

Safety recommendation no. 488

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Safety deficit	On 26 April 2012 a Piper Cheyenne IIIA aircraft, registration D-IOSD, wanted to approach Buochs aerodrome after a flight from Germany. The pilot erroneously flew past Buochs aerodrome and descended south of it in the direction of Alpnach military aerodrome. On the incorrect assumption that it was Buochs aerodrome, the pilot made an approach on Alpnach runway 01. When the mistake became obvious, the pilot initiated a go-around, in the course of which a near-collision occurred with a formation consisting of two AS332 "Super Puma" Swiss Air Force helicopters which were on approach to their Alpnach base.
	As the investigation indicated, aerodrome control at Buochs and Alpnach had no radar data available relating to the flight path of the approaching aircraft. However, skyguide's radar systems were able to monitor the flight path of D-IOSD continuously as far as approximately 2 NM south south-west of Alpnach aerodrome at an altitude of 3500ft QNH.
	The serious incident could very probably have been avoided from the outset, if Buochs and Alpnach aerodrome control centers had had this data available.
Safety recommendation	The Federal Office of Civil Aviation, together with the Swiss Air Force and skyguide air navigation services, should ensure that air traffic controllers on regional and military airfields have at their disposal at least the radar data already in existence in the skyguide systems, in order to improve the overview of traffic in the environs of the aerodrome.
Addressees	BAZL Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt
Stage of the implementation	Not implemented. However, skyguide has stated the following: "Since the serious incident, further technical developments have already taken place on several regional and military aerodromes. In addition, fairly major technical retrofits are scheduled, so eventually an improved radar display will be available to all regional and military air traffic control units which fall within the area of responsibility of skyguide or the Air Force."
Investigation report concerning the safety recommendation	Schlussbericht