

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, November 20, 2009**

### **PHOENIX EAST AVIATION APPROVED BY US GOVERNMENT FOR F-1 VISAS FOR PILOT TRAINING STUDENTS**

Daytona Beach, Florida, USA -- Phoenix East Aviation (PEA) announces approval by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for F-1 Visa form authorization for international pilot training students.

The F-1 Visa (Academic Student) allows a foreign student to enter the United States as a full-time student at a U.S. government approved academic institution. This visa also requires the student to be enrolled in a program that culminates in a professional certificate or college degree; because Phoenix East Aviation is a nationally accredited pilot training academy with established qualifications and high standards of education, authorization was given by the U.S. government to accept eligible international students under this F-1 program. There are only three professional pilot training academies in the U.S. that are allowed by the federal government to participate in the F-1 student visa program.

In this program, the student pilot enters a comprehensive professional pilot training program. This "ab initio" student begins with zero flying experience and progresses through the program, achieving the Commercial Pilot Certificate with Instrument and Multi-engine Ratings – and then continues training for the Certified Flight Instructor, Certified Flight Instructor Instrument, and Multi-engine Instructor ratings.

Upon successful completion of this full training program, a PEA graduate may interview for a position as a PEA flight instructor and upon acceptance become a paid employee of Phoenix East Aviation, gaining practical flight experience as he/she continues building flight hours and acquiring the skills required to achieve the Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, which is the highest aviation certification given by the FAA. The F-1 Visa, under its Optional Practical Training, allows such employment during this advanced training and time-building phase.

Phoenix East also is approved to offer the M-1 Visa to international students for flight training courses and programs, as well as the J-1 Visa; the latter, however, will no longer be issued by the U.S. government after December 31, 2009.

Phoenix East Aviation provides comprehensive pilot training, specializing in professional flight instruction. FAR Part 141, private, commercial and multi-engine professional programs and FAR Part 61 courses are offered. The school is nationally accredited and is approved to offer Veteran Benefits under the G.I. Bill, as well as offering F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa programs for foreign students. Headquartered in Daytona Beach, Florida, where the climate permits flight operations 350+ days a year, the school has been in continuous operation since 1972.

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