



## Safety Brief #110 Tower will call the 'Turn to Base' (1/28/2025)

**Subject:** Metro Tower will instruct you when to turn the base leg.

As you may have noticed recently, Metro Tower has been telling you "Tower will call your base turn". This is a new mandate placed on KBJC Tower. Tower personnel will instruct all aircraft coming in for landing when to turn base (on either runway).

The FAA continues to prioritize safety and operations at airports with multiple runways. Specifically, they are focusing on 'face to face' turns on adjacent base legs for parallel runways. We have seen and used previous methods like, 'base turn on 30L must be inside Wadsworth' and '30R downwind traffic extend 1 mile', etc. This new procedure is the next step in determining the best method for safety.

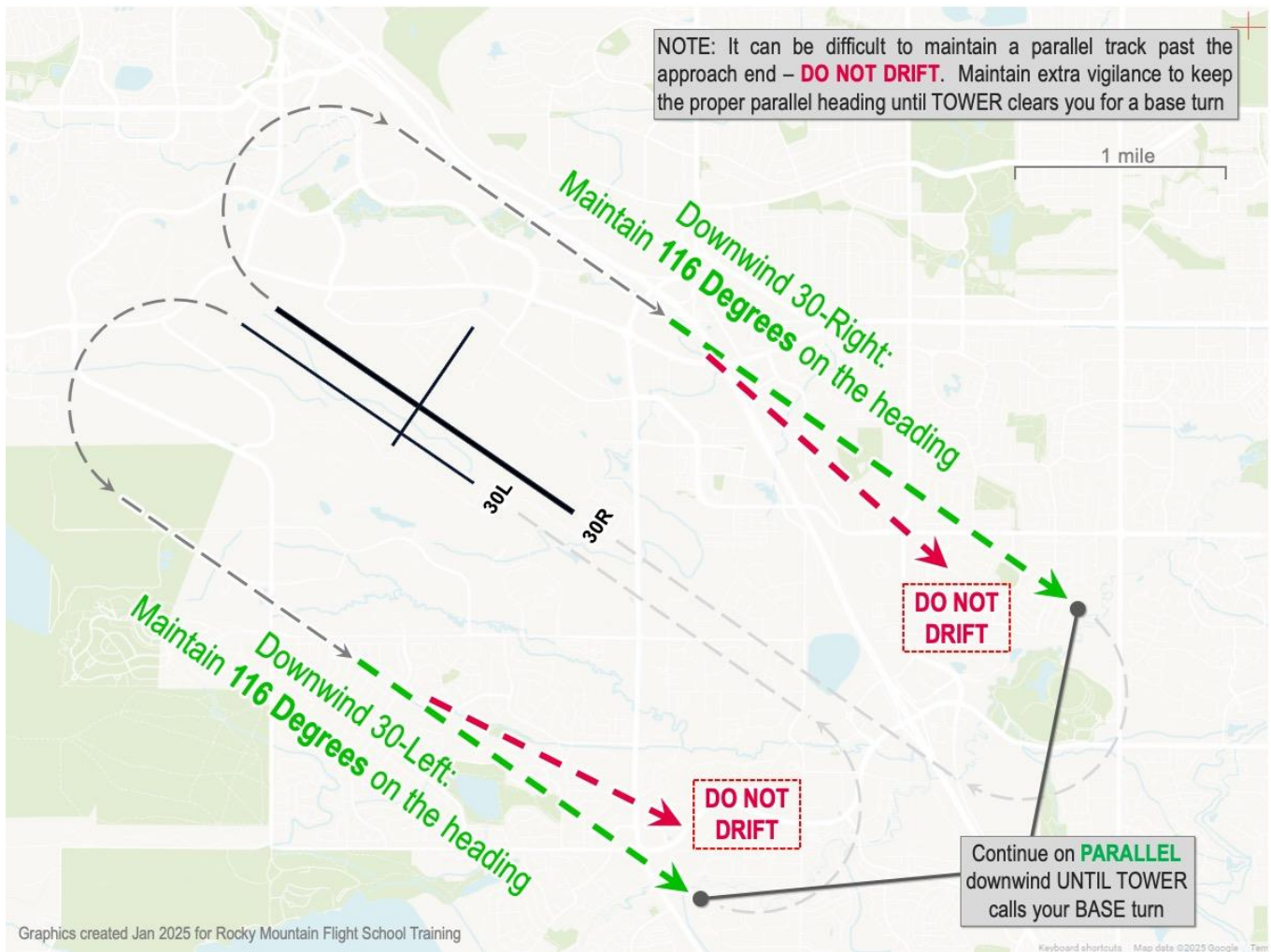
Although phraseology has its standards, there may be several variants of the instruction. Please be on the lookout for these phrases that Metro Tower may use:

- "Cessna 1234 tower will call your base turn"
- "Cessna 1234 tower will call your base"
- "Cessna 1234 tower calls base turn"
- "Cessna 1234 tower calls base"

These all have the same meaning: "Do not turn base until tower clears you to do so". Then when cleared to turn base, initiate the turn as soon as practicable (do not delay...you should have been ready to go), and readback the clearance.

**Caution:** As you continue downwind waiting for the call to turn base, be sure that you are tracking properly. Do not drift closer to the runway extended centerline (see below). A few techniques to prevent drift: pick a point in the distance as a visual reference; or use your directional gyro to stay on the proper heading; or look outside and behind you to ensure proper distance from the runway; etc.

**Caution:** Tower calling your base turn may change your typical pattern shape and what you are used to. In particular, you will need to adapt your descent profile (where to begin your start of descent) if you are used to 'I always start my turn and descent by that red building...?'



Graphics created Jan 2025 for Rocky Mountain Flight School Training

Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2025 Google Terms

(credit director of art: Justin Sen)

KBJC has implemented this and will continue to use it for at least the next 5 weeks.

As always, feel free to reach out to any of our instructors for additional help or insight as needed.

(link to all Safety Briefings: <https://www.mattbeyer.com/safety/>)

Thanks,  
 Matt Beyer  
 Rocky Mountain Flight School  
 Director of Safety  
 303-517-7086  
[Matt.beyer@comcast.net](mailto:Matt.beyer@comcast.net)  
[www.mattbeyer.com](http://www.mattbeyer.com)