Flexible Use of Airspace

NAM/CAR/SAM Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil-military Coordination Meeting (SAR MTG)
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 25 to 28 October 2016
Flexible use of airspace (FUA) is an airspace management concept based on the principle that airspace should not be designated as purely civil or military, but rather as a continuum in which all user requirements are accommodated to the greatest possible extent.
Environment in context

Global air traffic doubles every 15 years

A world in conflict

Increase in UAS operations for military activity

Increased military operations globally

Increase in aviation operations for national security

Increase in national crime and acts of terrorism
Environment in context

Civil Aviation

Airspace

Military/National Security
Background on FUA

• The Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed in Chicago in 1944

• Article 3, excludes State aircraft used in military, customs and police services from ICAO’s regulations

• Resolution A37-15, Appendix O, “Coordination and cooperation of civil and military air traffic” was further articulated

• GPI-1, “Flexible Use of Airspace”

• ASBU PIA 3 – Optimum Capacity and Flexible Flights

• ASBU PIA 4 – Efficient Flight Paths
Process to establish FUA

1. National, high-level civil/military coordination body
2. National airspace planning process
3. Letters of agreement
4. Process for publication
5. Review and update process
6. System that allows predictive and timely access to restricted or reserved airspace
ICAO’s Guidelines on Airspace Management (ASM)

- All available airspace should be managed in a flexible manner, whenever feasible;
- Airspace management processes should incorporate dynamic flight paths and provide optimal operational solutions;
- When conditions require segregation, based on different types of operations and/or aircraft, the size, shape and time zones of said airspace should be determined to minimize impact on operations.
- The use of airspace should be coordinated and monitored in order to accommodate the conflicting requirements of all users and minimize any constrains on operations;
- Airspace reservation should be planned in advance with changes made dynamically whenever possible. The system also need to accommodate short-notice unplanned requirements ; and
- The complexity of operations may limit the degree of flexibility.

Source: ICAO Cir 330 AN/189
Civil/Military Cooperation in Air Traffic Management
ICAO’s Guidelines on ASM

Flexible airspace management

Dynamic flight paths

Minimize impact of airspace reservations on operations

Coordination

Plan and schedule

Be aware that complexity may affect flexibility
Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) process
Principles of FUA

- Coordination between civil and military authorities should be carried out at the strategic, pre-tactical and tactical levels.
- Airspace reservations should be of a temporary nature.
- Applied across national borders and/or the boundaries of flight information regions (FIRs).

Source: ICAO Cir 330 AN/189
Civil/Military Cooperation
in Air Traffic Management
Flexible and adaptable airspace structures and procedures

- Permanently plannable during times published in AIP
- Expected to be available for most of the time
- Plannable in the same way as all plannable ATS routes
- ATC tactically reroutes if TSA becomes active on short notice

- Daily allocated based on ATC capacity imbalance

- Usable on ATC instruction only
- Used for short notice routing

Source: ICAO Cir 330 AN/189
Civil/Military Cooperation in Air Traffic Management
Considerations when designing Special Use Airspace (SUA)

- Many current prohibited areas may be more correctly described as restricted areas
- Restricted areas may not be designated over the high seas or in airspace of undetermined sovereignty
- Restricted areas should be designed to be as small as possible
- Danger areas may be considered in lieu of restricted areas
- SUA should only be activated when required
How does it work?

Without FUA

- Increase in track miles or operating at flight levels that are not optimum cause:
  - Increased fuel burn
  - Increased carbon emissions
- **Reduction in airspace capacity cause**
  - Increase in ATC workload
  - Increase in cockpit workload
How does it work?

Utilizing FUA Concept

- **Benefits:**
  - Reduced fuel burn
  - Reduced carbon emissions
  - Increase in Airspace Capacity
  - Reduction of complexity for ATCOs and Pilots

TRA/TSA coordinated with ATS to allow flight at certain times
PBN is more accurate and allows for shorter more direct routes, as well as safer more efficient take-offs and landings. This reduces fuel burn, airport and airspace congestion, and aircraft emissions.
CCOs and CDOs

Energy-efficient method of descending: Continuous descent with reduced engine propulsion.

Regular method of descending: Engine thrust increased in level cruising flight.

PBN is essential to the implementation of ICAO’s Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU) performance improvement areas. For example, it provides critical support to the improvement of airport operations through ASBU modules:

- **B0-APTA** – Optimization of Approach procedures including vertical guidance
- **B1-APTA** – Optimized Airport Accessibility.

And is also a major enabler of the Efficient Flight Path concept through Trajectory-based Operations (TBO). In this capacity, PBN further supports the application of modules which contribute to significant efficiency, capacity, and environmental benefits, namely:

- **B0-CDO and B1-CDO** – Continuous Descent Operations (CDOs; see diagram, below)
- **B0-CCO** – Continuous Climb Operations (CCOs)
ADS-C & CPDLC

Increases Safety by providing situational awareness and data link communication in remote or oceanic areas.
Considerations for ASM team

• Performance Based Navigation (PBN) concept allows for greater flexibility for aircraft operations
• FANS 1/A (ADS-C/CPDLC) allows for more efficient operations
• However, some military ACFT may not have the appropriate equipage on board
• This may result in lack of interoperability between Civil ANSPs and Military Operations
Constraints on Military Operations

- Lengthy military procurement cycles
- Public budget constraints
- Lack of space in the cockpit for extra avionics
- Absence of supporting military requirements
- Lack of recognized certification processes
- Security and institutional aspects
- Difficulty monitoring civil CNS/ATM developments
Example of CDM between TTCAA and TTDF

Requested restricted airspace

Restricted airspace agreed to
Example of the CDM process in Trinidad and Tobago

• Request received to increase restricted airspace
• Request infringed on helicopter operations

• Procedure designers designed a modified restricted airspace which was agreeable to both parties
Trinidad and Tobago’s ATFM system has capability to provide platform for FUA
Flex Route Trials with KLM Airlines

Total reductions from Mar – May were:
• Mileage 1238 NM
• Time 162 minutes
• Fuel burn 24760 kgs
• CO2 emissions 78242 kgs

Total reductions from Jun – Aug were:
• Mileage 1809 NM
• Time 241 minutes
• Fuel burn 35891 kgs
• CO2 emissions 113416 kgs
CDM with American Airlines for CDO
Benefits of FUA
Questions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
FINALLY OVER!

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