FIELD EXERCISE OVERVIEW

Course  Single Engine Air Tanker Manager, S-273

Unit    10E (Optional) – Airport Field Trip

Time    4 hours

Objectives

1. Gather and evaluate data obtained from Aviation Dispatcher, Fire Management Officer (FMO), and Fixed Wing Base Operator (FBO)/Airport Manager through an interview process.

2. Use data and information gained from interviews and airport inspection fact-finding trip to design a SEAT base ramp and operating area.

3. Assemble information and data to establish a written SEAT base operating plan with an emphasis on meeting logistical and personnel needs.

4. Estimate capabilities and limitations of the given airport for SEAT operations.

Strategy

Reflect the flow of the course content (modules and units) allowing students to apply what they have learned in the classroom through role playing, and inspecting airport facilities. Use as much of the existing course exercises and field trip outline as possible.

Instructional Method(s)

• Facilitation and informal lecture
• Group exercises
• Individual exercises
• Field trip

Instructional Aids

□ SEAT Manager Kit
□ Operational SEAT base
□ Role players for Aviation Dispatcher, FMO, and FBO/Airport Manager.
□ Suitable airport/airstrip site
Exercise(s)
- Design revised exercises based on existing field exercises.

Evaluation Method(s)
- Review and discuss group exercises.

Outline
Field trip outline will follow the flow of the course content allowing students to apply what they have learned in the classroom through role playing.
FIELD EXERCISE
Airport Field Trip

The main emphasis of this exercise is that it takes place in a “field environment” where the students get to see and walk around an airport/airstrip. They will be able to estimate ramp size, water source availability, parking, etc., and formulate a SEAT base design and operating plan with this “on the ground” knowledge.

The students will also gather information through interviews from a simulated Aviation Dispatcher, Fire Management Officer (FMO), Fix Wing Base Operator (FBO)/Airport Manager, and to help them determine how to set up their base.

The lead or unit instructor will need to schedule a time for the exercise. The course coordinator will need to have selected a site in advance for the exercise. All clearances and airport coordination will need to be arranged in advance. Ensure that scheduled transportation to the field trip site is set up on the designated day.

Three of the cadre members or other knowledgeable personnel will need to perform the roles of an Aviation Dispatcher, (FMO), and FBO/Airport Manager during the field trip.

Role players will need to prepare for these roles in advance and will need to stay on script as much as possible so that the students all get the same information. Always keep in mind the students are there to learn; do not try to make answers too complex or misleading in any way. The students need solid information to be successful with their presentations. Use the checklist for each group to track student thoroughness during the interviews.

Due to the fact that there are three “interview” stations, and that the information gained at these will influence the student’s base setup plans, have the students perform their interviews before inspecting the airport facilities.
NOTES

10E.4
This unit is intended to guide the instructor cadre in the field trip process and not for actual instructional purposes.

The instructor will ensure that:

- A suitable airport/airstrip has been contacted, and any clearances needed to be there are obtained during the exercise timeframe.

- Three cadre members will play the roles of an Aviation Dispatcher, FMO, and FBO/Airport Manager.

- Set up three stations at the field trip site. Time sequence for each station should be about 20 minutes; then have students switch to the next station. Each group needs to go through each station.

- Then have all groups tour and survey the site given to them as where to set up a SEAT base. Give group 45 minutes – 1 hour depending on time constraints.

I. GENERAL AIRPORT RAMP AREA TO BE USED FOR THE EXERCISE

Students will:

- Determine the area they have to work with, establish aircraft parking, loading, traffic flow, fueling, and wash down area.

- Establish retardant storage, support truck parking, water source, access and egress, and general vehicle parking areas.

- Address other logistical and operational concerns with a given set of circumstances.

- Prepare a base operating plan. Draw up a base map with expansion and overflow contingency.

- Give presentation to the class using the base operating plan and map.
II. INTERVIEW THE AVIATION DISPATCHER STATION

The cadre member chosen for this station will role play the position of an Aviation Dispatcher. Students need to record the questions that they ask the Aviation Dispatcher, and the answers.

- Flight following procedures
- Frequencies and repeaters
- Method of dispatching
- Aerial hazard maps
- Administrative codes
- Logistical support
- General operating hours
- Procedures for meals
- Aircraft rotation
- How they get their daily briefing materials
- Crash rescue protocol
- Other topics
III. INTERVIEW THE FMO STATION

The cadre member chosen for this station will role play the position of an FMO. Students need to record the questions that they ask the FMO, and the answers.

Fire management related questions:

- Points of contact for dispatch and local fire manager
- Who is your immediate supervisor?
- Briefing on areas of ecological concerns
- Maps of area
- Operational plans
- Briefing packet
- Daily routines
- SEAT base operations expectations
- Fire danger and fire behavior
- Status of local fires
- Weather, current and expected
- Current aviation resources assigned
- Where will the SEAT be operating out of?
- Priorities
- Jettison area
- HazMat protocol
- Any agreements in place for designated base operations
- Other topics
IV. INTERVIEW THE FBO/AIRPORT MANAGER STATION

The cadre member chosen for this station will role play the position of an FBO/Airport Manager. Students need to record the questions that they ask the FBO/Airport Manager, and the answers.

- Airport information
- Runway length and weight limits
- Unicom frequencies
- Points of contact for the airport
- General operating hours
- Types of fuel available
- After-hours fueling contacts
- Agreements in place
- Airport security
- Airport access
- Airport fees
- Allow hot fueling on airport premises
- Washdown areas
- Tiedown availability
- Facilities available to the SEAT operations (restrooms, pilot lounge, etc.)
- Ramp extension availability
- Crash rescue procedures for an accident on an airport
- Has there been a SEAT base operation here before?
- Water availability
- Concerns for impact on general aviation
- HazMat protocol
Allow for a classroom discussion at the end of the field trip to discuss what questions the groups asked the Aviation Dispatcher, FMO, and FBO/Airport Manager. Each group will present and draw out their ramp/operations plan and explain how they would solve logistical and personnel needs. They should have started a written SEAT Base Operating Plan (SEAT Plan-001), and a supply needs list with the information gained through this exercise.
AIRPORT FIELD TRIP
EXERCISE CHECKLIST

The Aviation Dispatcher interview station

☐ Flight following procedures
☐ Frequencies and repeaters
☐ Method of dispatching
☐ Aerial hazard maps
☐ Administrative codes
☐ Logistical support
☐ General operating hours
☐ Procedures for meals
☐ Aircraft rotation
☐ How they get their daily briefing materials?
☐ Crash rescue protocol
☐ Other topics
Interview the FMO station

Dispatch related questions:
- Flight following procedures
- Frequencies and repeaters
- Method of dispatching
- Aerial hazard maps
- Administrative codes
- Logistical support
- General operating hours
- Procedures for meals
- Aircraft rotation
- How they get their daily briefing materials?
- Crash rescue protocol
- Other topics

Fire Management related questions:
- Points of contact for dispatch and local fire manager
- Who is your immediate supervisor?
- Briefing on areas of ecological concerns
- Maps of area
- Operational plans
- Briefing packet
- Daily routines
- SEAT base operations expectations
- Fire danger and fire behavior
- Status of local fires
- Weather, current and expected
- Current aviation resources assigned
- Where will the SEAT be operating out of?
- Priorities
- Jettison area
- HazMat protocol
- Any agreements in place for designated base operations
- Other topics
Interview the FBO/Airport Manager station

- Airport information
- Runway length and weight limits
- Unicom frequencies
- Points of contact for the airport
- General operating hours
- Types of fuel available
- After-hours fueling contacts
- Agreements in place
- Airport security
- Airport access
- Airport fees
- Allow hot fueling on airport premises
- Washdown areas
- Tiedown availability
- Facilities available to the SEAT operations (restrooms, pilot lounge, etc.)
- Ramp extension availability
- Crash rescue procedures for an accident on an airport
- Has there been a SEAT base operation here before?
- Water availability
- Concerns for impact on general aviation
- HazMat protocol