STATE AIRCRAFT UNIT
V I C T O R I A

BRIEFING NOTE

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RADIO REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Introduction

To ensure that aircraft utilised by the Agencies are P25 compatible, the State Aircraft Unit (SAU) has commenced the replacement of the existing Simoco radios fitted to State Fleet aircraft with new Simoco P25 Digital radios as part of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) radio replacement project.

DEPI are on track to complete planned replacements of their existing Analogue Motorola radio terminals with Digital P25 radio terminals prior to Christmas. This includes vehicle, airbase and office locations.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) completed their radio replacement project in Early 2013.

At the completion of the DEPI radio replacement project CFA and DEPI will be in a position to migrate to P25 Digital fire ground communications, which will provide clearer communications and additional channels.

The timeline to migrate to digital fire ground communications is yet to be determined by CFA and DEPI.

Aviation Radio Replacement Update

Currently all aircraft are still utilising the MPT 10 digit dialling system **NOT** the new 7 digit ANN dialling system.

Until the ANN reprogram has taken place, aircraft wishing to dial DEPI and CFA will have to dial the 10 Digit MTP number.

Once an aircraft has been upgraded to ANN numbering you will be able to dial the 4 digit DEPI number or the 7 digit CFA number.

All radios in the SAU radio fleet can still dial the 3 digit unit ID in either MPT or ANN dialling systems

The SAU technical systems staff have taken delivery of the new ANN software for the radios with acceptance testing completed.

Software changes

The new software include the following features:

- Home screed display of own ANN number
- Access to phonebook from the menu
- DEPI 4 digit ANN dialling system, enabling aircraft to dial DEPI 4 digit roof numbers
- Upgrades to ensure compatibility for digital simplex radio brick
- Upgrades to RATS data to include channel number of simplex brick

Project Timelines 2013 -14 season

Phase 1 of the project comprises the activities listed below.

- Upgrade to ANN dialling system – Due to be completed before December 25th with contract fleet planned to be completed by 18th December
- Replacement of the current analogue Simoco simplex radio, with a Simoco P25 Digital – Due Jan/Feb 2014
- A firmware modification of the existing Simoco Trunk radio to ensure compatibility with the new digital simplex radio – to be rolled out with ANN numbering upgrades.

Phase 2 Project Timelines

Phase 2 activities listed below are due to commence in 2014 and be completed for the 2014-15 season.

- Replacement of the Simoco analogue Trunk radio with a Simoco P25 Digital Trunk Radio
- Development of a P25 version of RATS

Replacement of the Simplex radio will enable compatibility between Aircraft, CFA and DEPI analogue and digital radio channels.

How to Identify an ANN Configured Radio

When the radio has been upgraded the radios home screen will display the radios ANN number as shown below

Radio ID

How to Identify an MPT Configured Radio

Before the radio has been upgraded the radios home screen will display a phonebook entry this is usually set to the aircrafts call sign or a number regularly dialled as shown below.

Phone Book Entry

Portable Aircraft Radio Kits

5 prototype portable aircraft radio kits are currently under construction and due for completion Jan/Feb 2014.

These kits are based on the current Pelican case kits in use in Gippsland which permits limited integration into the aircraft intercom system.

Planning is underway for field testing and feedback towards the end of the 2014 season and into Autumn planned burning. The remainder of the kits will be built and allocated for the 2014-15 season

Regional Radio Dispatch System (RRDS)

Currently aircraft radio communications are out of scope of the Regional Radio Dispatch System (RRDS).

SAU are currently working with the RRDS team to identify the operational requirements for aircraft on RRDS. Work is currently being undertaken in conjunction with CFA to establish timelines for RRDS access

SAU Trunk Directory

To assist in the conversion, two SAU trunk radio directories have been developed one for ANN dialling and one for MPT dialling. These can be downloaded electronically from the SAU website under the contacts area. Hardcopies of the book are currently being printed and are expected late December. These will be distributed to aviation personnel, aircraft, airbases, ICC and office locations throughout the Agencies

Further Information

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