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IN-FLIGHT INTERCEPT PROCEDURES

If you are intercepted by a U.S. Military or law enforcement aircraft, immediately:

1. Follow the instructions given by the intercepting aircraft. (See chart at right.)
2. Notify ATC, if possible.
3. Attempt to contact the intercepting aircraft and/or ATC on the emergency frequency 121.5 MHz, giving the identity and position of your aircraft and the nature of the flight.
4. If equipped with a transponder, squawk 7700, unless otherwise instructed by ATC. If any instructions received by radio from any sources conflict with those given by the intercepting aircraft by visual or radio signals, request clarification while continuing to comply with the instructions given by the intercepting aircraft.

INTERCEPTING Aircraft Signal	Meaning	INTERCEPTED Aircraft Response	Meaning
Rocks wings. After acknowledgement initiates a slow level turn, normally to the left, into the desired heading. (Also, at night flashes navigational lights.)	You have been intercepted.	Rocks wings and follow. (Also, at night flash navigational lights)	I understand and will comply.
Performs an abrupt breakaway maneuver consisting of a climbing 90 degree turn, or more, without crossing the intercepted aircraft's flight path.	You may proceed.	Rocks wings.	I understand and will comply.
Circles airport, lowers landing gear, and overflies runway in the direction of landing. (Also, at night turns landing lights on.)	Land at this airport.	Lower landing gear, follow the intercepting aircraft and land if the runway is considered safe. (Also, at night turn the landing lights on.)	I understand and will comply.

Comments of the Air Safety Institute • 800-638-5101 • www.airsafetyinstitute.org

INTERCEPTING Aircraft Signal	Meaning	INTERCEPTED Aircraft Response	Meaning
Raises landing gear while flying over runway between 1,000' and 2,000', and continues to circle the airport	This airport is inadequate.	If the intercepted aircraft is requested to go to an alternate airport, the intercepting aircraft raises its landing gear and uses the intercept procedures.	Understood, follow me.
(At night, the pilot of the intercepted aircraft will also flash landing lights while passing over the runway.)		To release the intercepted aircraft, the intercepting aircraft will perform the breakaway maneuver.	Understood, you may proceed.
The pilot switches on and off all available lights at regular intervals.	Cannot comply.	Performs the breakaway maneuver.	Understood.
The pilot switches on and off all available lights at irregular intervals.	In distress.	Performs the breakaway maneuver.	Understood.

For information on AOPA or AOPA Pilot Protection Services, call 800-USA-AOPA (872-2672) or visit pilot-protection-services.aopa.org

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