

NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

N 8900.180

National Policy

Effective Date:
2/29/12

Cancellation Date:
2/28/13

SUBJ: Certificated Flight Instructor Certificates Issued on the Basis of Military Competence; 14 CFR § 61.73(g)

1. Purpose of This Notice. This notice provides guidance to aviation safety inspectors (ASI) concerning Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 61, § 61.73(g) that allows current and former U.S. military instructor pilots and military examiners to apply for a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated flight instructor (CFI) certificate.

2. Audience. The primary audience for this notice is Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) ASIs with oversight responsibilities for pilot and flight instructor certification, the FAA Airmen Registry, the Airman Certification Branch (AFS-760), and the Airman Testing Standards Branch (AFS-630). The secondary audience includes Flight Standards branches and divisions in the regions and headquarters (HQ).

3. Where You Can Find This Notice. You can find this notice on the MyFAA employee Web site at https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices. Inspectors can access this notice through the Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS) at <http://fsims.avs.faa.gov>. Operators can find this notice on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Web site at <http://fsims.faa.gov>. This notice is available to the public at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/orders_notices.

4. Background. On August 21, 2009, the FAA issued 74 FR 42500-42571, Pilot, Flight Instructor, and Pilot School Certification. Flight Standards Service (AFS) published Notice N 8900.97, New Section 61.73(g) That Allows Current and Former U.S. Military Instructor Pilots to Apply for an FAA Flight Instructor Certificate, on October 28, 2009, in order to provide interim guidance to ASIs on the subject of CFIs issued on the basis of military competence. N 8900.97 has since expired. This notice will provide current guidance on this subject, as well as address certain questions that have arisen since the issuance of the final rule.

5. Policy. FAA personnel will use the information provided in Appendix A, General Information, as well as the procedures listed in Appendix B, Procedures, when addressing airmen applying for a CFI certificate on the basis of military competence. This notice does not address the issuance of a CFI certificate by means other than on the basis of military competence.

6. Disposition. We will incorporate the information in this notice into FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS), before this notice expires. Direct questions concerning the information in this notice to Jeffrey Smith, Airmen Certification and Training Branch (AFS-810), at 202-385-9615 or jeffrey.smith@faa.gov.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Allen". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue background.

John M. Allen
Director, Flight Standards Service

Appendix A. General Information

GENERAL

a. Applicability.

- 1) A flight instructor certificate may be issued on the basis of military competence to an applicant who is or has been a military instructor pilot or U.S. military pilot examiner.
- 2) Aircraft category, class, and instrument ratings may be added to new or existing flight instructor certificates issued under 14 CFR part 61, § 61.73(g).

b. Eligibility.

- 1) An applicant who meets the requirements of § 61.73(g) may be issued an initial flight instructor certificate or additional ratings to an existing flight instructor certificate on the basis of military competence.
- 2) There is no time limit on being a “current” or “former” U.S. military instructor pilot or U.S. military pilot examiner in reference to applying for and being issued a flight instructor certificate.
- 3) A current or former U.S. military instructor or U.S. military pilot examiner who has been removed from flying status because of lack of proficiency or disciplinary action involving aircraft operations is not eligible for a certificate or rating on the basis of military competence.
- 4) An applicant applying under the provisions of § 61.73(g) will not be eligible for a flight instructor certificate or rating on the basis of government agency employment (except for the U.S. military), foreign military instruction, or civil police agency employment.

c. Acceptable Records. Official U.S. Armed Forces documents are required as evidence of the applicant’s military instructing or examining experience. The documents that must be presented are specified in § 61.73(g)(3).

d. Knowledge Tests.

- 1) An applicant is required to have passed the Military Competence Instructor (MCI) knowledge test within the preceding 24 calendar-months to be eligible for an original issuance of a flight instructor certificate issued under § 61.73(g).
 - a) A military applicant is not required to take any other knowledge tests associated with the flight instructor certificate (i.e., the fundamentals of instructing (FOI) knowledge test or the traditional instructor knowledge test associated with the category sought).
 - b) An applicant is not authorized to use another knowledge test in lieu of the MCI knowledge test.

2) If the applicant has taken the MCI for an original certificated flight instructor (CFI) certificate and later adds a rating based on a practical test (i.e., not military competence), then the applicant must take the appropriate knowledge test as the normal rule applies and as shown in the FAA Order 8080.6, Conduct of Airmen Knowledge Tests. However, if the applicant adds any rating based on military competence, then no knowledge test is required.

a) The existing flight instructor certificate must be current and must not have been surrendered, canceled, or revoked.

b) An applicant that holds a flight instructor certificate with only a sport pilot rating is required to take and pass the appropriate MCI knowledge test before being issued additional ratings under § 61.73(g).

e. Practical Tests. An applicant that meets the eligibility requirements of § 61.73(g) may be issued a flight instructor certificate with the appropriate rating(s) without passing a practical test.

f. Pilot Certificate. An applicant for a flight instructor certificate issued under § 61.73(g) must:

- Hold a commercial or airline transport pilot certificate with the appropriate category and class rating (if a class rating is appropriate) for the flight instructor certificate sought; and,
- Hold an instrument rating, or have instrument privileges, on the pilot certificate that is appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought.

g. Medical Certificate. The applicant does not need to possess a medical certificate when making an application for a certificate or rating under § 61.73(g). The inspector should, however, explain to the applicant that a valid medical certificate may be required to exercise the privilege of the certificate in accordance with the medical certificate requirements found in part 61.

h. Additional Ratings.

1) A military instructor applicant that holds a current flight instructor certificate may apply for additional instructor ratings not found on the current certificate in accordance with § 61.73(g). If eligible, a flight instructor certificate that contains the additional ratings may be issued to the applicant. However, the new certificate will be issued with the same expiration date as found on the certificate held at the time of application unless the applicant is also eligible for renewal per § 61.197(a).

2) As an example, an applicant currently holds a flight instructor certificate with an airplane single-engine rating. The applicant applies for and presents satisfactory documentation for a rotorcraft helicopter rating in accordance with § 61.73(g). The date of application is January 12, 2012, and the current CFI certificate expires March 31, 2013. The applicant may be issued a CFI certificate containing the airplane single-engine rating and rotorcraft helicopter rating, but with an expiration date of March 31, 2013.

i. Instrument Rating. An applicant may apply for an instrument rating on their flight instructor certificate in accordance with the provisions of § 61.73(g). The applicant must present satisfactory documentation showing that they served as an instrument instructor pilot or as a military pilot examiner qualified to evaluate instrument proficiency.

1) There is a possibility that the military pilot has served as an instrument instructor or examiner in a multiengine aircraft that is limited to center thrust. As discussed below, the applicant is not eligible to receive an airplane multiengine rating (see paragraph j). However, the applicant would still be eligible to receive an instrument-airplane rating.

2) An applicant that is issued an instrument-airplane rating without an airplane category and class rating should be reminded of the limitations prescribed by § 61.195(b). This regulation states, in part, that “A flight instructor may not conduct flight training in any aircraft for which the flight instructor does not hold ... [a] flight instructor certificate with the applicable category and class rating...”

j. Center Thrust. An applicant that is applying for a flight instructor certificate with an airplane multiengine rating must be able to show evidence of having served as a military instructor or military pilot examiner in an aircraft that has a minimum controllable airspeed with the critical engine inoperative (V_{MC}) speed published by the manufacturer. Applicants that cannot provide evidence of having served as a military instructor or military pilot examiner in a non-“center thrust” multiengine airplane are not eligible to have an airplane multiengine rating added to their flight instructor certificate on the basis of military competence. Inspectors should refer to FAA Order 8900.1, Flight Standards Information Management System (FSIMS), Volume 5, Chapter 1, Section 4, subparagraph 5-88E for a list of “center thrust” aircraft.

k. Powered Lift Rating. An applicant that is applying for a flight instructor certificate on the basis of having served as a military instructor or military pilot examiner in a powered lift aircraft is eligible for powered-lift category on that certificate. The most common examples of powered-lift aircraft are the V-22 Osprey, the AV-8 Harrier, and certain variants of the F-35 Lightning II.

1) Applicants may not use experience in a powered-lift aircraft to obtain either an airplane or rotorcraft category on the basis of military competence.

2) In order to qualify for any additional category and class ratings other than powered-lift, the airman must meet the criteria of § 61.73 (g) for the additional rating.

l. Renewal of Existing Certificate. Section 61.197(a) provides the regulatory options for renewing a flight instructor certificate. Military instructors who hold a flight instructor certificate may choose to renew their certificate by presenting a record showing that, within the preceding 12 months from the month of application, they passed an official U.S. Armed Forces military instructor pilot proficiency check (see § 61.197(a)(2)(iv)).

1) In cases where an applicant is eligible for certificate renewal, the expiration date on the new certificate shall be indicated in accordance with § 61.197(b).

a) The applicant's records must show that the instructor pilot proficiency check was passed within the preceding 12 months from the month of application.

b) If an applicant makes this application within the 3 calendar-months preceding the month of the current CFI expiration date, the new expiration date shall be 24 calendar-months from the current date of expiration. If the application is made outside of the 3 months preceding the current month of expiration, the new expiration date should be 24 calendar-months from the date of the application.

2) Outside of the provisions found in § 61.197(a)(2)(iv), an applicant may not renew their flight instructor certificate on the basis of military competence.

m. Reinstatement of Expired Certificate. A military applicant that is the holder of an expired flight instructor certificate is not eligible to reinstate their certificate based on military competence, nor are they able to add any ratings to the expired certificate. The holder of an expired flight instructor certificate may reinstate that certificate only as provided in § 61.199.

Appendix B. Procedures

PROCEDURES

a. Program Tracking and Reporting Subsystem (PTRS). Open a PTRS record using code 1532.

b. Review the Airman's Application. The applicant must submit a completed FAA Form 8710-1, Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application, at the time of the scheduled appointment. Check the application to ensure it is filled out accurately. The instructions for completing the form are attached to the application.

1) The applicant must complete FAA Form 8710-1, section I, blocks A through V.

a) If the applicant is applying for an initial certificate or a renewal of an unexpired certificate, the applicant should check "Flight Instructor" and the appropriate corresponding box.

b) If the applicant is applying for an additional rating to be added to an existing certificate, the applicant should check "Additional Instructor Rating."

2) FAA Form section II, block B, blocks 1 through 4b must be completed.

a) In section II, the applicant is not required to provide his or her service number; only rank or grade needs to be reported.

b) In block 4(a), the applicant should cross out the preprinted information on the form and write "U.S. military IP in the following military aircraft" and list the aircraft appropriate for the application being made.

c) In block 4(b), the applicant should cross out the preprinted information on the form and write "CFI rating(s) being applied for on the basis of U.S. military IP qualification."

3) FAA Form 8710-1, section III is optional.

4) FAA Form 8710-1, sections IV and V must be completed.

5) On the reverse side of FAA Form 8710-1, no instructor or air agency recommendation is required.

c. Establish Eligibility. Official military documents, such as records and orders, are required as evidence of the applicant's military instructing experience. Applicants must present the following documentation.

1) An official U.S. Armed Forces record or order documenting the individual's current or past qualification as a U.S. Armed Forces military instructor pilot or pilot examiner for the flight instructor rating sought.

2) An official U.S. Armed Forces record or order documenting the individual's completion of a U.S. Armed Forces instructor pilot or pilot examiner training course, and receipt of an aircraft qualification as a military instructor pilot or pilot examiner that is appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought.

3) An official U.S. Armed Forces record or order documenting that the individual passed a U.S. Armed Forces instructor pilot or pilot examiner proficiency check in an aircraft as a military instructor pilot or pilot examiner that is appropriate to the flight instructor rating sought.

d. Verify Knowledge Test. If a knowledge test is required, ensure that the applicant has satisfactorily accomplished the Military Competence Instructor (MCI) test within the 24 calendar-months preceding the month of application.

e. Issuance of Certificate. If the applicant has met all of the criteria for a certificate issued under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 61, § 61.73, complete the following.

1) Prepare FAA Form 8060-4, Temporary Airman Certificate, in duplicate, indicating "Flight Instructor" in section IX and the appropriate aircraft category and class ratings in section XII.

2) If the applicant qualified for an instrument rating, issue one or more of the following ratings, as appropriate, in FAA Form 8060-4, section XII:

- Instrument – Airplane;
- Instrument – Helicopter; or
- Instrument – Powered Lift.

3) Enter the following limitations in FAA Form 8060-4 block XII:

- "Valid only when accompanied by pilot certificate No.," followed by the airman's pilot certificate number.
- The appropriate expiration date.

4) Sign, and have the applicant sign, both the original and the copy of FAA Form 8060-4 in ink.

5) Issue the copy to the applicant.

f. Completion of FAA Form 8710-1. The following considerations should be taken into account when completing the back of FAA Form 8710-1 after the issuance of the flight instructor certificate.

1) The aviation safety inspector (ASI) or aviation safety technician (AST) report is required to be completed. The "Approved" box, "Certificate or Rating for Which Tested" box, and the last line indicating the date, inspector's signature, certificate number, and FAA district

office must be completed with the appropriate information. The date of issue on the temporary airman certificate must match the date the inspector/AST signed this report.

2) In the ASI or AST report, the “Military Competence” box should be checked.

Note: In the event that the applicant has renewed their certificate under the provisions of § 61.197(a)(2)(iv), the inspector must also check the “Duties and Responsibilities” box.

3) Ensure the “Airman’s ID” section indicates the form of ID, number, and expiration date. If a driver’s license is the method used, it must be a current U.S. driver’s license. The state of jurisdiction must also be reflected.

g. Disposition. Return all submitted documents, except the application and any superseded flight instructor certificate.

h. Task Outcomes. Close the PTRS record.