

HSAC Aerial Observation Ab Initio Training Recommended Practice (RP) #2021-1

Background

HSAC recommends 1500 hours flight experience to perform aerial patrol PIC duties. It is recognized that flight hours alone may not adequately reflect a pilot's qualification to safely perform low altitude aerial patrol PIC duties. In addition, during times of increased hiring by airlines, a "pilot shortage" can develop, this 1500-hour recommendation can hinder hiring, and in cases result in hiring less qualified pilots who meet an hour requirement, but may lack the skill and aeronautical decision making of another candidate who possesses fewer total flight hours. A competency based, ab initio (from the beginning) training program is recommended to prepare and accept qualified pilots with fewer than 1500 flight hours.

Experience and Training Recommendations

- Each operator should develop their own ab initio, competency-based training program for a Patrol Captain/Pilot to be signed off to fly solo with less than 1500 flight hours experience.
- A minimum of 800 flight hours total time at the time of completing the program, of which 500 is as PIC.
- Minimum cross-country flight experience of 400 hours.
- Minimum of 100 flight hours Aerial Patrol Experience, in the patrol environment to be flown, the trainee will act as pilot in command under the supervision (PICUS) of a training captain or designated senior pilot mentor.
- Minimum 100 flight hours in Make and Model of aircraft, and rated in the aircraft.
- Training under supervision of training captain, chief pilot, or another senior pilot designee.
- Training records to be maintained.
- Formal and independent flight check.
- Monitoring and evidence of pilot performance after being released to the line as PIC.
- Increased frequency of recurrent flight / line checks until PIC has obtained a minimum of 1500 hours.

Demonstrated Competencies

Minimum competency training topics should include the competencies of HSAC RP's 2009-1 Pilot/Observer Training and 2010-1 Mountain Patrol in both ground and flight training. Training should be documented with sign-offs at completed stages. In addition to the competencies outlined in the above referenced RP's, core demonstrated competencies should include:

- Basic Airmanship to CPL Performance Standards
- Hazard Awareness Appropriate to the Real-World Flight Environment
- Aptitude to Control Aircraft, Observe, and Report
- Crew Resource Management