

DISCUSS MISSION OBSERVER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CONDITIONS

You are a Mission Observer trainee and must discuss observer duties and responsibilities.

OBJECTIVES

Discuss Observer duties and responsibilities.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. As a Mission Observer trainee, understanding your duties and responsibilities is essential. The mission observer has a key role in CAP missions, and has expanded duties that mainly pertain to assisting the mission pilot. This assistance may be in the planning phase, handling radio communications, assisting in navigation, and crew management (i.e., mission commander). The proficient observer makes it possible for the pilot to perform his duties with a greater degree of accuracy and safety by assuming these aspects of the workload.
2. The Observer's primary role while actually in a search area is that of scanner.
3. General duties and responsibilities include:
 - a. Depending on conditions, you may report with the mission pilot for briefing. Wear appropriate clothes for a mission.
 - b. Assist in planning the mission. The observer may act as mission commander for the sortie.
 - c. Assist in avoiding collisions and obstacles during taxiing.
 - d. Assist in setting up and operating aircraft and CAP radios.
 - e. Assist in setting up and operating aircraft navigational equipment (e.g., VORs and GPS).
 - f. Assist enforcing the sterile cockpit rules.
 - g. Maintain situational awareness at all times.
 - h. Assist in monitoring fuel status.
 - i. Monitor the electronic search devices aboard the aircraft and advise the pilot when making course corrections in response to ELT signals.
 - j. Keep mission base and/or high bird appraised of status.
 - k. Coordinate scanner assignments and ensure proper breaks for the scanners (including yourself). Monitor crew for fatigue and dehydration (ensure the crew drinks plenty of fluids).
 - l. Maintain a chronological flight log of all observations of note, including precise locations, sketches and any other noteworthy information.
 - m. Depending on conditions, report with the mission pilot for debriefing immediately upon return to mission base. The applicable portions on the reverse of CAPF 104 should be completed prior to debrief.
 - n. Keep track of assigned supplies and equipment.
4. Once team members have been briefed on the mission and accomplished the necessary planning, observers determine that all necessary equipment is aboard the airplane. Checklists help ensure that all essential equipment is included, and vary according to geographic location, climate, and terrain of the search area. Items on the observer's checklist should include CAP membership and specialty qualification cards, current charts and maps of the search area, flashlights, notebook and pencils, binoculars, and survival gear (prohibited items, such as firearms, should be listed too, to ensure none is included). A camera may be included to assist in describing the location and condition of the search objective or survivors. Unnecessary items or personal belongings

should be left behind. The mission observer also assists the pilot in ensuring that all equipment aboard the search aircraft is properly stowed. An unsecured item can injure the crew or damage the aircraft in turbulence.

5. Once airborne, the observer provides navigation and communication assistance, allowing the pilot to precisely fly the aircraft with a greater degree of safety. The observer also assists in enforcing "sterile cockpit" rules when necessary. In flight, particularly the transit phase, the observer maintains situational awareness in order to help ensure crew safety.
6. The mission observer divides and assigns scanning responsibilities during her mission observer briefing, and ensures each scanner performs their assigned duty during flight. She monitors the duration of scanner activity, and enables the scanners to rest in order to minimize fatigue.
7. Observer Log. The observer must become proficient in using an in-flight navigational log. A complete chronological log should be maintained from take-off until landing, and should include all events and sightings. Skill in maintaining the log requires training and experience. Remember, *proficiency and confidence are gained through practice and application*. It is important to log the geographical location of the search aircraft at the time of all events and sightings (as a habit, always log the Hobbs time each time you make a report or record an event or sighting). This information is the basis of CAP Form 104, which is passed back to the incident commander and general staff after the debriefing and becomes a part of the total information that is the basis for his subsequent actions and reports. Good logs give the staff a better picture of how the mission is progressing. If sketches or maps are made to compliment a sighting, note this and attach them to the log. The log and all maps and sketches will be attached to the CAPF 104.

Additional Information

More detailed information on this topic is available in CAPR 60-1 and in Chapter 1 of the Mission Aircrew Reference Text (MART).

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: Provide the student with a current copy of CAPR 60-1 and the MART.

Brief Student: You are an Observer trainee asked about your duties and responsibilities, and to discuss the Observer's job and log.

Evaluation

<u>Performance measures</u>	<u>Results</u>
1. State the primary role of the observer, particularly when in the search area.	P F
2. Discuss general duties and responsibilities.	P F
3. Discuss pre-flight duties and responsibilities.	P F
4. Discuss in-flight duties and responsibilities.	P F
5. Discuss post-flight duties and responsibilities.	P F
6. Discuss what should be entered into the observer log.	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.