Altitude. MSL. Single Value. MSL: 13000

**Environment**
- Flight Conditions: VMC
- Light: Daylight

**Aircraft:** 1
- Reference: X
- ATC / Advisory Center: ZLA
- Aircraft Operator: Corporate
- Make Model Name: Light Transport, Low Wing, 2 Turbojet Eng
- Crew Size. Number Of Crew: Flight Crew Size: 2
- Operating Under FAR Part: Part 91
- Flight Plan: IFR
- Mission: Passenger
- Nav In Use: FMS Or FMC
- Flight Phase: Descent
- Route In Use: STAR: KEPEC3
- Airspace. Class: E. ZLA

**Person:** 1
- Reference: 1
- Location Of Person: Aircraft: X
- Location In Aircraft: Flight Deck
- Reporter Organization: Corporate
- Function: Flight Crew: Captain
- Function: Flight Crew: Pilot Flying
- Qualification: Flight Crew: Air Transport Pilot (ATP)
- Experience: Flight Crew: Total: 5000
- Experience: Flight Crew: Last 90 Days: 45
- Experience: Flight Crew: Type: 2400
- ASRS Report Number: Accession Number: ACN: 1156120
- Analyst Callback: Completed
Thanks to you for pursuing this to a good solution. We will keep you posted about any other safety reports that may be received here.
Linda

Sent from my IPhone

On Apr 10, 2014, at 8:52 AM, "Adams, Jim@Energy" <Jim.Adams@energy.ca.gov> wrote:

Thanks Linda…I sent this to my contacts at FAA and Caltrans Aeronautics. We would like to meet with FAA staff at Palmdale and talk about developing a better process for getting relevant information about glare incidents in a more timely manner.
Jim

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From: CONNELL, LINDA (ARC-TH) [mailto:linda.j.connell@nasa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 5:54 PM
To: Adams, Jim@Energy
Subject: Recent ASRS report

Jim
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