

SPA Briefing Document for LOFT

Background

LOFT is a formal flight simulator training programme for airline pilots, run by the airlines and their flight training providers. LOFT exercises are specially developed for their purpose, and carried out in a controlled environment designed to meet specific objectives and maximise learning opportunities. There is particular focus on emergency and other unusual situations.

The NATS Division of Safety is sponsoring participation in LOFT by NATS ATCOs as formal training, and manages the NATS process.

This is a safety initiative which aims to:

- Enhance safety by giving pilots and ATCOs direct exposure to cockpit situations and the impact on both parties of each other's roles and workloads.
- Provide a workplace forum for the exchange of knowledge, experience and working practices in order to improve safety.
- Increase understanding of the operational issues that affect both pilots and ATCOs.

Participating Airlines

Those airlines who have agreed to participate in this safety initiative thus far are:

- Thomas Cook (Simon Grace)
- Easyjet (Chris Wade)
- Flybe (Louise Allen)
- Astraeus Airlines (Tanya Fenn)
- FlightSafety International (a training provider) based at Farnborough Airport have also agreed to participate.

Swanwick Centre

Process focal points: Michele Robson (LAC Safety Coordinator)
Jonathan Smith (LTC Safety Coordinator)
Mark Turner (Swanwick TC)
Nigel King (Swanwick Safety Assurance)

Swanwick is keen to include LOFT in their TRUCE as part of Continuing Professional Development and discussions are currently taking place to seek approval from SRG. Swanwick's ambition is to send up to 100 AC ATCOs on LOFT sessions in 2012. Discussions are still on-going with SRG.

Prestwick Centre

Process focal points: Mark Levington (Watch Local Area Supervisor)
Colin Houston (Head of Safety)



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Prestwick has agreed to participate and will endeavour to utilise the available simulator slots. They would also welcome opportunities closer to Prestwick.

NSL Airports

There is an appetite within the ATCO airport community to participate in LOFT sessions and work continues to finalise the details.

Edinburgh Airport (Martin Donnan) is included in the scheme.

Measuring Success in NATS

The NATS Division of Safety, in conjunction with Swanwick, Prestwick and airline pilots, has developed a Questionnaire. Great care was taken to avoid any judgemental or critical statements and this will give NATS detailed feedback on the benefits of this safety initiative. SRG have also endorsed this.

NATS Online OnDemand Learning Environment (NOODLE)

Work is progressing with building LOFT Simulator availability into NOODLE. This should be completed by end October.

SPA Website

The process describing NATS involvement in LOFT will be visible on the SPA website. This is an external website accessible to the airlines and can only be accessed through authorisation and a specific password. NATS staff are unable to access the website unless they are given appropriate authorisation.

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