



Agenda Item 4: Aviation Safety Matters
4.2 Safety Management and Runway Safety

LOCAL RUNWAY SAFETY ACTION TEAM TOOLKIT (LRSAT)

(Presented by United States)

SUMMARY

The establishment of Runway Safety Action Teams (RASTs) to address runway safety issues at aerodromes is an important step in reducing and mitigating the effects of runway incursions and runway excursions. RASTs have proven themselves effective in addressing critical issues facing airports by identifying risks and threats related to runway safety. The RAST which incorporates all users of the airport and all those affected by the threat, plays a critical role in reducing surface safety risk. The United States (U.S.) Runway Safety program has been operational since 2000 and has had a profound effect on reducing the overall impact of runway safety issues. This working paper describes a more focused approach to runway safety in the development of a Local Runway Safety Action Team (LRSAT) toolkit. The history, contents and purpose of the LRSAT toolkit are presented in this information paper.

Strategic Objective	<i>This information paper is related to Strategic Objective: A. SAFETY – ENHANCE GLOBAL CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY</i>
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1. Introduction

1.1 Runway safety teams have proven themselves effective in addressing critical issues facing airports by identifying risks and threats related to runway safety. The runway safety team, which incorporates all users of the airport and all those affected by the threat, plays a critical role in reducing surface safety risk. An aggressive and effective runway safety program in the United States has dramatically reduced the number of serious runway incursions since its inception.

1.2 However, safety is a continuing process and we cannot become complacent as recent data suggest increasing threats. Thus, we need to look at methods to leverage assets, and ways to make the program more effective and more efficient through better use of our local runway safety teams. One of the basic tenets of the runway safety program in the U.S. is that local runway safety teams operate at each towered airport, and that each of them is asked to develop a Runway Safety Action Plan (RSAP) to address the threats and apply appropriate mitigations to improve runway safety. The Local Runway Safety Action Team (LRSAT) toolkit was designed and deployed to standardize runway safety team efforts, and to leverage assets to more effectively address runway safety issues across the country.

2. Discussion

2.1 History and Purpose: In the U.S., the runway safety action plan is a critical evaluation of all pertinent safety risks, and appropriate mitigations. Until recently the RSAP was required to be updated every 24 months. Until 2010, those updates would normally be conducted jointly between the air traffic manager, the airport, and the FAA Regional Runway Safety Program Office (RRSPO), with the RRSPO conducting the majority of the runway safety action teams meetings in their assigned region. In 2010, the FAA, wishing to leverage runway safety assets and increase program effectiveness, changed the operating order to require that runway safety action plans be updated every 12 months. This placed an increasing burden on the staff of the RRSPO offices and led to the identified need to shift some of the responsibility for the RSAP updates directly to local air traffic managers. To standardize the Runway Safety Action Team and Runway Safety Action Plan processes, and to provide effective tools for air traffic managers to use in that effort, the FAA developed the Local Runway Safety Action Team Toolkit (LRSAT). The LRSAT was designed to assist regional and local runway safety teams in standardizing their efforts, and to provide them with the necessary tools and templates to make their work more efficient and more effective.

2.2 LRSAT Elements: The team that developed the LRSAT toolkit was made up of experienced runway safety practitioners from throughout the FAA runway safety program. It evolved from existing best practices and current methodology. This, it represents current best practices of the FAA runway safety action team concept; how runway safety action team meetings are organized and conducted; how runway safety action plans are currently developed. The LRSAT elements available via the web-site listed above include:

- Planning recommendations
- Pre-RSAT activities and requirements
- During the RSAT (conducting a meeting)
- Post-RSAT activities and requirements (including coordinating the runway safety action plan)
- Best practices
- Templates and checklists
- Resources and links

2.3 There are numerous examples of local air traffic managers in the United States using the LRSAT toolkit in the development of effective local runway safety action plans. It has been well received, and quite effective.

2.4 Application and Availability: Following the ICAO Global Runway Safety Symposium, and during subsequent regional runway safety seminars, Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) were encouraged to develop runway safety teams. Much work has been done to that end. However, many have expressed their frustration with the intricacies of starting such an effort from scratch. The Local Runway Safety Action Team Toolkit may help provide the framework by which others can develop similar runway safety team programs. It is based on the U.S. experience and thus international users will have to ignore specific U.S. elements. However, the basic model, and the framework, incorporated with guidance from ICAO documentation (such as Doc 9870 and the ICAO Runway Safety Toolkit) should prove useful to international users wishing to establish runway safety teams.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The establishment of runway safety teams in the United States has been proven to be effective in promoting the positive elements of the runway safety program. Offering runway safety teams a toolkit of resources, best practices, and templates to standardize their efforts and make them more effective, was the logical next step. The United States encourages the C/CAR Member States to consider adoption or implementation of the processes discussed to address the on-going runway safety challenges faced by airports. For those interested in reading more about the LRSAT toolkit, it is available at: http://www.faa.gov/airports/runway_safety/resources/lrsat/.