

# An Ahart Special Report



## *Is the FAA Really Serious About Its Regulations?*

by Bill Komanetsky

In the past few months, the FAA has shown it's 'Regulation Teeth' with a number of different pilots, flight instructors and examiners in northern California. Each situation was different, each situation was and is a valid concern of the FAA's and each issue was a violation of published FAA regulations. There have been so many of these types of issues this year, the FAA is on a Regulation Rampage - and maybe, rightly so.

**Story #1:** This is a simple one, but this story continues on to the next story. A private pilot decided to take a flight, alone, near San Francisco class Bravo airspace and got a bit too close. The pilot had enough sense to get a flight following from Air Traffic Control, but mistakenly entered class Bravo airspace without a clearance. This particular private pilot no longer has a pilot's license. But read on to hear even more!

**Story #2:** The pilot in the previous story, during their investigation, was required to surrender their log book to the FAA inspector. Upon reading the log book, the FAA decided to visit the examiner that gave them their Private Pilot check ride. They visited the examiner as a student pilot going for their check ride and not as the FAA. The examiner not only gave the student in Story #1 their private pilot's license with an incomplete log book, but they also only did 20 minutes of ground work with the FAA 'student' during the

'mock' check ride. This examiner not only is no longer an examiner, but they also lost their pilot's license and will never fly in the U.S. Again.

**Story #3:** The FAA has also become very serious about pilots knowing how to speak, read and understand English. An international pilot who was trained in the United States, left for a few months to go back to their home country and then came back to the U.S. to get some turbine experience. The company where they were training complained to the FAA that the pilot could not speak or understand English very well. The FAA not only took away the pilot's licenses, but also went after the examiners who gave them their check flights. Five people could end up losing their license because of this one pilot.



**Story #4:** A student let their student-pilot certificate expire. Instead of discussing this with their instructor, they went to the FAA to get a new one. The student had flown on the expired certificate with a 'new' endorsement for solo on it, and both the student and flight instructor are now going through FAA 'Hell' trying to figure out what to do next.

All of these stories have the same theme. FAA regulations were not paid enough attention to and not abided by. The regulations are there for a reason and if they are ignored, your entire career or future career could be in jeopardy.