

FLIGHT TRAINING INSTRUCTION



ONBOARDING CHECKRIDE

2023

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Introduction

Objectives

The onboarding checkride has two main objectives:

- Evaluate the current level of experience, knowledge and skill of the student in basic airmanship, procedures and aircraft systems.
- Demonstrate to the student the standard operating procedures employed by X51 to give them the minimal required knowledge and confidence to participate in X51 missions and training sessions.

The checkride is not an exam and can be neither passed nor failed. The complexity of the tasks given to the student will be tailored by the instructor to ensure that the student can effectively demonstrate their current proficiency, without the instructor introducing too much new information and avoiding task saturation. Instructor notes and task tailoring can be found in the [second section](#).

Student Prerequisites

In order to perform the checkride, the student must have completed the following prerequisites:

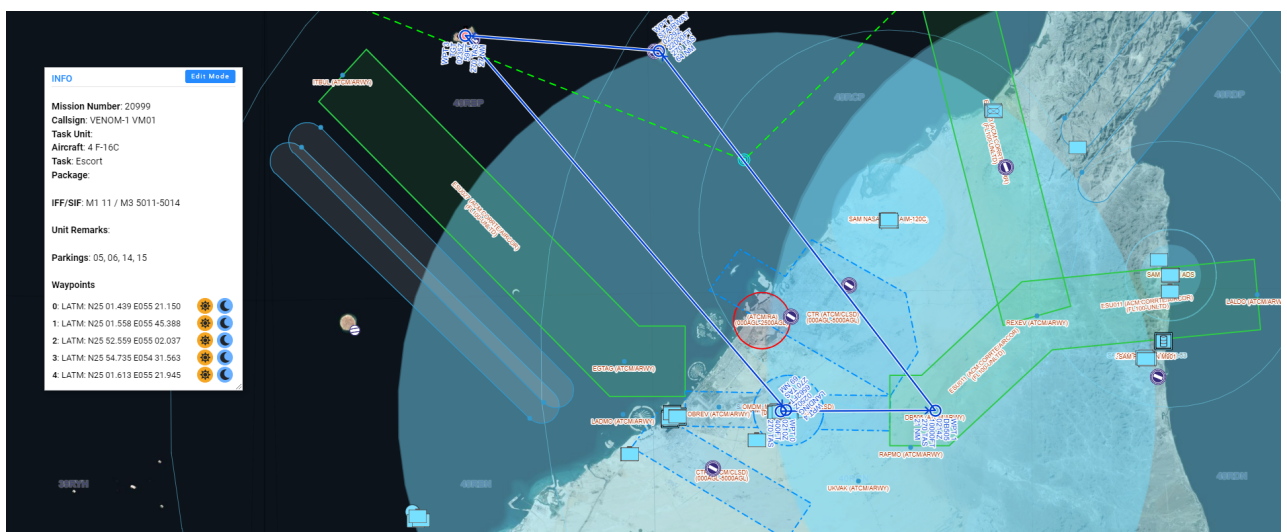
- Updated their DCS client to the latest version of the **Open Beta** branch
- Have the Persian Gulf Terrain Module owned and installed
- Installed, configured and tested **DCS: Simple Radio Standalone**, with the ability to transmit and receive on their aircraft's VHF and UHF radios.
 - Link: [DCS: Simple Radio Standalone](#)
- Synchronised the X51 mod pack using the **X51 Modsync tool**:
 - Link: [X51 Modsync guide](#)
- Verified that they are able to load into the checkride mission:
 - Link: Miz file download [insert]

Student Briefing

Mission Tasking

You will be operating out of Al Minhad AFB in the Persian Gulf. The mission timeline is as follows:

- Take off from Al Minhad AFB, direct to **DB505** at 10,000 ft MSL (WP1)
- Fly and hold **STAIRWAY** at FL220 (WP2)
- Strike factory at WP3 with unguided munitions
- Tanker rejoin at AAR zone ARC-2
- RTB and land at Al Minhad



The instructor will be TACLEAD and the student will be TACWING. Al Minhad may be towered, in which case ATC must be contacted. If untowered, follow non towered airport procedures.

All procedures such as radio communications will be explained by the instructor and the student is encouraged to ask questions whenever they want.

On completion of the mission, the student will be debriefed on Discord VC with TACVIEW. Post-debrief, the student will receive a summary of the evaluation, the tacview file and flight video recording if available for reference purposes.

For transparency, the instructor briefing is also included in this document.

Instructor Briefing

Mission Tasking

The instructor will lead the mission described in the [Student Briefing](#) section. The instructor will be required to evaluate student background knowledge and proficiency during the mission and adjust tasking and delegation accordingly. The [decision tree](#) below can be used as a guide.

All SOPs and tactics should be explained to the student as they are being performed so they always have a clear picture of what is going on.

Each airframe in the mission has 2x2 flights Flight 1 are cold starts and should be used for the checkride. Flight 2 are hot starts and should be used to resume the mission in the case of accidents, disconnects and client crashes.

Procedure List

Beyond completing the mission, the instructor must ensure the following procedures and tasks are either explained, performed or delegated. This list is dependent on mission timekeeping. The instructor can skip parts they deem less important if mission time is overrunning.

Startup

- Perform cold start on discord voice comms
- The student is free to perform an auto-start if they wish
- *Explain any additional, standard configuration (form lights, ready calls, systems config etc)*
- On successful completion of startup and radio checks, switch to SRS.

Taxi, Takeoff and Departure

- Contact ATC and request taxi to active runway (09)
- Follow ATC instructions for formation lineup on 09
- *Explain:*
 - *Preflight checks*
 - *Line-up*
 - *Staggered takeoff*
 - *Rejoin formation*
- Proceed on runway heading to DB505 at 10,000ft before freq change approve to SOLEX (as should be instructed by ATC)
- Check in with SOLEX. This will be the final communication with controllers.
- *Explain basic radio and mission package check-in procedures*

Cruise

- Fly to STAIRWAY, climbing to FL 220.
- Perform some basic formation changes and situational awareness exercises during cruise stage
- Take the opportunity of the long cruise phase to ask if the student has any questions

STAIRWAY

- At STAIRWAY, establish an orbit or racetrack pattern.
- *If possible, explain and/or perform*
 - *Racetrack in defensive combat spread*
 - *Hookturn or tacturn*

Attack

- Fly to WP3 (TGT). Descend to 8,100 ft AGL and establish attack pattern over target in trail formation.
- Prosecute target. The instructor should perform a no-drop attack on SAFE so that the student can destroy the target themselves.
- Perform one or two attacks (there are two factory buildings)

Tanker rejoin and refuel

- Tune TACAN for relevant tanker at AAR ARC-2
- Contact tanker and fly for rejoin
- Ask student to lock tanker on FCR and report BRAA
- Perform AAR if possible
- *Explain AAR procedures*

RTB and Landing

- Fly WP4 (Al Minhad)
- Tune tower frequency and perform non towered approach
- Overhead break or direct in at instructor's discretion
- Taxi to parking, shutdown and meet on discord voice comms for debrief

Debriefing

- Ask the student how they found the checkride and what they found the most difficult
- Perform a brief run-through with tacview
- Compile the evaluation table ([template link](#)) offline and share it with the student after the debrief, along with any additional material.

Tasking and Delegation Decision Trees

Below are some decision trees that can help the instructor tailor the tasking and delegation. These are not the only cases, but can be used as a guide.

