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Maintenance

FUNCTIONAL CHECK FLIGHT (FCF)

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFPD 21-1, *Managing Aerospace Equipment Maintenance*. It establishes procedures for the control of the FCF program. It applies to the Operations Group Commander (OG/CC), 337th Airlift Squadron (AS), Airfield Management (OSA), Command Post (CP), Logistics Support Squadron (LSS), and all aircraft maintenance personnel.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This revision changes all references of AMCI 21-101, *Maintenance Management Policy*, to AFRCI 21-101, *Aircraft Maintenance Guidance and Procedures*, (paragraphs 2.1.8 and 2.3.2); changes all occurrences of the term Maintenance Aircraft Coordination Center (MACC) to Debrief Dispatch Section (DDS) (paragraphs 2.1.9 and 2.2). A (I) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

1. General. The requirement to perform FCFs is outlined in TO 1C-5A-6, *Aircraft Scheduled Inspection and Maintenance Requirements*, or as directed by the Logistics Group Commander (LG/CC), in accordance with TO 1-1-300, *Acceptance/Functional Check Flights and Maintenance Operational Checks*, and applicable C-5 technical data. All concerned personnel will be thoroughly familiar with FCF procedures. It is important to note that Westover ARB does not have FCF qualified aircrews. When/if an FCF is required a request would be made to Robins ARB for support.

2. Responsibilities and Procedures:

2.1. Aircraft Generation Squadron. When a FCF is required, the production superintendent:

2.1.1. Coordinates aircraft preparations with Plans Scheduling and Documentation (PS&D).

2.1.2. Ensures all required inspection, maintenance, and servicing actions have been accomplished to ensure the aircraft is ready for the FCF.

2.1.3. Reviews the aircraft forms in detail for completeness and accuracy of all maintenance actions related to the FCF and annotates entries for the required checks.

2.1.4. Directs the aircraft crew chief to hand-carry the forms to the Logistics Group Quality Assurance office. **NOTE:** All closed out forms that record any maintenance actions related to the FCF will be kept with the aircraft forms binder.

2.1.5. Notifies PS&D when the aircraft is prepared for required check.

2.1.6. Determines the need for non-aircrew maintenance technicians to accompany the flight.

2.1.7. Oversees the launch and recovery of the FCF in accordance with standard procedures.

2.1.8. Ensure a comprehensive debrief is accomplished upon completion of the FCF, in accordance with AFRCI 21-101 and LOI 21-107, *Aircrew Debriefing and Abort/Incident Reporting*.

2.1.9. The Debrief Dispatch Section (DDS) notifies PS&D as soon as the requirement for the FCF becomes known and when the aircraft is in commission and ready for the FCF. Requirements for non-aircrew technicians to participate in the flight will be coordinated with LG/CC and OG/CC via Current Operations. On the day prior to the scheduled FCF, DDS will obtain and relay the briefing and departure times to the production supervisor.

2.2. PS&D. The PS&D section coordinates with 439th Operations Support Squadron, Current Operations, to add the FCF to the monthly flying schedule and relays this information to DDS. On the day prior to the scheduled FCF, PS&D will obtain briefing and departure times and relay this information to the DDS.

2.3. LG Quality Assurance Office.

2.3.1. Reviews the aircraft forms in detail to ensure that corrective action entries are complete and no open discrepancies will have an adverse effect on the safety of the flight or the FCF in general.

2.3.2. Initiates the FCF checklist based on maintenance work performed and the reason for the required FCF in accordance with AFRCI 21-101.

2.3.3. Provides a comprehensive briefing to the FCF crew informing them of the discrepancy prompting the FCF and all maintenance actions performed to clear the discrepancy. The mission profile is outlined and discussed with the aircraft commanders.

2.4. Flight Crew.

2.4.1. Reports to the production superintendent for FCF briefing. All personnel who participate in the FCF attend the mandatory briefing.

2.4.2. Reviews applicable portions of T.O. 1-1-300, AMCI 21-101, and T.O. 1C-5A-6CL-1, *Acceptance and/or Functional Check Flight Checklist*, worksheet checklist prior to flight. The production superintendent provides directives in a consolidated briefing book.

2.4.3. Performs FCF within the FCF area outlined in 439 AWI 13-201, *Aircraft Operations Activities*. Weather minimums are in accordance with T.O. 1-1-300 and other applicable directives.

2.4.4. Maintains proper flight altitude during the FCF consistent with the weather conditions, the purpose of the FCF, and in accordance with applicable flying directives. The mission is terminated upon completion of required function check, or as specified.

2.4.5. Complies with the debriefing requirements of this instruction.

3. Special Instructions:

3.1. In those instances where mission requirements dictate further operational use of an aircraft immediately following a successful FCF, the aircraft commander coordinates formal arrangements with the production superintendent at the mission briefing for proper turnaround of the aircraft.

3.2. OSA notifies the control tower of FCF checks.

3.3. When an FCF is required on aircraft performing cross country trips or located at another base, approval by OG/CC and LG/CC is required. The Current Operations officer approves flying hours in excess of FCF requirements. FCF crew briefings are conducted by the production superintendent personnel at the cross country location. If production superintendent personnel are not assigned to the installation or aircraft is located at a civilian field, the production superintendent personnel at home station conduct the briefing via telephone. T.O. 1C5A-6CF-1, *Acceptance and/or Functional Check Flight Procedures Manual*, and T.O. 1C-5A-6CL-1 are located in the aircraft on board T.O. files for this purpose. These completed forms are appropriately documented and crew debriefing is accomplished at cross-country location in the Debriefing Section. If debriefing with the aircrew cannot be accomplished, completed form is forwarded to the Debrief Section.

3.4. 337 AS crew authorizations for FCFs are selected from the most qualified and proficient crew members assigned or attached to the unit and approved by OG/CC. The aircraft operations officer periodically updates the list for OG/CC's approval.

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