

ASSIST IN PLANNING AND PERFORMING A ROUTE SEARCH

CONDITIONS

You are a Mission Observer trainee and must assist a Mission Pilot in planning and performing a route search.

OBJECTIVES

Assist a Mission Pilot in planning and performing a route search.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. As a Mission Observer trainee, the ability to assist the Mission Pilot in planning and performing a route search pattern is essential. The observer learns to plan the search pattern in order to better assist the mission pilot and to more effectively direct scanners.
2. General. Because of the accuracy and reliability of the present Global Positioning System and GPS receivers, CAP aircrews are now able to navigate and fly search patterns with unprecedented effectiveness and ease. The GPS has become the primary instrument for CAP air missions, and it is vital that observers know how to setup and use the GPS. However, observers must also be familiar with the other navigational instruments onboard CAP aircraft: these instruments complement the GPS and serve as backups in case of GPS receiver problems.

The observer (as mission commander) must be aware of how many scanners will be on board in order to assign which side of the aircraft they should scan. *Planning and executing a search pattern with only one scanner on board is quite different from one where you have two scanners.* Likewise, having an observer and two scanners on board will allow the observer to spend more time assisting the pilot without seriously decreasing search effectiveness.

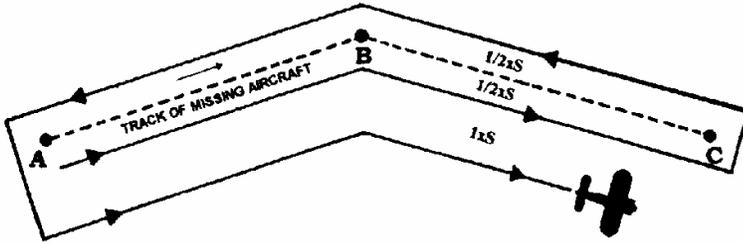
When you are planning and flying search patterns, always perform a *stupid check* -- as in "Hey! Wait a minute. This is stupid." Use this to see if your headings, waypoint positions, lat/long coordinates and distances look sensible. At a minimum, perform this check after you finish planning, when you start your pattern, and periodically thereafter. For example, you've just entered a set of lat/long coordinates into the GPS and turned to the heading shown on the GPS. You know the coordinates represent a lake southwest of your position, so check the heading indicator to see you're actually traveling in a southwesterly direction. Or, you know the lake is approximately 25 miles away; check the distance indicated on the GPS! You'd be surprised how many mistakes this method will catch.

Pre-planning (plotting) your search pattern results in the most effective search. Pre-planning sets the details of the sortie in your mind and makes entering your data (correctly) into the GPS much easier. This allows the pilot and observer to concentrate on their primary task by minimizing navaid setup time and reducing confusion. Worksheets can be used (see the *Flight Guide*, MART Attachment 2) to pre-plan your search patterns, but they are just one method.

3. Route search pattern. The route (track line) search pattern is normally used when an aircraft has disappeared without a trace. This search pattern is based on the assumption that the missing aircraft has crashed or made a forced landing on or near its intended track (route). It is assumed that detection may be aided by survivor signals or by electronic means. The track line pattern is also used for night searches (in suitable

weather). A search aircraft using the track line pattern flies a rapid and reasonably thorough coverage on either side of the missing aircraft's intended track.

4. Search altitude for the track line pattern usually ranges from 1000 feet above ground level (AGL) to 2000 feet AGL for day searches, while night searches range 2000 to 3000 feet AGL (either depending upon light conditions and visibility). Lat/long coordinates for turns are determined and then entered into the GPS as waypoints, which may then be compiled into a flight plan.



The search crew begins by flying parallel to the missing aircraft's intended course line, using the track spacing (labeled "S") determined by the incident commander or planning section chief. On the first pass, recommended spacing may be one-half that to be flown on successive passes. Flying one-half "S" track spacing in the area where the search objective is most likely to be found can increase search coverage.

5. You may use a worksheet to draw the route and to log coordinates and distinctive features. As a backup, note applicable VOR radials and cross-radials. The GX55 has a function called "parallel track offset" that is very handy for route searches. This function allows you to create a parallel course that is offset to the left or right (up to 20 nm) of your current flight plan. This function can also be useful on when you wish to search a 'corridor' of airspace.

Additional Information

Search patterns are covered in tasks O-2109 thru O-2115 and may be combined in any fashion. More detailed information and figures on this topic are available in Chapter 11 of the MART.

Practice

Setup: Give the student a route search to plan and perform. The student should have a sectional chart, plotter, and worksheets as needed. A qualified Mission Pilot should be available to assist the trainee.

A search target should be positioned in the search area, if possible.

Brief the pilot. The pilot should fly the route over a sufficient length (out and back) to allow the student time to demonstrate proficiency in all aspects of the search. Search altitude, airspeed and track spacing should be selected to match terrain and conditions: 1,000' to 2,000' AGL, 100 knots, and one mile track spacing is recommended.

Depending on the level of proficiency of the student, one or more of these tasks may be practiced simultaneously:

Planning. All mission sorties must be thoroughly planned: this ensures the pilot and crew can accomplish the sortie objectives safely and precisely. Treat each sortie as if it were an actual mission. Each time the student practices a sortie all required paperwork should be completed as part of the drill. The student should sign herself into the mission, ensure that the pilot signs in the aircraft, receive her assignment from you (the briefing

officer), plan the sortie, and assist the pilot in completing the flight plan and preliminary mission data portions of the CAPF 104.

The pilot should review the weight and balance, fuel assumptions, and information entered onto the CAPF 104 with the student.

Preflight and pilot briefings. Ensure the student receives pilot safety and mission briefings from the pilot. The student will perform safety assignments as directed (e.g., collision avoidance during taxi and in flight).

Equipment. To the extent possible, the student should operate the communications and navigation equipment. The student should set up and enter information into the equipment (especially the GPS) prior to taxi. [Where necessary for training, the trainer should assist the student in setting up navigation equipment (particularly the GPS) in flight.]

Initial training. Depending on the proficiency and skills of the student, the trainer may need to demonstrate all aspects of a route search. This gives the student time to absorb the information and work on such skills as setting up, entering data, and using the navigational equipment.

For each practice sortie, watch for:

- 1) Proper setup and use of the navigational equipment, particularly the GPS. Ensure that the student does not change any navigational or communications equipment setting without the knowledge of the PIC.
- 2) Proper ATC and CAP FM communications technique and terminology. Initially, have the student tell the pilot and/or trainer what she intends to say *before* she transmits.
- 3) Proper and attentive collision avoidance practices during the critical phases of flight.
- 4) Safety. The student should spend most of her time looking outside the aircraft (see and avoid) when enroute to the search area, and most of her time acting as a scanner while in the search area. Initially, the student will spend too much time with her eyes inside the aircraft (e.g., manipulating the GPS) until she is comfortable and proficient with the equipment. Get the student into the habit of *not looking inside the aircraft for more than five seconds at a time* to manipulate communications and navigational equipment.
- 5) Accurate situational awareness at all times.

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: Give the student a route search to plan and perform. The student should have a sectional chart, plotter, and worksheets as needed. A qualified Mission Pilot should be available to assist the trainee during the planning and flying stages.

A search target should be positioned in the search area, if possible.

Brief the pilot. The pilot should fly the pattern long enough to allow the student time to demonstrate proficiency in all aspects of the search. Search altitude, airspeed and track spacing should be selected to match terrain and conditions: 1,000' to 2,000' AGL, 100 knots, and one mile track spacing is recommended.

Run the sortie as it would be during an actual mission. Have the student sign in, sign in the aircraft, and complete all required paperwork. Brief the sortie as if you were the Briefing Officer during a mission.

Brief Student: You are a Mission Observer trainee asked to assist a Mission Pilot in planning and performing a route search.

Evaluation

<u>Performance measures</u>	<u>Results</u>	
1. Sign into the mission.	P	F
2. Receive a sortie briefing, asking questions as necessary.	P	F
3. Assist in planning a route search from Point A to B and back. Include:		
a. Position coordinates for the route (lat/long and VOR radials/cross-radials).	P	F
b. Altitude restrictions, obstacles and other hazards (e.g., MTRs and SUAs).	P	F
c. Scanner assignments (discuss as necessary).	P	F
4. Assist in filling out the flight plan and preliminary mission data on the CAPF 104.	P	F
5. Receive pilot safety and mission briefings, asking questions as necessary.	P	F
6. Demonstrate and discuss safety during each critical phase of the flight. In particular, demonstrate collision avoidance and enforce sterile cockpit rules.	P	F
7. Demonstrate proper ATC communications, as applicable.	P	F
8. Setup the CAP FM radio and perform all required radio reports (may be simulated).	P	F
9. Assist in a route search. Demonstrate:		
a. Proper use of nav aids (GPS as primary; VOR as backup).	P	F
b. Proper use of radios (ATC as required, and CAP FM radio reports).	P	F
c. Proper scanner assignment (may be simulated).	P	F
d. Ability to spot the search target (if applicable).	P	F
10. Ensure the aircraft is secured at the end of the sortie (ready for next sortie).	P	F
11. Assist in filling out the remainder of the CAPF 104 and debrief the sortie.	P	F

Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.