

EXERCISE AIRFIELD WATCH

01. **Time.** 1 x 40 minute period
02. **References.** Nil
03. **Dress.** Uniform of the day – if a ‘realistic’ observation post is being used for the exercise then No 3 dress is to be worn
04. **Stores.**
 - a. Projector, to show the aircraft being ‘reconnoitred’
 - b. At least 3 radios
 - c. Whiteboard and pen
 - d. Copies of the aircraft recognition features guide ^[1]
 - e. Stores to create an ‘observation post’ (optional)
 - f. Cadets are to carry notepads and pens
05. **Preparation.** Nil
06. **Revision.** Basic radio procedures.

Brief

07. **Objectives.**
 - a. Increase familiarity with RAF aircraft
 - b. Practise verbal description of aircraft
 - c. Practise use of radio procedures, including RSVP and SAD.

[1] [MAR/2/116](#)

08. **Situation.**

- a. You are at an enemy airfield which has captured aircraft parked up around the perimeter.
- b. You are equipped with sufficient camouflage and concealment to ensure you are not noticed.
- c. You have some high powered binoculars and a radio.

09. **Mission.** You are to IDENTIFY the aircraft types operating from the airbase in order to GATHER INTELLIGENCE.

10. **Execution.**

a. *Coordinating instructions.*

(1) The observers are to radio back descriptions of the aircraft parked on the perimeter to the controller. The aircraft are not familiar to you. (For exercise purposes), thus they may not be identified by name by anyone other than the analysts.

(2) As there may be a limited time to view the aircraft, ensure that you note down details of the aircraft as soon as possible before transmitting.

(3) The controller will then mark up the status board with your descriptions and try to draw the aircraft for the team of expert defence analysts who will then identify the aircraft and estimate the enemy capability and threat level.

b. *Administration and logistics.*

(1) Radios

(2) Whiteboard

(3) Aircraft recognition book or pictures of RA aircraft.

- c. *Task organisation.*
- (1) Cadets acting as airfield observers
 - (2) Cadets acting as controllers
 - (3) Cadets acting as defence analysts.

Teams will rotate to experience different roles and learn from each other.

- d. *Command and signal.*
- (1) Whichever cadet is acting as net controller is also in charge of the exercise.
 - (2) Radios are to be set to _____
 - (3) Standard squadron callsigns are to be used, appended as follows:
 - (a) Excon SUNRAY
 - (b) Observer FOXHOUND
 - (c) Controller ACORN

Conduct

11. ***Sequence.***

- a. Appoint personnel and disperse appropriately
- b. Establish Communications
- c. Authenticate (example chart at Appendix 1 to Annex A to Chapter 3)
- d. Analysts to interpret information and suggest possible aircraft identification.

e. *Startex*. The Exercise controller will announce by radio that the exercise is starting and that the frequency will be in use until further notice.

f. *Endex*. The Exercise controller will announce endex in person or by radio. Endex will be transmitted by radio announcing that the use of the frequency is ended.

12. ***Tips.***

a. Don't rush the exercise.

b. Take your time – speed, accuracy and discipline are important.

c. Remember you don't want to give away concealment by making too much noise or risk an aircraft leaving on a mission before you have reported the aircraft to the defence analyst cell.

13. **Note.** Although 12 aircraft are provided on the slides, the exercise should not be rushed to get through them all.

Sample exercise traffic

Ser. (a)	Role (b)	Example (c)
01	Aircraft Watcher	Aircraft One Transport Aircraft. Round fuselage. Refuelling probe extending above front cockpit. OK so far OVER
02	Controller	Roger so far OVER. (or SAY AGAIN, etc)
03	Aircraft Watcher	Aircraft One continues. High wing horizontal to fuselage with four propeller engines mounted in pods underneath wing. Large rudder with low mounted tail unit. OK so far OVER.
04	Controller	Roger so far OVER.
05	Aircraft Watcher	Aircraft One continues. Undercarriage mounted in mid-section blisters. Open loading ramp at rear. Vehicles being loaded. Description completed at TIME HHMM. Request aircraft identification OVER.
06	Controller	Response options include... ... confirm description of tail fin is..... etc etc. Over ...request description of undercarriage OVER. ...ROGER WAIT OUT. May request information if want to identify specific Mark of the aircraft.
07	Watcher	Responds to requests (if any)
08	Controller	Aircraft identification is OVER
09	Watcher	ROGER OUT.

Example exercise layout

