

	RECREATION AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SOUTH AFRICA	RAASA Postnet Suite #118 Private Bag X1037 Germiston 1400
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GENERAL

Airshow and Events seminar Report - Safety Officers and Flight Directors - 14-15 Feb

Effective date: 25 February 2014

JOHANNESBURG. – More than 70 delegates and prominent role-players in the aviation fraternity attended the 1st RAASA (Recreation Aviation Administration – South Africa) workshop for 2014. This session focused on the role and functions of Safety Officers and Flight Directors and was held on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th February.

WELL-KNOWN SPEAKERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORKSHOP ON DAY 1:

Major-General Des Barker

Discussed Safety Traps at airshows and reviewed related accidents locally and internationally. General Barker referenced statistical analyses of these accidents and incidents over the past 10 years, highlighting the various causes leading to situations which result in accidents. He emphasised the pressures to which the display pilots are subject from the airshow organisers and the crowd during events.

Capt. John Fobian from the SAPS (South African Police Services) explained the process to follow when registering an intended event with the SAPS and gave an overview of the Sport and Recreational Events Act 2010. He invited organisers to contact the appropriate SAPS branch for assistance and explained the regulatory requirements for the staging of events, with focus on the time lines required.

Tinus de Beer

Tinus represents a company active in risk and disaster management (DMS) and elaborated on Capt. Fobian's presentation on the Sport and Recreations Events Act. He discussed the physical well-being and safety of all the people attending sports' events as well as the safety of their property that must be protected.

Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards –Duxford - United Kingdom

Highly decorated former RAF pilot and respected in military and civilian aviation circles. Rick was invited to share his experiences with airshows in the UK and Europe. Rick explained the structures and administrative arrangements in place by the various authorities, and placed emphasis on the importance of planning events.

Pierre Laubscher discussed the preparation and operational planning of special air events, including time lines and processes.

Neil de Lange spoke on the Legislation applicable to Special Air Events and Aviation Regulations. Neil said that compliance with the different laws is not cumbersome provided the planning is done in advance.

WELL-KNOWN SPEAKERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORKSHOP ON DAY 2:

Rikus Erasmus

The second day of the Workshop was opened by Rikus Erasmus, Chairman of Air Show South Africa who gave an overview of airshows in South Africa. He highlighted the processes of becoming an accredited Safety Officer and Flight Director, as well as the ethics and disciplinary

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processes.

Neil de Lange

RAASA CEO Neil de Lange followed with a short, but in depth look at the responsibilities of Safety Officers and Flight Directors, who reports to whom and who is responsible for the safe operation of displays. He placed focus on the functions of officials at events before, during and after airshows. Neil emphasised the importance to be thorough during the completion of the pre- and post event reports.

Pierre Laubscher

Pierre Laubscher, RAASA Operations' Manager touched on administrative issues, specifically application timelines. Pierre also discussed the paperwork which needs to be submitted and what minimum operational requirements have to be met in terms of the approved Airshow Manual of Procedure to host a Special Air Event Administration, minimum standards, timelines, and minima.

Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards

As special guest speaker, Rick shared his experiences in managing the Duxford Airshow Flying Control Committee and the practical understanding and observation of aviation displays. Rick pointed out that the Flying Control Committee has materially the same function of the Safety Officer in the South African context, but does not rely on a single person for the function. Rick also pointed out that the Flight Director's (FD) function in the UK is the same as in SA and how the FD conducts the pilots' and programme briefing at the Duxford airshow. Colonel Jeff Earle explained the complexity of formation flying displays, high speed stalls, energy management and density altitude. Jeff placed emphasis on the importance of education and training in the formation flying environment for the pilots and safety officers.

Captain Nigel Hopkins talked about the stress and pressure pilots endure at special air events, and the high risks involved. Nigel also discussed aerobatic manoeuvres and how energy is managed positively and negatively. Nigel discussed the changing flight display environment with the new high energy aircraft available for today's airshows.

Charlie Marais

Charlie Marais is an accredited safety officer at Special air events and also an accomplished military and display pilot. Charlie explained the more technical manoeuvres completed by helicopters at Special air events and for what safety officers should look out. Charlie made use of a model helicopter and audiovisual aids to provide examples of the dangers in helicopter displays.

Mike Weingartz

Mike Weingartz is the senior maintenance test pilot from Denel Aviation and experienced Jet Display Pilot. Mike presented an interesting lecture on subjects such as flight safety, definition on aerobatic manoeuvres, physiological effect of G-forces and the AIM of his presentation was: "To Discuss and Relate to the Human Factors encountered in Air Show Displays"

John Gaillard

World Chief Sports' Aerobatic Judge, John Gaillard, explained the "Sistema Aresti" system. The system is an internationally accepted system of judging aerobatic manoeuvres during competitions and many of these are also flown at airshows. Pilots are required to submit a sequence of their display before taking part in an airshow and John made use of an example to explain the different manoeuvres to help those attending the airshow better understand what they are seeing in the air compared with what the pilot is performing.

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Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards

Rick Peacock Edwards gave another very interesting talk on ‘how and when’ planning for a Special Air Event is organised in the UK, specifically referring to the events taking place at Duxford airfield. Rick indicated that three to four events are hosted at Duxford each year attracting between 16 and 24 thousand spectators, the biggest being the Flying Legends’ Airshow. Planning for these events starts one year in advance and there are numerous rules similar to those in South Africa. These are implemented with regards to flying distances and so on. A full briefing of at least one hour is held before the actual show starts.



RAASA is designated and dedicated to serve the recreational flyer!

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