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ADVANCED TRAINING ACADEMY

INTRODUCTION TO BASIC VTR

5 Hrs. Ground Instruction
3-5 Hrs. Flight Instruction

This course is designed to introduce the prospective Natural Resource/Utility Rotary-Wing Aviator to the techniques and skills involved while executing the Vertical Reference mission. This course gives students a basic indoctrination and will assist companies and agencies to assess whether a pilot will have the aptitude to perform the VTR mission with further training. The Vertical Reference mission is one that requires a proficiency level that is necessary to carry out the mission safely and effectively. 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.

For the helicopter pilot with little to no prior Vertical Reference mission background, the beginning phases can and will be a humbling experience. Having to learn on your own, by trial and error, is the least desirable and can be an unsafe way to approach the task. A certain percentage of pilots find that the mission and proficiency level required to safely accomplish the task is one that may not be the professional avenue to train for. HHI ATA has a well defined training curriculum that is designed to introduce the student to the Vertical Reference mission.

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. Seating comfort position and instrument scanning techniques will be discussed and stressed both during the flight and ground portion of the course. 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 beginning flight will introduce a perspective that will be unfamiliar to normal flight. From there the student will begin an introductory training starting with a 100' length line. An open field environment will be used for the beginning flight phases consisting of centering load techniques to load delivery to an open area. From there the pilot will be introduced to the 150' length line and load delivery locations that will be tasking but not overwhelming. Pickup, departure, enroute, reconnaissance, approach, and landing techniques will be taught. With the completion of the course the student will be evaluated to HHI ATA's flight evaluation standards and will be given a professional critique and evaluation as to the students potential aptitude for furthering mission training.



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 our Bell model 206 Long Ranger and 407 aircraft that are currently maintained under FAR 135 maintenance standards and are also carded for USFS/DOI operations containing all the equipment required for most USFS/DOI contracts.