Vertical Flight Society Privacy Policy
Updated May 25, 2018

This privacy policy (“Privacy Policy”) describes how the Vertical Flight Society — officially, The American Helicopter Society International, Incorporated — (“VFS”, “the Society”, “we” or “us”) collects, uses, shares, and retains personal information that you provide to us, or that we collect, when you join as a member, use one of our websites or online services, use products and services and complete related forms, participate in VFS events, or communicate with one of our staff members (“Personal Data”).

Our Privacy Policy does not apply to websites of any other VFS chapter, group, or student group, or to websites operated by organizations or groups who associate themselves with VFS or those that have hypertext links to or from the VFS Sites.

Please note that if you disagree with anything in this Privacy Policy, you must not use the Sites, or provide personal information to us in connection with VFS’s products or services.

Data Protection Contact

If you have any questions or concerns about the Vertical Flight Society’s policies or practices regarding Personal Data, please contact us:

AHS — The Vertical Flight Society
2701 Prosperity Ave, Suite 210
Fairfax, Virginia 22031-4314 USA
www.vtol.org
webmaster@vtol.org
Tel: +1-703-684-6777
Fax: +1-703-739-9279

Collection of Personal Information

A. Information You Directly and Voluntarily Provide to Us.

Membership: If you provide your Personal Data to the Vertical Flight Society to become a member of VFS, or if you sign up to become a registered user of any website operated by VFS, you will be required to provide certain information as part of the registration process. This information may include your first and last name, email address, and business or home address. We may also request that you voluntarily provide other information, such as your phone number, year of birth, gender, demographic information, educational background, work experience, or courses or areas of study in which you may be interested and information about your company as it relates to VFS’s products, services, and your VFS membership. Membership information is used to communicate with you, to design content and activities that we believe would be of interest to you, and to ensure that VFS will not violate any applicable U.S. sanctions in providing you access to VFS’s goods and services. If you wish to opt-out of receiving these
communications from us, please follow the instructions contained in an applicable communication you receive from us and submit a request.

**Events and Conferences:** VFS may host events that include in-person and virtual conferences, training, knowledge sharing and webinars. If you register for a VFS event and you are a Society member, we will access the information in your member account to provide you with information and services associated with the event. If you register for one of our events and you are not a Society member, we will collect your first and last name, email address, business or home address, and the type of business you work for or with, which we will use to provide you with information and services associated with the event.

**Publications:** We offer various publications and materials. These publications and materials are publicly accessible and you can create an account and subscribe to receive these publications and materials, electronically and/or in print. If you are not a Society member and you create an account for this purpose, you will be required to provide certain information as part of your account registration, including your first and last name, email address, and business or home address. You may manage your subscriptions by subscribing or unsubscribing at any time.

**Communications with VFS:** If you communicate or correspond with us by email, through postal mail, via phone or through other forms of communication, we may collect the information you provide as part of those communications. For example, if you correspond with us through email, we may collect and store the email address you use to send the applicable correspondence and use it to respond to your inquiry; to notify you of VFS conferences, publications, or other services; or to keep a record of your complaint, accommodation request, and similar purposes.

**B. Information We Automatically Collect from You.**

We may automatically collect information about you when you use the Sites or our services. For example, if you access the Sites through a computer, we will automatically collect information such as your browser type and version, computer and connection information, IP address and standard web log information. If you access the Sites through a mobile device, we may also be able to identify the location of your mobile device. You may choose not to share your location details with us by adjusting your mobile device’s location services settings. For instructions on changing the relevant settings, please contact your service provider or device manufacturer. The information that we automatically collect from you is used to enhance the performance of VFS’s Sites and provide better services to you and other customers.

We may automatically collect information from you when you use the Sites using “cookies” and other similar technologies, such as web beacons. Cookies are small amounts of data that are stored within your computer’s Internet browser and that are accessed and recorded by the websites that you visit so that they can recognize the same browser navigating online at a later time. The cookies are not able to execute code or access other information stored on the computer. Web beacons are transparent pixel images that are used in collecting information about website usage, email response and tracking.
Information that may be collected by cookies when you use the Sites may include, without limitation:

- the pages you visit within the Sites;
- the date and time of your visit to the Sites;
- the amount of time you spend using the Sites;
- the Internet Protocol (IP) address used to connect your computer to the Internet; and/or
- your computer and connection information such as your browser type and version, operating system and platform.

This information is collected to enhance site performance and end user experience. You can set your browser to reject cookies or to notify you when you are sent a cookie. To learn more about your ability to manage cookies and web beacons, please consult the privacy features in your browser.

The Vertical Flight Society will not associate identifiers from cookies or similar technologies with sensitive identifiers about you, such as race, religion, sexual orientation or health.

C. Information Collected by Third Parties through Third-Party Links and Content.

The Sites may include links to other websites and other content from third-party businesses and can offer direct interaction with external websites, networks or platforms that are outside VFS’s control. These third-party businesses may use cookies, web beacons or other similar technology to collect information about you. VFS does not have access to or control over these third parties or the cookies, web beacons or other technology that these third parties may use. We are not responsible for the security, privacy of the information collected by these third parties or the privacy practices of these third parties or the content on any third-party website. You are encouraged to review the privacy policies of the different websites you visit and of the advertisers whose ads you may choose to click while on our Sites.

D. Information Collected by Third-Party Analytics Services.

We may work with third-party analytics services to help us understand how the Sites are being used, such as tracking the frequency and duration of use of the Sites. We may use Adobe Analytics and Google Analytics, and web analytics services provided by Adobe and Google (“Analytics Tools”) to collect information about your use of the Sites. These Analytics Tools may use cookies to collect information about the content you view, what websites you visit immediately prior to and after visiting the Sites, and your system information and geographic information. The information generated by these cookies about your use of the Sites will be transmitted to and stored by the applicable analytics services. The information collected by these analytics services allows us to analyze your use of the Sites. The Analytics Tools may also transfer this information to third parties where required to do so by law, or where such third parties process the information on their behalf. You may refuse the use of cookies by selecting the appropriate settings on your browser, however, please note that if you do this you may not be able to use the full functionality of the Sites. If you cancel your Vertical Flight Society membership or withdraw your consent for the processing of personal information, VFS will not be able to access the personal
information processed by third-party analytics. By using the Sites, you consent to the processing of data about you by Adobe and Google in the manner and for the purposes set forth above. You can opt-out of Google Analytics by installing Google’s opt-out browser add-on, and out of interest-based Google ads using Google’s Ads Settings.

E. Information You Provide to Payment Processors.

All payments made to the Vertical Flight Society are processed by a PCI-DSS compliant (these are payment card industry data security standards) payment processing service engaged by VFS. All information collected by these third-party providers for purposes of processing your payments is not available to us, unless you have otherwise provided this information to us in connection with your use of the Sites or our products and services.

F. Personal Information Provided by Third Parties.

We may receive personal information about individuals from third parties. Our third-party partners may also share your personal information with VFS when you sign up for events, training courses or other activities through the applicable partner.

Use, Sharing and Retention of Personal Information

A. How We Use Your Information.

The Vertical Flight Society uses personal information for the purposes described at the time of collection, to provide membership benefits and other services to you, including order processing or membership applications, or registering you for events, and to otherwise process your requests or address your inquiries, and to report to others about whether you are a member or not. VFS also uses your information, as permitted by law, to provide you with information about VFS, our products and services or other products and services in which we believe you may be interested. If you are a member or registered user, we may email you about products and services that we believe may be of interest to you. If you wish to opt-out of receiving these emails from us, please follow the instructions contained in an applicable email you receive from us, which will allow you to opt-out of receiving these types of email communications from us. We may also use your personal information to tailor your experience at our Sites, to compile and display content and information that we think you might be interested in, and to provide you with content according to these preferences. VFS may also use this information to help us understand our members’ needs and interests, to better tailor our products and services to meet your needs.

B. How We Share Your Information with Third Parties.

Except as set forth in this Privacy Policy or when specifically agreed to by you, we will not disclose personal information we gather from you to third parties unless VFS is required to share this information to complete your request or for legitimate business purposes. VFS shares personal information in the following circumstances:
Third-Party Service Providers. We may share your information with vendors or third parties who deliver or provide goods and services or otherwise act on behalf of or at the direction of VFS. These third parties may include, for example, our third-party technology providers and event providers and partners, product-fulfilment companies, and third-party event hosts, hotels for conference registrants, sponsors, co-sponsors and exhibitors. These third-party service providers will only have access to the information needed to perform these limited functions on our behalf. If you do not wish to have your information included in an attendee list or to receive information from sponsors, co-sponsors and/or exhibitors, you can express your preferences when you register for events or you may contact the Society directly at webmaster@vtol.org.

VFS Events. If you are an event attendee, speaker, or sponsor, certain items of your information may be included in the event roster, which will be publicly disclosed, and may also be shared with third-party event sponsors and exhibitors. Further, by registering and attending a VFS event, you agree irrevocably, with no compensation to you, that VFS or any third party who is acting on VFS’s behalf may create images, videos and/or sound recordings of you (“works”) at the event for marketing purposes. This grant of rights in the works also includes the rights to adapt, reproduce, distribute, perform, make available to the public, broadcast, retransmit or sublicense the works to VFS’s affiliates. This grant of rights in the works also includes all current and future media and is not restricted to time or territory.

Partner Events. We may share your information with partner organizations in the event of a sponsored or co-sponsored conference, meeting, short course or similar event. These partner organizations will only have access to the information needed to perform these limited functions on our behalf for these sponsored/cosponsored events.

Response to Subpoenas, Court Orders, Government Requests or to Protect Rights and to Comply with Our Policies. To the extent permitted by law, we will disclose your information to government authorities or third parties if: (a) required to do so by law or regulation, or in response to a subpoena or court order or any other enforceable governmental request or order; (b) we believe in our sole discretion that disclosure is reasonably necessary to protect against fraud, to protect the property or other rights of us or other users, third parties or the public at large; or (c) we believe that you have abused the Sites by using them to attack other systems or to gain unauthorized access to any other system, to engage in spamming or otherwise to violate applicable laws. You should be aware that, following disclosure to any third party, your information might be accessible by others to the extent permitted or required by applicable law.

C. Information for Individuals Located in the European Union.

Legal Basis for the Processing of Personal Information from European Union (EU) Residents and Citizens

If you reside within or are a citizen of the EU, our processing of your personal information will be legitimized as follows:
(i) Whenever we require your consent for the processing of your personal information, such processing will be justified pursuant to Article 6(1) lit. (a) of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 ("GDPR"). This article in the GDPR describes when processing can be done lawfully.

(ii) If the processing of your personal data is necessary for the performance of a contract between you and the Vertical Flight Society or for taking any pre-contractual steps upon your request, such processing will be based on GDPR Article 6(1) lit. (b). If this data is not processed, VFS may not be able to execute the contract with you.

(iii) Where the processing is necessary for us to comply with a legal obligation, we will process your information on basis of GDPR Article 6(1) lit. (c), for example complying in the fields of employment law.

(iv) And where the processing is necessary for the purposes of VFS’s legitimate interests, such processing will be made in accordance with GDPR Article 6(1) lit. (f), for example to detect fraud.

**Transferring Personal Data from the EU to the United States of America (US):**

The Vertical Flight Society is headquartered in the United States. Information we collect from you will be processed in the US.

The US has not sought nor received a finding of “adequacy” from the European Union under Article 45 of the GDPR. A finding of “adequacy” in short means that the European Commission has decided that this country outside the EU ensures an adequate level of data protection. VFS relies on derogations as set forth in Article 49 of the GDPR as the United States has no “adequacy” decision and no other safeguards under the GDPR are in place (for example binding corporate rules on the transfer outside the EU).

In particular, VFS collects and transfers to the US personal data only: with your explicit consent; to perform a contract with you; in a manner that does not outweigh your rights and freedoms. If this data is not processed and transferred, VFS will not be able to execute the contract with you or you will not have access to any or all of the benefits and features associated with your transaction. VFS endeavors to apply suitable safeguards to protect the privacy and security of your personal data and to use it only consistent with your relationship with VFS and the practices described in this Privacy Policy. VFS also minimizes the risk to your rights and freedoms by not collecting or storing sensitive information about you.

**European Union Data Subject Rights**

The EU GDPR and other countries’ privacy laws provide certain rights for data subjects (these are persons that can be identified).

This Privacy Policy is intended to provide you with information about what personal data VFS collects about you and how it is used.
If you wish to confirm that VFS is processing your personal data, or to have access to the personal data VFS may have about you, or have other questions, please contact us at webmaster@vtol.org.

You may also request information about the purpose of the processing; the categories of personal data concerned; who else outside VFS might have received the data from VFS; what the source of the information was (if you did not provide it directly to VFS); where the personal data is stored and how long it will be stored. You have a right to correct (rectify) the record of your personal data maintained by VFS if it is inaccurate. You may request that VFS erase that data or cease processing it, subject to certain exceptions. You may also ask VFS for your personal data to be supplemented or updated, or for their transformation into anonymous format or to block any data held in violation of the law, as well as to oppose their treatment for any and all legitimate reasons. You may withdraw your consent for the processing of personal data or the further processing of personal data by VFS at any time. You may also request that VFS cease using your data for direct marketing purposes. In many countries (including EU countries), you have a right to lodge a complaint with the appropriate data protection authority if you have concerns about how VFS processes your personal data. When technically feasible, VFS will — at your request — provide your personal data to you or transmit it directly to another controller. You have the right to receive your personal information in a structured and standard format.

In addition to the information contained in this Privacy Policy, you may be provided with additional and contextual information concerning particular services or the collection and processing of your personal data upon request.

Reasonable access to your personal data will be provided at no cost to VFS members, conference attendees and others upon request made to VFS at webmaster@vtol.org. If access cannot be provided within a reasonable timeframe, VFS will provide you with a date when the information will be provided. If for some reason access is denied, VFS will provide an explanation as to why access has been denied.

D. Security of Your Information.

VFS uses reasonable physical, technical and administrative measures to safeguard personal information you provide through the Sites or in connection with VFS’s products and services. Please be aware that no data transmission over the Internet can be guaranteed to be 100% secure. As a result, VFS cannot guarantee or warrant the security of any information you transmit on or through the Sites and you do so at your own risk.

E. Data Storage and Retention.

Your personal data is stored by VFS on its servers, and on the servers of the database management services VFS engages, located in the United States. VFS retains data for the duration of the customer’s or member’s business relationship with VFS and otherwise as required under applicable law. Personal data will be kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which your personal data are processed. We will retain your personal data as long as you are a Society member or require our services so that we can provide these services to you.
If you are located in or a citizen of the EU, at the moment you withdraw your consent for the processing of your personal information, all your personal data received and stored can be erased if requested, unless we are required to retain this personal data by law or to comply with our regulatory obligations. In such a case, we will only keep this personal data for as long as necessary. For more information on where and how long your personal data is stored, and for more information on your rights of erasure and portability, please contact webmaster@vtol.org.

Children.

VFS is a professional membership association and the Sites are not directed to children under the age of 13. VFS does not knowingly collect personally identifiable data from persons under the age of 13, in compliance with The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). If you are a parent or guardian of a child under 13, and you believe that your child has provided us with information about him or herself, please contact us at webmaster@vtol.org.

Modifications to this Privacy Policy.

From time to time, VFS may need to update or modify this Privacy Policy, to reflect changes in our business practices, data collection practices or organization. We reserve the right to amend this Privacy Policy at any time, for any reason, without sending the Privacy Policy to you, other than the posting of the amended Privacy Policy on the Sites, or, if you have provided your email address to us, sending you an email notifying you of the amended Privacy Policy. It is strongly recommended to check the Sites often, referring to the date of the last modification listed at the top. We will in any case not reduce your rights under this Privacy Policy without your explicit and informed consent. If you do not agree to the changes, you should discontinue your use of the Sites, and cease providing personal information to us, prior to the time the modified Privacy Policy takes effect. If you continue using the Sites or provide personal information after the modified Privacy Policy takes effect, you will be bound by the modified Privacy Policy.

Questions, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any questions or concerns about this Privacy Policy, please contact us at webmaster@vtol.org.