

General aviation has increasingly become the scapegoat for heinous acts that for which it had no responsibility. The grounding, then temporary flight restrictions, then closure of many airports, now opening of some under highly restrictive regulations has caused the population of general aviation pilots to be thought of as a higher "threat" than other citizens of this country. The restrictions, and subsequent public attitude has pressed state legislators to attempt to enact further restrictions which would injure the civil rights of ALL pilots, regardless of proximity to other possible "targets."

No other means of transportation has been subjected to the scrutiny that general aviation has since 9/11. No other population of American citizens has been subjected to these types of regulatory procedures to access their own property or public facilities since 9/11. And now, the vast majority of that population is no longer allowed to enjoy some of those public facilities for which we contribute tax dollars because of an unnamed perceived threat.

As a flight instructor, I have brought students to Potomac, Hyde and College Park airports as valuable learning experiences. Those experiences are now denied to us. As an aircraft owner, I often brought my aircraft to Potomac where my mechanic resided before 9/11. Now, that option is closed to me. And now, six months after the horrible event, there has still been no threat made public that any general aviation pilot would attempt to cause any acts against any targets in the United States. This is in marked contrast to the numerous incidents logged at "secure" airport facilities through commercial air, and the other threats made against structures through other means.

Isn't it time to release general aviation pilots from the bondage they have been under since 9/11? Please rescind the TFRs and reopen our airports to the public uses for which they were intended.