

From: Wakeford Jason
Sent: 20 May 2008 13:05
To: CAA Corp Comms Dept; Alcott Ben
Subject: PILOT WHO LANDED NEAR BUSH RANCH RETURNS HOME

Piece running on PA...

PILOT WHO LANDED NEAR BUSH RANCH RETURNS HOME

AIR Vet
20 May 2008 - 12:53
By Rhiannon Beacham, PA

Page 1

An eccentric amateur pilot who was arrested after landing his plane near George Bush's ranch is back on British soil but without his flying licence, he said today.

Despite having his wings clipped, Maurice Kirk, nicknamed the Flying Vet, said he still had big plans to one day fly to Africa and the North Pole.

But a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said Mr Kirk's licence had been provisionally suspended because it was not confident he was fit to fly.

Mr Kirk, 63, a father-of-four, was attempting to fly solo around the world in an old Piper Cub aircraft when the incident happened.

He said he landed near the US President's ranch in Texas because he wanted to thank him for help provided by the country's coastguards when his plane crash-landed in the Caribbean Sea in February.

Speaking from his home in Barry, south Wales, Mr Kirk said: "I knew if he was home for the weekend I could leave a note on his front door at his ranch.

"I needed to land anyway because I'd hit very bad weather and there were hail stones the size of pigeons' eggs.

"I decided to walk up the road and was trying to photograph a bird when a car screamed to a halt behind me."

He described how he was arrested and handcuffed, but said the US Secret Service were gentlemen to him, adding: "They treated me like the last fertile Dodo egg on Earth."

Mr Kirk said 11 more vehicles pulled up but nobody told him what he had done wrong.

He said he then had to undergo a field sobriety test, which he said he failed because of an injured ankle, and was taken to a prison in Waco.

Further tests at the prison showed he had not been drinking, Mr Kirk added.

He said he was then taken to a psychiatric hospital in Austin where he stayed for a week before he was released and went to stay with some friends.

But Mr Kirk said when he tried to continue his journey in his own plane he was once again arrested at a "one-horse town" near Houston.

He said he was taken to prison again - this time to await deportation.

"They said I was engaged in criminal activity and had endangered life,"
Mr Kirk said.

"They said I had landed my aircraft on a road outside the front gate of Mr G W Bush's ranch, but I landed about four miles away.

"I just had a letter prepared to thank him which I was going to leave at the gate, and there was a slim chance somebody official would come out and thank me very much and that they hoped my stay in Texas was great fun.

"It was great fun and I had a wonderful time with lots of wonderful people, looking at beautiful scenery. This was all a complete anti-climax."

Mr Kirk said he was accompanied back to the UK by two US officials and was met at Gatwick Airport by his wife Kirstie, who had been updating his website - kirkflyingvet.com - while he was away.

It was then he found out his pilot's licence had been suspended.

"I'm told by those with experience that I won't be allowed back to America and I had planned to go back and give lectures. I've lost that arrangement with my sponsors now," said Mr Kirk.

"But I'm still looking for GBP50,000 sponsorship to fly around Africa and the North Pole."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said: "We have provisionally suspended the licence. We are not confident that he's fit to hold the licence."

He said an investigation was under way to determine whether Mr Kirk's licence should be taken away permanently.

Mr Kirk owns a veterinary practice in Barry but was struck off by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2002 for "disgraceful conduct" after 11 convictions, including assault. His wife now runs the practice.

He has previously visited Sir Edmund Hillary during a flight around New Zealand, and met John Howard, then prime minister of Australia, on another occasion.

end

<http://mediapoint.press.net/article.jsp?id=4737300>

To unsubscribe, please visit Mediapoint Business http://www.mediapoint.press.net/saved_searches.jsp and amend your saved searches.

Copyright 2008 The Press Association

Terms and conditions http://www.mediapoint.press.net/terms_and_conditions.jsp

Privacy policy http://www.mediapoint.press.net/privacy_policy.jsp

From: Aldridge Janine
Sent: 20 May 2008 12:49
To: CAA Corp Comms Dept; Alcott Ben
Subject: 'Bush Took Away My Pilot's Licence' - South Wales Echo

'Bush Took Away My Pilot's Licence' - icwales.co.uk

<http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/cardiff-news/2008/05/20/bush-took-away-my-pilot-s-licence-91466-20935911/>

May 20 2008

by Katie Bodinger, South Wales Echo

FLYING vet Maurice Kirk has vowed to fight to continue his worldwide tour after being deported from America and having his licence taken away.

The 63-year-old, from Barry, was detained last month after landing his small Piper Cub plane near President George Bush's ranch in Texas.

He had been trying to leave a message for Mr Bush to pass on his thanks to the US Coastguard, which rescued him after his plane crash-landed in the Caribbean Sea in February.

The dad of four, whose video interview appears on icwales.co.uk, told the Echo he had been escorted to Gatwick by two US officials on Friday. After visiting the Civil Aviation Authority, he said was told his licence had been suspended.

But the 63-year-old said: "I have plans to carry on flying around Africa, go across to Nepal. I still want to fly to Everest. To be grounded is absolutely devastating. I just hope the CAA changes its mind."

He admitted, although he was hoping to persuade the CAA to give his licence back, he was doubtful he would be allowed back to America.

"The only way I'll get back in is by pressure from the American people. Everyone I met there was very supportive. I miss Texas already. I had such fun."

Maurice, who has been a commercial and stunt pilot, had been attempting to fly around the world when he was detained by US authorities. He had also been due to give a series of lectures to schools about his adventures travelling to different countries. Describing the events surrounding his capture, he said he had decided to visit Texas and had been staying in Waco when he got the idea of leaving a message with the President.

"I realised that I was right near the ranch of George W and I thought I could knock on his door and leave a note to thank him for the US Coastguard saving my life.

"But the idea went pear-shaped. Since what happened in New York, they have decided to set up what is called Homeland Security and I got mixed up in it."

He continued: "I larded about four miles from the ranch, about a mile outside the permanent prohibited zone. I started walking and was taking pictures of plants and animals.

"The sun had come out and it was wonderful. It was so green it was just like being in the Vale of Glamorgan.

"I then heard a screech of tyres behind me. I turned around carefully because I was suspicious it may be somebody of authority. I saw two armed guys coming towards me, who I now know were from the Secret:

Service. Before I knew it, I was on the ground in handcuffs.

“Within 30 minutes there were 11 government vehicles there, including the FBI.”

After a week being assessed in a psychiatric hospital, he was released, but he said he was arrested within a day. He then found himself in a deportation centre.

“I was denied access to a telephone and any communication with my wife or with my Embassy. But I was treated well. I won’t have anything bad said against the Secret Service – they were gentlemen.”

Maurice, who has held a licence since 1964, denied committing any offence. The former vet was struck off six years ago because of convictions for offences including assault.

“The US authorities told me I had been deported because I had endangered life. They said I landed on the road outside Mr Bush’s front door. But I landed in a field four miles away. The CAA acted on the information it was given.”

The dad of four, who posts his travels on his website – kirkflyingvet.com – said he had been left traumatised by his ordeal. He missed his daughter Genevieve’s ninth birthday while he was away.

And his plane – called Liberty Girl – is still in America.

“My family were very upset,” said Maurice, whose wife Kirstie runs Barry Animal Health Centre in Tynnewydd Road. “My wife said the obvious: ‘you ought to know better Maurice’.”

Mr Bush was in Washington at the time Mr Kirk approached the ranch.

katie.bodinger@mediawales.co.uk

Janine Aldridge
Press Officer
Civil Aviation Authority
Tel: 020 7453 6025
Fax: 020 7379 4784

Memo

Safety Regulation Group
Personnel Licensing Department



to File Note
Ben Alcott
Mike Dobson
Ian Weston
Diane Park

19 May 2008
Ref 10D/006/005/001/B - 263300L

Kirk, Maurice John – Telecon 19 May 2008

Maurice Kirk telephoned this morning in an attempt to expedite the removal of the provisional suspension of his licence.

His general approach was conciliatory and it is clear that he is desperate to get his licence re-instated. I have no doubt that this will change in the event that there are significant delays or decisions do not go the way he wishes.

He called to provide contact information for the British Consulate in Houston, Texas:

Linda Kelly: +1 713 659 6270 ext. 2120.

He also stated that the reason for deportation had been changed from "Danger to the public or to national security" to registering an aircraft as a US citizen when he was not. This is at odds with the information received through official channels.

He asked if registration offences were something for which we consider suspension of a licence. It appears that on purchase of his latest Piper Cub that the registration application stated that he was a US citizen when he is not. I advised him that matters relating to registration of aircraft on the US register were a matter for the FAA.

He also wished to have the restoration of his licence processed expeditiously. I advised him that, whilst we would do what we could, this was dependent on receipt of information from external agencies over which we have no control. In addition I advised him that he could not undertake any flying training or examination to renew his SEP class rating whilst his licence was under provisional suspension. He understood this and freely admitted that he was likely to have been flying without a valid class rating.

He also stated that all his computers in the US had been confiscated by the federal authorities.

I have formed the impression that Kirk does not realise the seriousness of the situation in which he recently found himself. He does not consider that he has committed anything other than trivial "paperwork" offences, and states that he did not commit any aviation

related offences in the US. Whilst this is true, he does not appear to have sufficient judgement to realise that the other offences he committed are serious, and that these may be pertinent to the question of his fitness to hold a pilot licence.

Stephen Williams
FCL Policy Coordination

**Department of Homeland Security
Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEPORT FOR VIOLATING THE TERMS OF YOUR
ADMISSION UNDER SECTION 217 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND
NATIONALITY ACT**

TO: **KIRK, Maurice, John**

File No. **A 88 839 115**

The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has determined that you entered the United States pursuant to Section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Accordingly, you executed a Form I-791, Visa Waiver Pilot Program Information Form that explained to you the conditions of admission under the Visa Waiver Pilot Program. When you signed Form I-791, you also waived your right to contest deportability before an immigration judge and the Board of Immigration Appeals, and to any judicial review of any and all of the above decisions.

The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has determined that you have violated the terms of your admission under Section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act on the grounds that:

You have violated Section 237(a)(4)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended in that you have engaged, are engaged, or at any time after admission were engaged in a criminal activity which endangers public safety or national security.

Accordingly, the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has entered an order that you be deported and removed from the United States.

Signature:

Title: Robert Rutt, Special Agent in Charge

Place: Houston, Texas

SPECIAL DELIVERY

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr M Kirk
51 Tynwydd Road
BARRY
CF62 8AZ

06 May 2008

Ref: 263300L
10D/006/005/001

Dear Mr Kirk

PROVISIONAL SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENCE (AEROPLANES) AND FLIGHT RADIO TELEPHONY OPERATOR'S LICENCE

I have received information from our Aviation Regulation Enforcement Department regarding events relating to a flight you undertook from McGregor Airport, Texas, to a point in the vicinity of Crawford Ranch, Texas and its established prohibited area P49, on 25 April 2008.

The CAA is under an obligation to be satisfied on a continuing basis as to the fitness and competence of pilots whom it licences. In accordance with the responsibilities placed on it by the Air Navigation Order 2005, the CAA has to consider whether you are a fit and competent person to continue to hold a Private Pilot's Licence (Aeroplanes) and a Flight Radio Telephony Operator's Licence.

Information has been provided to Aviation Regulation Enforcement Department by the Federal Aviation Authority, sourced in turn from agencies such as the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). This information states that ICE is seeking to have you deported to the United Kingdom on the grounds that you are a "Danger to the Public", and that CBP is seeking to confiscate the aircraft you flew. It is clear from information provided that the competent authorities of the United States have manifest concerns about the risk you pose to public safety, and this in turn raises serious concerns about the risk to flight safety should you continue to exercise the privileges of your Private Pilot's Licence.

Accordingly, pending further enquiry into and consideration of the case, the Civil Aviation Authority, in exercise of its powers under Article 92(1) of the Air Navigation Order 2005, hereby provisionally suspends your United Kingdom Private Pilot's Licence (Aeroplanes) number PP/263300L/A and your Flight Radio Telephony Operator's Licence number RT/263300L, pending conclusion of the investigation, from the date of this letter.

cont...

Civil Aviation Authority
Ground East Aviation House Gatwick Airport South West Sussex England RH6 0YR

Telephone 01293 573630 Fax 01293 573996

You are requested to acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Alcott', written over a printed name.

Ben Alcott
Head of Personnel Licensing Department