

A-69-29

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

February 27, 1969

Mr. David D. Thomas  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Department of Transportation  
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The Board has received a report of frequent instances of radio interference on the primary control frequency of the Wiley Post Airport Control Tower, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

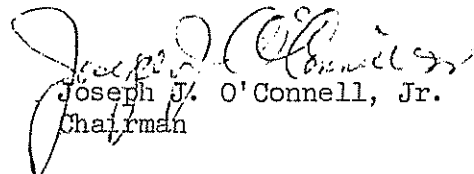
The interference has been identified as music transmitted on a strong signal from an unidentified commercial FM radio station. The interference is of such volume that pilots find it necessary to turn their radio control volume down. In so doing, these pilots are then unable to hear the tower's transmissions. In the case where the pilot does not adjust his volume control, the tower transmissions are garbled or are unintelligible because of high volume interference.

Although the radio interference problem has been reported by NTSB personnel to the FAA, it is our understanding that the interference still continues.

The inadequate communications between the tower operator and pilot in the traffic represents, in our judgment, a potential midair collision situation. Therefore, the Board recommends in the interest of safety that FAA, with FCC personnel if necessary, determine the cause of the radio interference at the Wiley Post Airport and that the FAA and/or the FCC take the necessary corrective action. Of course, the situation described here may also exist elsewhere and you may want to keep it in mind in your review of this matter.

Our Bureau of Aviation Safety staff is available to provide you with any further information or assistance as desired.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joseph J. O'Connell, Jr.  
Chairman