

change and no comments in opposition to the change.

### The Rule

This amendment to 14 CFR part 73 raises the vertical limits of R-6904A and R-6904B from 17,000 feet above MSL to FL 230. This additional altitude is required to eliminate the 1,000-foot gap between the restricted areas and the overlying Volk West ATCAA, and to meet the Air Force's requirement to practice the release of bombs from higher altitudes than are currently available within the existing restricted area airspace. No other changes to R-6904A or R-6904B are made by this action.

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore—(1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

### Environmental Review

The USAF determined that this amendment of the restricted area's designated altitude qualifies for a categorical exclusion. The FAA has reviewed the USAF's environmental documentation and concludes that this action is categorically excluded in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1D, Procedures for Handling Environmental Impacts, and the FAA/DOD Memorandum of Understanding of 1998 regarding Special Use Airspace actions.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 73

Airspace, Navigation (air).

### Adoption of the Amendment

■ In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 73 as follows:

### PART 73—SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

### § 73.63 [Amended]

■ 2. § 73.63 is amended as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

### R-6904A Volk Field, WI [Amended]

By removing the current designated altitudes and substituting the following:  
Designated altitudes. 150 feet AGL to FL 230.

### R-6904B Volk Field, WI [Amended]

By removing the current designated altitudes and substituting the following:  
Designated altitudes. Surface to FL 230.

\* \* \* \* \*

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 16, 2003.

**Reginald C. Matthews,**

*Manager, Airspace and Rules Division.*

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

### 14 CFR Part 1214

[Notice: (03–043)]

**RIN 2700–AC56**

### Recruitment and Selection of Astronaut Candidates

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is amending its regulations setting forth its procedures for recruitment and selection of astronaut candidates. NASA's astronaut candidate selection process was developed to select highly qualified individuals to perform in mission specialist and pilot astronaut positions in human space programs. The activities currently are conducted by the Astronaut Selection Office at the Johnson Space Center (JSC). NASA proposes to amend the rules to permit some of these recruitment and selection activities to be performed by NASA organizational elements that are not part of JSC. This change is necessary to conduct efficient and effective recruitment of a new component of the Astronaut Program, the Educator Astronauts.

**DATES:** This rule is effective July 22, 2003, without further action, unless adverse comment is received by May 23, 2003. If adverse comment is received, NASA will publish a timely withdrawal of the rule in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to NASA Headquarters, Code FPP, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Candace Irwin, NASA Headquarters, Code FPP, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546; telephone (202) 358–1206.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This direct final rule amends the NASA regulations governing the NASA Astronaut Candidate Recruitment and Selection Program. NASA is amending its regulations to address the addition of a new component of the Astronaut corps: Educator Astronauts. The Educator Astronaut Program is designed to motivate U.S. students and educators to recognize the value of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; attract more people to the teaching, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics professions; enhance the public's understanding of the value of America's educators; and share the diverse people and opportunities that advance our Nation's achievements in science, technology, and exploration. NASA will recruit educators to join NASA's Astronaut Corps to perform educator as well as mission specialist duties that will support NASA's education outreach program. Involvement of appropriate elements of the education community is integral to conduct activities associated with the recruitment and selection of Educator Astronauts. The current rule, assigning responsibility to JSC for individual activities such as announcing astronaut candidate opportunities, implementing the application process, reviewing applications, establishing cutoff dates for accepting applications, and appointing the rating panel, supports the historical Astronaut Candidate Program but does not enable enhancements to the program that necessarily require activities outside of JSC. The Educator Astronaut positions, which will be integral to the Astronaut Candidate Program, offer an education component, necessitating involvement by NASA's Office of Education at NASA Headquarters, in activities leading to identification of candidates who meet the educator requirements of the position. Accordingly, the rule is being amended so that a specific NASA Center is not assigned responsibility for conducting an activity that could be performed by, or in conjunction with, another NASA Center or Headquarters.