



# **American Flight Airways**

**OPERATIONS MANUAL v3.3**

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## **1. The story behind American Flight Airways**

John Valencia and Enrique Garcia-Sayan established American Flight Airways Virtual Airlines (AFA) in November 1996. Originally AFA only had 2 hubs which were located at Pontiac, MI and Lima, Peru. During the early years of AFA from November 1996 and throughout 1997 AFA primarily flew commuter flights and a few domestic and international flights. In September 1997 AFA decided to expand its services and established new superhubs in Detroit, MI and Atlanta, GA, which resulted in substantial growth for AFA. AFA was accepted onto virtualairlines.com in May 1998 which made AFA a truly global virtual airline.

American Flight Airways Virtual Airlines began codesharing with Pacific Airways (PAY) in 2000 and in 2001 we co-founded the major alliance “[The American Pacific Group or in short APG](#)”. The alliance allows us to share webresources as well as to offer pilots greater flexibility and variety in the routes and aircraft they can fly.

AFA added a Low Cost Carrier Alpha Jet to its operations at the end of 2004. Early 2005 Kenric Smith, Thomas Snoeck, Troy Miles and Enrique Garcia –Sayan, completed the conversion of the international operations of American Flight Airways. The Sydney hub was successfully enlarged to AFA Australia and the San Juan operations were merged into AFA Latin America. Currently AFA has 6 US hubs and 2 international divisions; these include respectively Atlanta (ATL), Dallas (DFW), Detroit (DTW), Phoenix (PHX), San Francisco (SFO), Washington D.C (IAD) and AFA Australia (main office in Sydney, Australia (YSSY)) and AFA Latin America (main office in Sao Paulo, Brazil (SBGR)).

## 2. Requirements for membership

Anyone can become a member of AFA and it's free. Flight Simulator versions 2002, 2004 or FSX are required in order to fly. While you should preferably have some basic piloting skills (i.e.: take-off, landing, etc.), we will gladly help you advance in your flying skills. To join the airline, select a hub of your choice, then click on the hub's image which will take you to its homepage from there click on **“Join”** and fill out the new pilot application form. It's that easy. Our automated system will send you a link by e-mail so you can take the exam. So be sure to give a valid e-mail address when you join.

### **3. Downloading Aircraft**

AFA has a variety of aircraft ranging from the smaller Beechcraft 1900D, ATR72, to the full range of Airbus and Boeing aircraft including the heavies like the A380 and the B747. We have freeware aircraft available for download in the FS2002, FS2004 and FSX format with more than a dozen different airframes, along with several different repaints/textures for some of the more popular payware models. Most of our aircraft include self installers for your convenience. You can go immediately to the [AFA Aircraft page](#) to start downloading the aircraft. Please visit our Fleet Forum for any questions or suggestions you may have regarding our fleet.

#### 4. Flight Regulations

AFA flights are NOT assigned. You can choose any flight to fly using the guideline below. We ask that ALL flights be flown and reported in a logical format and not out of order. We have examples below of a correct and incorrect format:

##### **Logical Order (Correct Format)**

ATL-DTW  
DTW-IAD  
IAD-DTW

##### **Illogical Order (Incorrect Format)**

ATL-DTW  
CLE-PHX  
STL-LAX

We can not stress this enough please fly and report ALL flights in the logical sequence noted above. **Pilots are required to fly at least one (1) flight per month.**

**Note:** You may fly any route as long as you follow the following:

Pilots with less than 20 hours...**Can fly category 1 or 2 aircraft routes.**

Pilots with 20 hours to less than 40 hours...**Can fly category 1, 2, 3 aircraft routes.**

Pilots with 40 hours or more...**Can fly category 4, 5 aircraft routes.**

Pilots with 80 hours or more...**Can fly any route.**

##### **Aircraft Categories**

Category 1 - Beechcraft B1900D, DeHavilland Dash 8, Aerospatiale ATR72-500

Category 2 - Canadair Regional Jet CRJ200, Embraer EMB-170

Category 3 - Airbus A320, Boeing 717, Boeing 737

Category 4 - Airbus A330, Boeing 757, Boeing 767

Category 5 - Boeing 747, Boeing 777

Category 6 – Airbus A380

**Flight Categories:** Flight types are notated on the Flight Tables next to the Aircraft Category as one of three types. An “A” designates a Passenger Flight, “C” is a Cargo Flight and “B” designates both which means that it may be flown as either a Passenger or Cargo Flight. Pilots should download and use the appropriate aircraft for the flight.

#### 4.1. **Charters**

All AFA Hubs provide its pilots with Charter Flights that are unscheduled destinations which will vary from month to month. Just go to the **Charter Flight Center** on our homepage and take a

look at ANY charters that allow you to fly as some are open to all and others are restricted. All we ask is that you have the right qualification (hours) to fly that particular aircraft and that you only reserve one at a time to complete so others might have the chance to reserve a flight that they might want.

Charters should be logged once they are flown by selecting “charter” in the PRS flight report.

Furthermore we encourage you to request a charter in the Charter Flight Center or to ask your hub staff to create a charter for you.

#### **4.2. Jumpseating**

Jumpseating is when a pilot rides on a flight as a passenger. This is allowed only between APG hubs. You may make one jumpseat flight from your home hub to another APG hub or APG focus city to begin a flight line there. Once your scheduled line is complete, you may jumpseat again back to your home hub to complete your trip. (i.e.: If your home hub was Detroit and you wanted to make a flight line in San Francisco, you could jumpseat on flight AFA/140 from Detroit to San Francisco, make a complete flight line using San Francisco routes, then jumpseat again from San Francisco back to Detroit on flight AFA/141).

*Note focus cities are:*

**AFA Australia**, Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. **AFA Latin America**, Buenos Aires, Lima, Mexico City, San Juan, Saint Maarten, and Sao Paulo. **Pacific Europe** Heathrow, Luton, Stanstead, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, Oslo, Madrid and Innsbruck. **APG India**, New Delhi and Mumbai.

Jumpseat flights differ from regular flights in that they are not logged in your logbook and **you do not earn any hours for them**. Instead, when you log your next regular flight, you should make a note in the comments section to explain the gap in your logbook (i.e.: “Jump Seat flight AFA/140 KDTW – KSFO”). Special jump seat flights can be approved by your Hub Director to complete a charter or to participate in an APG sponsored Vatsim event, otherwise jump seating is only allowed once to an APG hub, then once to return to your home base

*NOTE: Until a future upgrade to the pirep system (PRS) allows for logging Jumpseat as a regular flight type, log your Jumpseat flight in the **comments section** of your PIREP on your next flight to explain the gap in your logbook (i.e.: Jumpseat flight AFA/140 KDTW - KSFO).*

#### **4.3. Special / Fly-in Flight Category**

The Special/Flyin Flight category on the PIREP page is used for an APG Endorsed Online Event only, such as VATSIM Sunday or Friday Night Ops and the following flight from that airport back to an APG airport in case the VATSIM Event destination is not a scheduled APG airport. It is not to be used to fly just any flight to just any destination at a pilot's whim.

**APG Endorsed Online Events PIREP Rules:** The American Pacific Group (AFA and Pacific Airways) has relaxed the PIREP rules for all APG Endorsed Online Events to help increase the participation of pilots at such events. This will also include any APG sanctioned events outside the regularly scheduled events and will be notated in the announcement of the event in our Events FORUM.

Simply stated, this allows you to fly and legally log the flight for an online event regardless of where you are positioned in the world as long as you continue your original flight line after the event. You will not be required to "jump seat" to a location and back in order to participate in the event. When you log the flight notate in the PIREP, under the comments section, that it was an APG Online Event. This way your Hub Director will know why there was a flight line break in your PIREP log. For example, if you want to fly an event from to Billings, MT and you are currently in Atlanta, then even though there is no APG flight between these 2 airports you can just fly it and log it like any other special flight. You don't need to fly from Atlanta to e.g. Denver first to participate in a scheduled event to Billings, MT. Alternatively if you are in Atlanta and want to fly VATSIM Sunday to Billings, MT, then you can pick a city to fly into Billings, MT from as long as the departure airport is one that APG services, (for example – Salt Lake City to Billings or Boise to Billings, MT). Your next flight after this fly-in could either originate out of Billings, flying back to Atlanta to resume your flight line (This would be filed as a "Special/Fly-in Flight") or just return to Atlanta and resume your original flight line. The only time that would not apply is if you flew two fly-ins in a row, then you might have two subsequent breaks in your logbook - like VATSIM Sunday, then a Tuesday event as the next flight you make. After you have completed your events always return to and resume your original flight line.

#### **4.4. Flying greater than 1x?**

"ALL" flights that are logged are to be flown at a simulation rate of 1X only. One exception is to catch up to where you were after a computer or flightsim lockup. We also allow you to pause and or save a flight so you can resume it at a later time. This rule is in place to assure a realistic flight experience and to prevent excessive logging of pireps in a 24-hour period.

#### **4.5. Inactive policy**

Pilots are required to log one flight every 30 days to remain active. After 35 days, you will be automatically marked inactive and be removed from your hub's roster soon thereafter. You are only allowed to have 3 inactive periods in the prior 12 months. If you are deleted because of inactivity, you must re-join the airline and you will lose your previous pilot ID number (PID) and logbook. If you should decide to re-join the airline after you have been terminated, we will not be able to restore your logbook or give you credit for your previous hours. If you plan to remain inactive for greater than 30 days and do not wish to be terminated, you must request an LOA (Leave of Absence).

#### **4.6. L.O.A.**

Leave of Absences are approved by Hub Directors or Chief Pilots for a maximum period of six (6) months and are requested via the Pilot Record Maintenance page. After the six-month term, the pilot may contact the hub director and request that the LOA be extended an additional six months if necessary. Any pilot who fails to make contact with their hub staff after the initial six-month period has expired will be changed to inactive status with or without prior notification. After this takes place, the pilot will have 15 days to file a flight report or contact their hub director. In the event that a flight report is not filed in this 15-day period, the pilot runs the risk of being terminated from the airline by the automated Pilot Report (PIREP) system, unless the pilot makes contact with his or her hub director.

## 5. Flights, Inter-Hub and Codeshare Flying

Fly the routes that apply to you by following the previous company policy. Flights may be chosen by clicking on the link itineraries in any one of AFA's hubs. Itineraries will display all flights which are available to be flown within the hub. Pilots may also chose to fly inter-hub flights from other AFA hubs in order to expand their flight routes along with codeshare routes from Pacific Airways hubs. A typical inter-hub flight example is explained below:

**Example 1 (Interhub Flight):** If pilot "A" flies a Detroit flight to Atlanta he/she may fly **ANY** flight the Atlanta hub has to offer. Once he/she is finished flying Atlanta flights and wants to return home he simply flies a return flight from Atlanta back to Detroit.

This inter-hub and codeshare flight system would allow a pilot to fly to more cities besides just flying to one city and returning back to their hub immediately and allows them to experience different hub or airline operations.

**Example 2 (Codeshare Flight):** If pilot "B" flies an AFA Atlanta flight to Pacific Airways Miami he/she may fly **ANY** flight the Pacific Airways Miami hub has to offer. Once he/she is finished flying Miami flights and wants to return home he simply flies a return flight back to Atlanta. Please note that any Pacific Airways (PAY) codeshare flight needs to be flown with Pacific Airways aircraft. Note that Pacific Airways also offers cargo flights. The flight number of such flights will be denominated with the letter C and are to be flown with Pacific Airways Cargo aircraft.

## 6. Pilot Reporting System (PRS)

AFA requires every pilot to complete a flight report once they have completed a flight by filling out the flight report form online from each hub's website. The flight report forms are automated and require that you select the aircraft flown, either the departure and arrival cities (ICAO codes) or the flight number, enter hours and minutes of flight (engine startup to gate arrival), and enter flight number. ALWAYS start your flight reports by entering the correct Zulu DATE and Zulu DEPARTURE TIME so that your reports appear in a logical format in your logbook. Please DO NOT log more than 17 hours of flights in a 24-hour period per real life regulations as anything over that is considered excessive flight logging as defined by real life aviation regulations and can lead to suspension or even dismissal. Once again please file reports in the logical format which was discussed in the topic "Regulations on flights".

You can access the PRS system by going to your [AFA hub page](#) and clicking on the "Flight Report" link.

NOTE: Always use capital letters for your Pilot ID when logging into the PRS system i.e. AFA9999 instead of afa9999.

## 7. VATSIM and Multiplayer Flying

AFA management encourages the use of **VATSIM** (Virtual Air Traffic Simulation Network) online flying. VATSIM provides real time ATC control over the internet through a program called **Squawkbox**. This allows a pilot to fly online in real time with other pilots and receive real time ATC control. We only encourage the use of flying online with VATSIM however you **DO NOT** have to fly online in order to participate in AFA. VATSIM allows for the most realistic experience in flight simulation allowing you to see other pilots and aircraft online and also allowing you to receive **real time ATC** over the internet through voice and/or text.

If you are interested in participating with online flying with VATSIM we encourage you to join us for our online training. We have a Vatsim Tutorial <http://www.flyafa.com/vatsimtutorial/> to help you get started flying online. Moreover we encourage you to visit our forums in case you need help, to arrange meetings with fellow APG pilots or to find out the destination of our next event. AFA pilots who fly online using VATSIM are asked to use their AFA PID as their official callsign. Lastly your voice callsign during radio transmissions is the English/American pronunciation of **"AFA"**.

## 8. Pilot Ranks

As a new pilot with AFA, you will start as a first officer. The ranking is based in hours flown in other words, experience. For promotions see the chart below:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Hours</b>
First officer	0-20
Captain	21-39
ATP First Officer	40-79
ATP Captain	80-299
ATP Senior Captain	300 - 599
ATP Commander	600 - 999
ATP Senior Commander	1000 +

Please remember that you may fly any route as long as you follow the following:

Pilots with less than 20 hours... **Can fly category 1 or 2 aircraft routes.**

Pilots with 20 hours to less than 40 hours... **Can fly category 1, 2, 3 aircraft routes.**

Pilots with 40 hours or more... **Can fly category 4, 5 aircraft routes.**

Pilots with 80 hours or more... **Can fly any route.**

### **Aircraft Categories**

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Category 3 - Airbus A320, Boeing 717, Boeing 737

Category 4 - Airbus A330, Boeing 757, Boeing 767

Category 5 - Boeing 747, Boeing 777

Category 6 – Airbus A380

**Transferring Previous VA hours to American Flight Airways rosters.**

American Flight Airways allows a maximum of 50 hours to be transferred from another established VA. This brings the experienced pilot who is joining to the rank of ATP First Officer and will allow them to fly all but Category 6 routes and aircraft without restriction. Send in a request for credit of previous hours to your Hub Director along with a link to the roster where they can be verified. Your hours will be credited to you after your hours have been verified and you have flown at least one flight.

## 9. **FORUMS**

American Flight Airways has a very active Pilot Forum and we encourage each pilot to participate in our lively discussions. Furthermore our forums give a wealth of information on the latest events, latest fixes to aircraft and so forth. Most answers to general support questions can be found in our Pilot Forums. If you can't find the answer to what you're looking for there, feel free to post your question and another pilot or staff member will usually answer your question within a matter of hours. Lastly our FORUMS are also the place where you can hang out after a flight and just discuss various topics with fellow pilots in our OPEN Forum. The forum is the best source for online events details, aircraft news, route changes, opening of staff positions and other random information.

You have been automatically enrolled in our APG Pilot Forum at <http://forums.flyafa.com>. Once you have completed your Pilot Application and you have been accepted as a pilot, you will automatically be given a forum login. You will receive an email from APG with instructions on how to take full advantage of our forum.

The APG Pilots Forum is one of the most friendly and informative forums in the virtual airline community. Everything mentioned in the first paragraph is at your fingertips as well as great flying stories, interactive discussions on any variety of subject and just plain fun stuff to read and link to. The management of APG is committed to retaining a friendly, informative and respectful forum. We will not tolerate any type of disrespect of any member's opinions, disrespectful postings and any type of "flame wars". Failure to comply with this policy can result in anything from deletion of the post or topic, to suspension or even termination from the airline.

## 10. Contacting our Headquarters

Our main office is located in Detroit, MI, USA. You can contact the CEO at snoeckthomas [AT] gmail.com (replace the [AT]by @). A list of all AFA staff can be found here <http://www.flyafa.com/staff.php>. Any of our pilots or someone interested in the virtual airline can e-mail AFA's staff at the previous e-mail address. Staff can also be contacted through our forums. AFA's website is located at: <http://www.flyafa.com>

**COME JOIN US ON AMERICAN FLIGHT AIRWAYS!**

Thank you

Any comments and/or ideas please e-mail us.

By the way, This is just a virtual airline. It's not real.  
It's just for fun  
Let's have fun!