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ADVANCED TRAINING ACADEMY

VTR LONG LINE REFRESHER 5 Hrs. Ground Instruction
COURSE: 3-5 Hrs. Flight Instruction



This course is designed for the Commercial Rated Rotary-Wing pilot with previous professional experience in VTR operations with a desire to fine tune his/her skills to a proficiency level that is required to operate in the VTR arena effectively and safely. Candidates include previously carded fire pilots and utility pilots. Documentation and/or recommendation from current and/or previous employer is required. The Vertical Reference mission is one that requires recurrency training in order to remain proficient and safe while executing the mission.

The mission has become a tool in wildland fire fighting, forestry, construction, resource exploration, logging, seismic and many other arenas to complete or accomplish a job more effectively, safely, and efficiently.

This course is specifically designed for the experienced VTR aviator that is in need of proficiency/recurrency training in the mission specific environment to operate safely and effectively. The Ground and Flight portions of the syllabus will take the student from the beginning planning stages of the mission which will include performance planning for the specific mission flight environment utilizing the "load calculation" form designed for HHI and similar to the USFS 5700-17. The pre-flight process will begin with the aircraft being utilized for the mission and will progress to the equipment required for the mission. The flight phase begins with takeoff with an external load utilizing VTR techniques progressing to the reconnaissance phase of the mission to include the approach and departure routes for a safe mission completion. The training pace will be aggressive but not overwhelming. The initial flight will utilize a 100' length longline but will progress to a 150' length line on the second flight. From the beginning, load centering techniques will be practiced leading to load pickup, enroute, approach and delivery techniques to an open field. Once the student's proficiency level begins to improve the flight environment will move to typical mountainous terrain to include typical terrain contour flying to confined areas, pinnacles, and ridgelines. Proven wind determination methods will be discussed and practiced in the mountain flying environment. The final phase of the course will involve the slalom course designed by HHI ATA which is a demanding task utilizing VTR techniques but when accomplished to an evaluation standard will give the student the overwhelming feeling of mission proficiency. This course is designed to accommodate the mission requirements of each individual student whether it be Interagency wildland firefighting,

seismic, or construction. Proficiency parameters will and can be designed for each mission the pilot will be embarking on when returning to industry.

With the successful completion of the course, the student will have been trained to a completion standard which will meet or exceed the government agencies' requirements in preparation for eligibility as a candidate for Vertical Reference Longline missions.

HHI is located in Missoula, Montana, Headquarters for the U.S. Forest Service Northern Region and home of the USFS Aerial Fire Depot Smokejumper Center, a community of 70,000 at an elevation of 3220' msl. surrounded by mountainous terrain with peaks in excess of 9,000' msl. Our training facility is conveniently located at Missoula International Airport. Our 8,000 sq. ft. hangar and our 2800 sq. ft. of classroom space offer students a comfortable, clean and professional environment. HHI will utilize a late model 1991 Bell 206BIII Jet Ranger that is currently maintained under FAR 135 maintenance standards and is also carded for USFS/DOI operations.