



National Resource Sharing Centre

Aircraft Officer

Functional Area

Aviation

Core Capability Area

Operations

Role Summary

The aircraft officer is responsible for managing aircraft resources and coordinating services to support aerial operations missions.*

The aircraft used for aerial operations missions may include fixed wing aircraft, rotary wing aircraft and/or remotely piloted aircraft. The missions may include aerial firebombing, aerial observation, remote sensing, aerial incendiary operations, helicopter insertion of people and equipment into remote areas and transport of people and equipment.

The aircraft officer may appoint an air base manager to manage the delivery of air base services.

* These missions may involve fire response, however in the interest of maintaining an inclusive, all-hazards approach, it is necessary to emphasise the vital role that aviation positions such as these can play in combatting severe weather events of all kinds. It is also necessary to highlight the contemporary emerging shift in staffing to rely on those personnel from supporting agencies who may not have an express need to hold any fire training. In this way, personnel from wider supporting agencies can engage in key roles that allow them to use their expertise where it is most beneficial.

Key duties

The aircraft officer:

- assists with the development of the air operations plan, as required.
- activates and manages aircraft.
- manages support personnel and contractors.
- establishes and manages facilities and consumables to support aerial operations.
- plans and manages flight schedules and pilot services.
- manages air base accident response.
- ensures the air base has safety and security systems in place.
- ensures record keeping systems are in place, according to agency procedures.
- may manage multiple air bases.

Reporting Arrangements

Reports to

The aircraft officer reports to the air operations manager (where appointed) or to the operations officer.

Direct reports

Air base manager. Note that where the air base manager has not been appointed, the aircraft officer will perform both roles.

Role Considerations

An aircraft officer must hold a statement of attainment in:

- PUAFIR002 Manage aviation resources for an incident (40 hrs)

AFAC EMPS Credentials

The following AFAC EMPS credentials are relevant to this role:

- PUAFIR003 Manage aviation support operations at air base.
- 22459VIC – Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)
- 22541VIC – Course in Basic wildfire awareness (or equivalent)

And

Hold the required competencies for an Air Base Operator, including statements of attainment in:

- PUAFIR017 Work safely around aircraft.
- PUAOPE020 Lead a crew.
- PUAOPE013 Operate communications systems and equipment.

Applicants must be able to provide documented evidence to demonstrate that he or she:

- Has committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics 2017.
- Is endorsed by their agency as an Air Base Manager.
- Has at least two years' experience as an Air Base Manager.
- Has at least one operational season's experience as an Air Base Manager without mentoring or supervision.
- Is supported by their home agency or jurisdiction.

Fitness or Other Standards

The following fitness or other standards are applied by AFAC member agencies to persons undertaking this role:

- Authorisation to perform this role is subject to an agency endorsement period of 5 years.

Please note, this role type has been developed in tandem with the Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020), therefore references will focus on fire response. However, in the interests of pursuing an 'all hazards' approach to incident management, it is necessary to highlight that the above is not an exhaustive list, and personnel may undertake these duties in responding to events

entirely separate from fire response. To this end, key duties and training may vary depending on unique incidents that these resources are deployed in response to.

Additionally, it is necessary to note that there may arise a need for personnel with experience in a variety of aircraft and qualifications or awareness that are not listed within the NPC. Examples include remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) and associated skills and experience such as Remote Pilots Licences (RePL), extended visual line of sight (EVLOS), and night visual line of sight (NVLOS).

In so doing, this outcome aims to reflect the descriptive nature of National Position Catalogue templates, serving as a framework from which agencies can springboard into specific events and responses.

References

- *Fire and Emergency Aviation Training and Assessment Framework (2020)*
- *EMPS Professional Standard: Registered Airbase Manager (2021)*