

News Release

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New award recognises infringement prevention

A new award to recognise the flying clubs and schools that go the extra mile to prevent airspace infringements has been introduced by NATS, the UK's leading provider of air traffic management services.

The award acknowledges the work of the General Aviation community in helping reduce the number of infringements during 2012.

It is open to any flying club, association, school or group which has made a special effort to prevent and mitigate the risk of infringements and to educate and support pilots who do.

Jonathan Smith, NATS Infringements Lead, said: "There can be no doubt that the continued and proactive efforts of the General Aviation community have underpinned the fall in the number of incidents last year.

"This new award is NATS way of recognising the important contributions made by our GA partners"

Stapleford Flight Centre in Essex is the first recipient of the NATS Infringement Prevention Award, having successfully halved the number of infringements by its members in 2012.

Colin Dobney, Head of Training, Stapleford Flight Centre, commented: "I am delighted the sustained campaign to reduce airspace infringements, led by Deputy Head of Training, Brian Peppercorn, has received official recognition from NATS. Air safety is the priority in all Stapleford's training programmes for tomorrow's airline pilots and our Private Pilot club members.

"We will continue campaigning to reduce infringements even further, aiming to achieve an even better performance in 2013."

Infringements into controlled airspace are a safety concern for private and commercial pilots alike, but there are a number of practical and low cost initiatives that any club can introduce to minimise the risk.

These can include encouraging the use of flight planning tools, such SkyDemon Light; the deployment of airspace warning devices; sharing any lessons learnt in the event of an infringement; and making contact with local air traffic control when flying near controlled airspace.

Jonathan added: "It is in everyone's best interests to reduce the risk associated with airspace infringements and NATS is keen to work with additional GA partners to achieve this."

Information on how to nominate a club or school for the Infringement Prevention Award can be found on the NATS website at www.nats.co.uk/news/infringement-prevention-award.

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Note to editors:



For more information contact the NATS Press Office on 01489 615945, email press.office@nats.co.uk or tweet [@natspressoffice](https://twitter.com/natspressoffice)

About NATS

NATS is the UK's leading provider of Air Traffic Management (ATM) services, handling 2.2 million flights in 2011/12, covering the UK and eastern North Atlantic. NATS provides air traffic control from centres at Swanwick, Hampshire and Prestwick, Ayrshire.

NATS also provides air traffic control services at 15 of the nation's major airports including Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow, together with air traffic services at Gibraltar Airport.

About Stapleford Flight Centre

Stapleford Flight Centre in Essex has been training private and airline pilots for over 40 years and offers the full range of qualifications from Private Pilot's Licence (PPL), through Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL), Instrument Rating (IR) to a frozen Air Transport Pilot's Licence (ATPL) and Multi Crew Co-operation (MCC).

Stapleford students achieve remarkably high 1st series pass rates in both CPL (94%) and IR (95%) courses. Each year Stapleford trains between 60-80 professional students from all parts of the world. In 2012 Stapleford Flight Centre was awarded full accreditation from BAC (British Accreditation Council for Independent, Further and Higher Education). It is also a thriving club for Private Pilots with more than 800 members.

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