



Number 33 | February 2010

## Electronic Aerial Reconnaissance Systems (EARS)

### Operational Evaluation of Live Video Streaming Equipment

The EARS project is being undertaken by the State Aircraft Unit (SAU) to assess the viability of a low cost video streaming solution to provide real time imagery from RECCE aircraft to value add to the information currently provided by the Air Observer role.

The imagery from the aircraft is aimed at enhancing traditional data provided by the air observer, providing a higher level of situational awareness for incident management teams.

The EARS project is a multi tiered project providing different levels of functionality.

Birddog 373 is currently configured with the entry level setup which comprises two fixed cameras installed on the wing of the aircraft, one camera being setup for a similar field of view to the air observer and the other camera looking out off the wingtip.



This Aircraft, sponsored by Westpac, is contracted through the SAU / CFA for use as an outer metro reconnaissance aircraft.

Other aircraft will be fitted with EARS equipment from time to time as part of the trial.

During the trial access to the video stream will be managed to ensure the systems do not get overloaded and that the vision does not become a distraction during operations.



The attached protocols describe how the video footage may be accessed

#### AIRCRAFT DISPATCH

1. The Birddog 373 aircraft will be dispatched by the protocols below,
  - Primary deployment contact for aircraft:- Wayne Rigg 0439 577 151
  - Secondary deployment contact is via the State Airdesk:- 1300 134 144

The State Aircraft Coordinator is authorised to deploy the aircraft directly.

As with all aircraft dispatches the State Airdesk must be notified of the aircraft's deployment or changes to its standby arrangements.

#### EARS ACCESS AND ALLOCATION

2. The following Roles are authorised to request access to an EARS viewing account
  - State Controller
  - CFA Regional Duty Officer
  - DSE District Duty Officer
  - Incident Controller
  - DSE Area Duty Officer
  - Agency Commander
  - State Aircraft Co-ordinator
3. On dispatch of the Aircraft the dispatching organisation must contact the State Airdesk to notify them of the deployment and request access to view the EARS System.
4. The State Airdesk will log the request in the calendar and allocate a viewing account and password over the phone and supply the accompanying trial documentation and account details via email to the requesting organisation.
5. The viewing account will expire after the tasking is complete.



6. The requesting organisation can share the viewing account information as required
7. If the aircraft is re-tasked to another area or incident, the live feed will cease. A new viewer account will be allocated for each tasking or deployment.. The original viewer account will remain active as required to allow downloading of stored data.
8. All viewer account passwords will be reset at the end of each dispatch.

## SUPPORT

9. Technical Support will be arranged via the State Airdesk
10. EARS system is not currently viewable from CFA infrastructure, but can be accessed from DSE infrastructure or other internet connections

## EVALUATION

11. By accepting the viewing account the requester is accepting participating in the trial
12. All personnel who have been issued with the viewer account are requested to complete the provided evaluation report and offer feedback for the project.
13. All users involved during the dispatch are to be involved in the feedback process.

## Contact Officer:

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