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Working paper for BSCE 17 (WG Flight procedures)

Flight Procedures of German Armed Forces Concerning the Prevention of Birdstrikes

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The German Military Geophysical Office (GMGO) issues bird warning messages (BIRDTAM) based on actual observations of bird migration, and birdstrike risk forecasts based on season, weather and bird reports. The messages are transmitted immediately by the forecast center to the WX-offices of the airfields. Moreover BIRDTAM are transmitted to the operation rooms, because the flying units have to regard the BIRDTAM for their flight planning. The following restrictions are valid for military jet aircraft only:

1. BIRDTAM-areas with intensities 6 to 8 are generally restricted to jet aircraft within the specified altitudes. Flights are permitted in Birdtam-areas with intensities 4 to 5

- as single aircraft or in tactical formation during military exercises,
- controlled by a track production officer (TPO), if he does not recognize any bird flocks within the target area,

2. If an aerodrome is located within a Birdtam-area, take-off and landing, touch and go-approaches, and go-arounds are permitted, if these procedures are

- necessary for missions, and
- the approach control office does not observe any birds, and give the approach clearance.

3. If a bombing range is located within a Birdtam-area, and the range officer does not recognize any flocks of birds dangerous to range operations, the sortie is permitted.

Moreover the flight authorities define local operational procedures (LOP) considering the local birdstrike risk areas and the mission of the flying unit.

The daily birdstrike forecast with a validity of 24 hours serves for information of the flying units for periods in which BIRDTAM are not available. It is in the responsibility of each unit to handle such forecast as BIRDTAM.

Procedures in Civil Aviation on German airports

Birdtam and birdstrike risk forecasts are transmitted to all German civil NOTAM-offices on the airports. They serve for

- information of pilots on special demand
- information of ATC-personal on the tower to stimulate stronger bird observation on the airfield and its surroundings,
- information of the local bird control for preparing measures to scare bird flocks.

Moreover the VFR Bulletin, issued by ATC main office, publishes monthly outlooks about possibly migration situation.

-2-

This information serves especially for General Aviation as well as for sports flying. It is planned to issue daily migration forecast by a special pictorial presentation like DATEX or BTX; this procedure is in test since 12 months.

It is proposed to the working group, to

- collect informations about procedures - military and civil - in other countries,
- to inform military and civil pilots about information and warning possibilities on German airfields and airports,
- to try introduction of comparable procedures on all civil airports.