



STATE AIRCRAFT UNIT
V I C T O R I A

SAU Operations Briefing Note

Number 1. 14/11/2005

COMMONWEALTH GAMES MARCH 2006

Background

The SAU has been advised through a network of various sources that there will be Temporary Restricted Airspace (TRA) implemented by Air Services Australia (ASA) and the Department of Defence (DOD) for the 2006 Commonwealth Games (Games) in Melbourne. The TRA will essentially apply for the period of the Games and will cover several areas of the metropolitan area of Melbourne. The proposed TRA has the ability to regulate aerial fire fighting activities associated with preparedness and suppression conducted by both the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Comments

In the absence of information being forthcoming from the responsible organisation and unit within Victoria's emergency services the SAU has established a working relationship with a key representative within ASA and has received a preliminary briefing in respect of the DRAFT operational requirements for the TRA. During the briefing ASA's representative was advised of the nature of the air operations and resources that the SAU manages including the preparedness and suppression activities that both agencies undertake.

The information provided in the briefing by the ASA representative indicated that there will be a restriction on the movement of general aviation aircraft (GA) and regulated movement for emergency services aircraft resources. The ASA's representative advised that the SAU and both agencies should be able to continue with operations within the parameters of "business as usual". This will be subject to the provision of a Preparedness and Response Statement, which includes and is not limited to a list of resources and personnel, engaged for the provision of the aerial operations. In addition to the controls within the TRA there will be a specific Prohibited Area implemented with scheduled periods during the period of the Games.

The SAU has been recently advised that some of the information that has been previously provided in the initial briefing by the representative from ASA has been amended and some information withdrawn. When the amended information is provided it will be made available. The SAU has been advised that there will be an "industry briefing" for commercial and private aircraft operators in December – January, which the SAU has been invited to. Further more there will be a specific emergency services briefing, which will be conducted in February, which the SAU has been invited to as well.

Actions

Within the next four weeks both CFA and DSE Regions will be requested to supply to the SAU, from within their fire Readiness and Response Plans, preparedness statements, which identify the levels use and operation of aircraft resources and personnel for aerial fire operations in accordance with fire danger predictions.

On receipt of the information the SAU will develop a Statewide Commonwealth Games 2006 Aircraft Readiness and Response Plan incorporating the information provided by agency regions and the SAU, which will be then submitted, to ASA for information and consideration. Hayden Biggs is the responsible officer for the coordination of the project.

Recommendations

That you note the above information and understand that there is a limited amount of information, which has been disseminated and available to various organisations at this particular time.

Notes

When additional and amended information becomes available it will be provided to both agencies. Any further enquires are to be directed to Hayden Biggs SAU Tel. 03 9412 4888.