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A CHECK - LIST FOR BIRDSTRIKE PREVENTION ON AIRFIELDS

In the past years, the main effort of the Belgian Air Force in the field of birdstrike prevention was concentrated on the realisation and improvement of a global operational instruction. This instruction contains all information necessary for the practical realisation of an optimal birdstrike prevention on the air-bases.

However everyone knows there is a large difference between theoretical prescriptions and practical realisations. Therefore an inspection of all flying units within the Belgian Air Force was organised to gain information about the localities, with the aim of improving birdstrike prevention. This was done in 1980. To collect such a great amount of data in a uniform way, we composed a detailed check-list that could be used during visits. Originally, the list was made up in Dutch and in that form we used it about 15 times. After a couple of visits, some small improvements were made. The list was a real help. The amount of information gained during the first visit of an air-base is so large that an aid to memory is really welcome. It is advisable to fill up the list as quick as possible after a visit. In our case the first visit took always 3 days. Every noon and evening all gathered information was noted on the check-list. The morning of the last visiting-day a small list was made up with all the subjects that still had to be checked.

What can be done now with such a completely filled-up list ?

A great advantage is that all information is arranged in a schematic way. Thanks to this, it is very easy for a newcomer to make himself acquainted with the situation on an air-base. With this preliminary knowledge, control-visits - as we plan at least once a year - can be done in about one day. Only when the situation changes, has the list to be adapted. Further on with all this information, an evaluation of local birdstrike preventive actions can be made. It makes possible to adapt the measures to improve

the situation on local requirements.

It should be added that the inspection of the air-bases and the filling up of the check-list has to be done by a sufficiently qualified, independent person. In our case, it was done by a reserve-officer, biologist, qualified for the problems and directly delegated by the Air-Staff.

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A CHECK-LIST FOR BIRDSTRIKE PREVENTION ON AIRFIELDS

compiled by Guido Rooseleer, Belgian Air Force

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<u>AIRBASE :</u>	
<u>DATE OF VISIT :</u>	
<u>PROGRAMME :</u>	
<u>REPORTED BY :</u>	
<u>METEOROLOGICAL DATA :</u>	
<u>WING - COMMANDER :</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
<u>FLIGHT - SAFETY OFFICER :</u>	
<u>OTHERS (LBSC, BCU, ATC ...) :</u>	

ECOLOGICAL SITUATION OF THE AIRFIELD

SURROUNDINGS OF THE AIRFIELD

- type of landscape :
- type of soil :
- dominating type of vegetation :
- remarks :

VEGETATION

- dominating type of vegetation :
- main plant species : (indicate localisation on a detailed map)
- plants with berries : yes 0 no 0 (indicate localisation on a detailed map)
 - species :
 - attracted bird species :
 - observations during visits : (indicate date, bird species, plant species)
- remarks :

FARMING yes 0 no 0

- cattle : yes 0 no 0 (indicate localisation on a detailed map)
 - species :
 - attracted bird species :
 - remarks :

- cropland : yes 0 no 0 (indicate localisation on a detailed map)

 - main crop species :

 - attracted bird species :

 - observations during visits : (indicate date, bird species, plant species)

 - prohibited crop species :

 - attracted bird species :

 - observations during visits : (indicate date, bird species, plant species)

 - remarks :

- grassland : yes 0 no 0 (indicate localisation on a detailed map)

 - long-grass policy : yes 0 no 0

 - mowing - period :

 - attracted bird species :

 - observations during visits : (indicate date, bird species)

 - remarks :

- ploughing : yes 0 no 0

 - by day : yes 0 no 0

 - main periods :

 - attracted bird species :

 - remarks :

- animal manuring : yes no

[main periods :
 - attracted bird species :
] remarks :

- agricultural contracts : (add a copy of a contract)

[type of contract :
 - are there any restrictions in the contract concerning birdstrike prevention ?
 yes no
] remarks :

GARBAGE DUMPS yes no (indicate localisation on a detailed map)

[type of dump :
 - attracted bird species : (indicate number, period)
 - observations during visits : (indicate species, date, number)
 - has the dump any influence on the bird population on the airfield ? yes no
 - explain :
 - measures taken to improve the situation : yes no
 - explain : (if possible, add copies of letters, messages ...)
] remarks :

OTHER SITES OF ATTRACTION- hydrological situation : (indicate localisation on a detailed map)

swampy areas : yes 0 no 0

water pools : yes 0 no 0

ponds : yes 0 no 0

attracted bird species : (indicate period, number)

observations during visits : (indicate date, species, number)

measures taken to improve the situation : yes 0 no 0

- explain :

remarks :

- runways and taxitracks :

source of attraction :

attracted bird species : (indicate period, number)

observations during visits : (indicate date, species, number)

measures taken to improve the situation : yes 0 no 0

- explain :

remarks :

- buildings :

source of attraction :

attracted bird species : (indicate period, number)

observations during visits : (indicate date, species, number)

remarks :

BIRD SPECIES	AVERAGE NUMBER	MAIN PERIOD	HABITS

HUNTING SITUATION

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- hunting-club active : yes 0 no 0
- permanent game-keeper : yes 0 no 0 (phone :)
- members of the hunting-club :

- main game species	annual shooting rate	estimated total population before shooting-season

- complete shooting-off : yes 0 no 0
- release of game birds before shooting-season : yes 0 no 0
 (indicate species and number)
- feeding of game birds : yes 0 no 0
 (indicate localisation of feeding areas on a detailed map)
- other birds than game birds shot by hunting-club : yes 0 no 0

	yes	0	no	0	<u>average number / year</u>
woodpigeon :	yes	0	no	0	
feral pigeons :	yes	0	no	0	
corvids :	yes	0	no	0	
lapwings :	yes	0	no	0	
gulls :	yes	0	no	0	
starlings :	yes	0	no	0	
thrushes :	yes	0	no	0	
.....	yes	0	no	0	
.....	yes	0	no	0	

- remarks :

OCCURRENCE OF HAZARDOUS BIRDSPECIES

RTPD Species

LOCAL BIRDSTRIKE COMMITTEE
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INFO

- existing : yes 0 no 0 since 19..

	function	phone
- responsible person :		
- members :		

- cooperation of a biologist possible : yes 0 no 0

- meetings :

- irregular 0 regular 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 1 2 3 4 6 12 times / year

- reports of the meetings : (if possible, add reports of the latest meetings)

- reports are sent to :

- main realisations of the LBSC in the past :

- give an evaluation of the work done by the LBSC in the past :

- give some suggestions for better LBSC work in the future :

- remarks :

BIRD COMBAT UNIT

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-existing : yes 0 no 0 since 19..

	function	phone
-responsible person :		
-members :		

- permanent disposition : yes 0 no 0

- training : yes 0 no 0

- explain :

- motivation :

- is bird control main job 0 or a job in cumulation ? 0

- remarks :

- patrols :

preventive : yes 0 no 0

 [daily on same hours 0

 [daily irregular 0

 [irregular 0

- only by presence of birds yes 0 no 0

 [own possibility of observation yes 0 no 0

 [warned by ATC 0 Pilots 0 0 0

- is information noted in a log-book 0 or on maps ? 0 yes 0 no 0

- BCU - equipment :

- own vehicle : yes 0 no 0

[type :
radio-communication : yes 0 no 0

- binoculars available : yes 0 no 0

- type :

- distress-call equipment : yes 0 no 0

[type :
tapes available :
- black-headed gull 0 - carrion crow 0 - lapwing 0
- herring gull 0 - rook 0 - starling 0
- common gull 0 - jackdaw 0 - 0

- correct utilisation : yes 0 no 0

- reactions of birds :

- remarks :

- weapons : yes 0 no 0

[responsible person :
types and numbers : (phone :)
remarks :

- munitions : yes 0 no 0

- pyrotechnics : yes 0 no 0

[types :
yearly donations :
reactions of birds :

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- live ammunitions : yes 0 no 0

types :

- yearly donations :

- reactions of birds :

used for shooting of : (indicate anual shooting rate)

- pheasants 0 () - feral pigeons 0 () - 0 ()
- partridges 0 () - corvids 0 () - 0 ()
- gulls 0 () - starlings 0 () - 0 ()
- woodpigeons 0 () - thrushes 0 () - 0 ()

- give an evaluation of the utilisation of pyrotechnics and live ammunition :

- utilisation of other methods :

- eagle test yes 0 no 0
- trapping yes 0 no 0
- lights yes 0 no 0
- dummies yes 0 no 0
- chemicals yes 0 no 0
- gas-cannons yes 0 no 0
- falcons yes 0 no 0
- yes 0 no 0
- yes 0 no 0
- yes 0 no 0

- remarks :

- analysis of bird remains : yes 0 no 0

remains are sent to :

- average number of analysis / year :

remains are collected by : BCU 0 Technicians 0 0

B I R D T A M S

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- give a diagram of local transmissions for birdtams and birdstrike-risk forecasts .
 (use : ATC, briefing-room, BCU, Squadron, Meteo-office, Fire-section, Pilots,
 Flight-safety officer ...)
 (indicate : by telex, by phone, ...)

===== DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE =====

ATC
Briefing-room
BCU
IBSC
Meteo-office
Fire-section
.....

- is information noted in a logbook ? yes 0 no 0

- where ?

- what is the opinion of pilots about birdtams, restrictions resulting from birdtams ...

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- GIVE A SURVEY OF ALL POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL BIRDSTRIKE PREVENTION

- GIVE A SURVEY OF ALL NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE LOCAL BIRDSTRIKE PREVENTION

- GIVE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR A BETTER BIRDSTRIKE PREVENTION IN THE FUTURE

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