



National Resource Sharing Centre

Air attack supervisor

Functional Area

IMT

Core Capability Area

Aviation

Role Summary

The air attack supervisor is responsible for supervising aerial fire suppression activities and other tactical missions from the air.*

The air attack supervisor normally operates from a separate aircraft to the tactical aircraft in order to observe the incident ground and the activities of the tactical aircraft. However, an air attack supervisor may also operate from the ground. The air attack supervisor assigns specific tactical actions to the pilots of the tactical aircraft.

The air attack supervisor also assists with the development of the air operations plan, in conjunction with the air operations manager, where appointed, other members of the air operations unit and the operations officer and planning officer.

An air attack supervisor operating from a lead plane supervising a large air tanker (LAT) requires additional training. However, the additional training requirements for this role are to be defined outside of this framework.

* 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 air attack supervisor:

- establishes and maintains communication with all team members including the operations officer, ground-based commanders, the aircraft pilots and the aircraft officer.
- assists with the development of the air operations plan, as required.
- plans aerial operations missions.
- assesses proposed mission site.
- prioritises, assigns and coordinates aircraft assignments.
- reviews, monitors and adjusts aircraft strategy and tactics.
- concludes the mission in line with agency procedures.

Specialist functions

Night vision goggles:

- Conducts night vision imaging system (NVIS) operations in fixed or rotary wing aircraft operational environments.

Reporting Arrangements

Reports to

Air operations manager, where appointed, or the operations officer.

Direct reports

No direct reports.

Role Considerations

An Air attack supervisor must hold a statement of attainment in:

- PUAFIR012 Supervise aerial firefighting operations. (40 hours)
- 22459VIC – Course in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) (16 hours).

Night vision goggles

- AVISS00045 Night Vision Imaging System Skill Set (10 hours – WA purchasing guide)

AFAC EMPS Credentials

The following AFAC EMPS credentials are relevant to this role:

As above, in addition to the following:

- Has committed to the EMPS Code of Ethics 2017.
- Is endorsed by their agency as an Air Attack Supervisor.
- Has at least two years' experience as an Air Attack Supervisor.

- Has at least one operational season's experience as an Air Attack Supervisor 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:

- Experience in a wildfire operational command role, such as a sector or division commander.
- subject to an agency endorsement period of 5 years.
- To maintain an agency endorsement, the air attack supervisor must complete 10 hours of CPD each financial year.

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 Air Attach Supervisor (2021)*