DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR TRAINING
250 LEXINGTON BLVD SUITE 102
CORPUS CHRISTI TX 78419-5041

CNATRAINST 1601.2T
N33
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CNATRA INSTRUCTION 1601.2T

SUBJ: RUNWAY WATCH PERSONNEL POLICY

Ref: (a) NAVFAC P-80 Facility Class 100
(b) NAVAIR 00-80T-104

1. Purpose. To define the Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM) policies guiding operations of runway duty personnel during field-based flight training, specifically the Landing Signal Officer (LSO), Runway Duty Officer (RDO), and Wheels Watch. This instruction has been revised and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. CNATRAINST 1601.2S.

3. Background. Experience demonstrates the importance of runway personnel to monitor training flight operations in the terminal environment. These personnel must be properly qualified and trained to provide timely guidance for their specific area of expertise, to include the prevention of wheels-up landings, in-flight emergency support, and Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP). This instruction sets forth Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) policy for runway watch personnel. It does not establish procedures to comply with the policy. It is the responsibility of Training Air Wing (TRAWING) Commanders to establish those procedures.

4. Responsibilities

a. TRAWING Commanders shall:

(1) Establish procedures for runway watch personnel specific to their home air station, Outlying Field(s) (OLFs), aircraft Type Model Series (T/M/S) and course of instruction.

(2) Liaison with the Air Station Commanding Officer to ensure adequate facilities and equipment are provided as per reference (a). Runway watch personnel shall have adequate facilities and communication devices to perform their required duties. These include, when applicable, shelters, runway wheels-up/wave-off lighting systems, optical landing systems,

and appropriate radios for communication with airborne traffic and Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower personnel.

(3) Establish qualification standards and procedures and designate runway watch personnel.

(4) Ensure that adequate facilities and equipment are provided per reference (a). This shall include two-way communication with aircraft and the ATC tower, as well as one-way communication (wave-off lights, flares, etc.) as applicable.

b. Commanding Officers shall supervise the training of runway watch personnel to meet the specific requirements of their TRAWING.

c. LSO. The primary responsibility of the LSO, as defined in reference (b), is the safe and expeditious recovery of non-V/STOL fixed wing aircraft aboard ship. This guidance is also extended to the execution of FCLP operations.

(1) Minimum LSO qualifications are as per reference (b) and local TRAWING instruction.

(2) The LSO may assume the duties of RDO or Wheels Watch for aircraft under LSO control, as permitted by TRAWING policies.

d. RDO. The RDO shall monitor and assist fixed wing student solo flights in the terminal environment.

(1) Regardless of stage of student training for Primary, Rotary and Maritime, the RDO shall be a qualified Instructor Pilot (IP) who has completed RDO training.

(2) For Intermediate and Advanced Jet Student Naval Aviator (SNA) Training the RDO may be a “soft” winged aviator (syllabus complete) for daytime VFR training. For night operations, the RDO shall be a qualified IP.

(3) Whenever student solo flight operations are in progress, an RDO shall be on station. Airfield Operations to which this applies include all operations at home field and all operations at OLFs.

(4) When established on-station, the RDO may assume any duties of the Wheels Watch.

e. Wheels Watch. The Wheels Watch is utilized in support of primary SNA training and is invaluable in preventing wheels-up landings. The Wheels Watch shall communicate unsafe landing gear position information to the aircraft or ATC tower personnel and wave off aircraft as applicable.

(1) Minimum qualifications: Any SNA.

(2) TRAWING Commanders shall establish policies detailing when and where a Wheels Watch is required.

S. D. JONES
Chief of Staff

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