



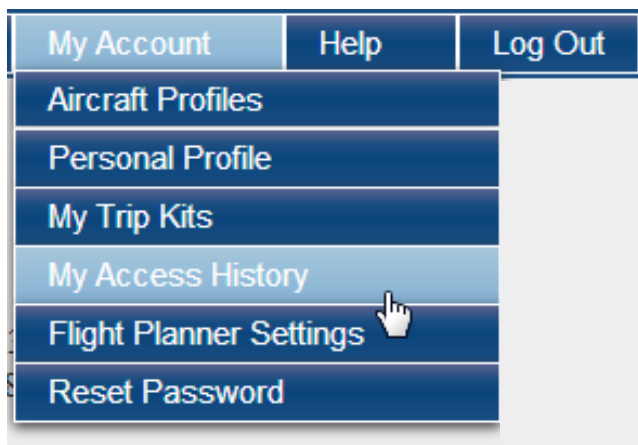
## Things you should know about your weather/flight planning provider

In today's marketplace, you have many options to get aviation weather and flight planning support. There are many different sites as well as stand-alone programs and apps that provide basic and enhanced services, however there are important aspects that you should be aware of when using these sites and/or products.

### Does your weather/flight planning source provide you with proof of briefing?

After getting a briefing, does your weather source provide a record of the briefing? Can they go back and provide you with the proof that you requested an adequate weather briefing in preparing for your flight?

CSC DUATS records every request you make as well as all information that you receive for that request. This is kept for 15 days and is available by request through the FAA. If you use the CSC DUATS website, you have direct access to all your histories via the "My Access History" selection from the "My Account Pulldown" from the main menu at the top of every page.



### Does your weather/flight planning source provide you with weather from an approved FAA weather source?

There are a multitude of weather sources available today.

Almost all are based on weather information provided by the National Weather Service (NWS). An approved FAA weather source is one that has been reviewed by the FAA for content, format, source and that the presented weather product content has not been altered or edited in any way. It also includes a review of timeliness, reliability of delivery, with information specific for aviation.

CSC DUATS provides you with a FAA certified weather briefing and graphics when you use our website. CSC DUATS weather source is FAA's Weather Message Switching Center, which is the same source that is used by all the Air Route Traffic Control Centers.

Furthermore, the CSC DUATS system is regularly monitored by the FAA technical center at Atlantic City. The FAA technical center is responsible for testing the CSC DUATS system to insure that it meets all the specifications in the FAA's DUAT contract and that it maintains adherence to those specifications.

### Attention part 91K, 121, 125, and 135 operations -

CSC DUATS meets the requirements for the source of weather described in Appendix B of FAA Notice N8900.199 OpSpec/MSpec A010, Aviation Weather Information.

### What graphics from your weather/flight planning source are approved for self briefing by the FAA?

Many graphics available on websites today, including government websites, have not been approved for pilot self briefings. Many of them are only authorized for operational use by meteorologists and dispatchers. You sometimes can identify them

(continued on back).

## DUATS...Still the Fastest way into the Air and Still Free!!

[www.duats.com](http://www.duats.com)

Data Line: 800-767-9989

Tech Support: 800-345-3828 press number 4


FAX: 703-818-4723

Secure Web: <https://www.duats.com>

Mobile: <http://www.duats.com/mobile>

by footnotes that say “for informational purposes only” or “authorized use only”. Although these products can still help you develop a mental picture of vertical and horizontal “weather hazard areas” for your flight, they need to be used in conjunction with FAA approved alphanumeric weather products and FAA approved graphics.

CSC DUATS identifies all of its FAA approved gra-

phics with the CSC DUATS logo.  Additional graphics required to be displayed by the FAA have either an National Weather Service (NWS) logo or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) logo. Restrictions for those products may be found on their respective sites.

### **Does your weather/flight planning source provide you with weather service interruption warnings?**

In this day and age, there are still times when systems are not available or communication lines go down. Does your weather/flight planning source notify you of those conditions? If they go to retrieve weather or NOTAMS and the connection/system is down, do they notify you and recommend to check back later? Are you certain you are seeing current information?

CSC DUATS is required by the FAA to notify you if there is any interruption in receiving the latest weather or NOTAMS. When you get a briefing from CSC DUATS, it will tell you if there was an interruption, when it occurred and tell you to check back later to see if anything was missed.

### **What support does your weather/flight planning source provide for Search and Rescue?**

During search and rescue operations, the FAA will look for activity on flight plan filing and weather briefing requests related to the overdue/missing aircraft. Primarily they will look all the information filled out on a flight plan and any contact information for the pilot in command. They may further look at any weather briefing information to determine if there were alternate areas the pilot was considering for his flight.

CSC DUATS responds to all information requests within seconds for SAR operations. This includes pro-

viding the full flight plan information, including the complete route of flight, any remarks, and any contact information. Furthermore we can provide all information in the weather briefings requested by the pilot under the tail number for the SAR. Optionally we can provide information for all weather briefings made by the pilot, even if he did not file a flight plan.

### **Recommendations for using third party sites that use CSC DUATS.**

There are many excellent third party sites that use CSC DUATS for flight plan filing and/or weather briefings. Here are our recommendations:

- **If given an option, use your CSC DUATS access code** - By doing this, it will allow instant access by the FAA not only to the flight plan information, but also any weather briefing information. If the third party system logs on with your account when filing or obtaining briefings, we will automatically keep the 15-day journal of activity specifically under your access code. Keep in mind, however that not all third parties exclusively use CSC DUATS for weather. In some cases your access code is used only for filing flight plans.
- **If you use your CSC DUATS access code, keep your personal profile up to date** - Your primary contact info will be in your filed flight plan, but sometimes this may be different than the default information in your profile. By keeping your profile current, this may give the FAA another point of contact.

**Visit CSC DUATS booth 1016 at**



**Fort Worth, Texas Oct. 10-12**

**Visit CSC DUATS booth N5414 at**

