

NWCG Standards for Airtanker Operations, PMS 514

DRAFT 2024

Appendix A – Table of Contents

Appendix A – Fixed Wing Scripts 1
 Establish flight following with dispatch (National Flight Following/FM): 1
 Clearance to maneuver: 2
 Departure Briefing from Aerial Supervisor: 3
 Return: (National Flight Follow/FM) 3
 Tanker Base: (Frequency as assigned/AM) 3

DRAFT

Appendix A – Fixed Wing Scripts

Establish flight following with dispatch (National Flight Following/FM):

Initial Call – Required Items	T-156 says:
1. Dispatch center/Call sign/Frequency	Prescott Dispatch, T-156, National
2. Departure Location	Off Prescott
3. Number on board	2 on board
4. Fuel of board (hours)	3 hours of fuel
5. ETE	30-minute ETE
6. Destination	to the NAFA fire
7. Confirm AFF	Confirm AFF

Enroute: Monitor incident frequencies as soon as possible to build situational awareness.

12-mile Initial Communication (Victor/AM, California-Air Tactics/FM)

Radio call to aerial supervision

Required Items	T-156 says:
1. Aerial Supervisor call sign, your call sign	NAFA Air Attack, Tanker 156
2. Location	12 miles Southeast
3. Intent	Inbound
4. Altitude	5000'

If clearance is given, continue past 7 nm no-com ring at assigned altitude, 170 kts or less and enter the Fire Traffic Area (FTA)/Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR).

Comply with aerial supervision’s instructions to working area.

If no contact with aerial supervision:

- Plan on holding outside 7 nm.
- Recheck assigned frequencies/volumes.
- Monitor air to ground for potential communication between Aerial Supervisor and ground resource.
- Try again.
- Confirm with Dispatch Center/Ground Resources if any other aircraft are on scene.
- If no contact or unsure continue to **HOLD Outside 7 NM**.
- If no other aircraft, enter the FTA as first on scene, at the Airtanker Orbit Altitude appropriate to fire elevation and contact ground resources for instructions.

Clearance to Enter:

Required Items	NAFA Air Attack says:	T-156 responds:
1. Altimeter setting	Tanker 156, altimeter 3002	T-156, 3002
2. Clearance Altitude	Cleared in 3000'	Cleared in 3000'
3. ATGS Altitude	Air Attack is at 4000'	
4. Other aircraft altitudes	Helicopters at or below 2000'	
5. Hazards	Caution, towers, and powerlines	

Tactical Briefing:

May be given in a variety of ways. Make sure it contains the following information:

Type	Details	NAFA Air Attack says:
Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orients pilot to specific areas of the fire. May be brief if returning to the same fire. 	Your drop will be on the left flank of the fire, working the same area as before.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tag and extend, direct, indirect, pretreat, point protection etc. What's to be accomplished and why? 	Objective is direct line, tag, and extend the line.
Target Description	<p>A standard target description includes the following:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Location Drop objectives/Type of drop Coverage level Specific Hazards Portion of load 	Coverage level eight, full load, exit straight out, caution power lines along the road."

*Acknowledge or clarify. "I have the target. I have the powerlines."

Clearance to maneuver:

ATGS says:	Tanker Response – Standard Left Pattern	Tanker Response – Non-Standard Right Pattern
Clear to maneuver.	Tanker 156, Cleared to Maneuver.	Tanker 156, Cleared to maneuver right hand pattern.
*	Tanker 156 downwind	Tanker 156 right downwind
*	Tanker 156 base	Tanker 156 right base
*	Tanker 156 final	Tanker 156 final
I have your final, clear to drop		

*Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) is required to clear airtankers to maneuver and to drop. ATGS is not required to acknowledge downwind and base legs.

Go-Arounds/Split Loads:

- A go-around may be communicated by anyone for safety/efficiency. During a go-around/split load the airtanker should:
 - Re-establish downwind, **at maneuvering altitude on speed**, or:

Off the Drop:

- If load was released, exit the FTA, **at maneuvering altitude, on speed**, or as briefed.
 - “Tanker 156 off and empty” or “Tanker 156 off the drop, half load remaining.”

Departure Briefing from Aerial Supervisor:

Briefing Items:	NAFA Air Attack says:
1. Drop Evaluation – Start, Line, End	Tanker 156, half load late, off one wingspan right
2. Load and return/hold/release	Load and return
3. Location	Prescott
4. Special Instructions	Maintain 5000’

Return: (National Flight Follow/FM)

Re-establish flight following with dispatch center en route back to base and communicate intentions:

Items:	T-156 says:
1. Dispatch center/call sign	Prescott Dispatch, Tanker 156
2. Departure location	Off the NAFA fire
3. Instructions	Load and return Prescott
4. ETE	12-minute ETE

Tanker Base: (Frequency as assigned/AM)

Generally, approximately ten minutes out from your assigned tanker base, communicate the following:

Items:	Return Example, T-156 says:	Hold Example, T-156 says:
1. Tanker base/call sign	Prescott Tanker Base, Tanker 156	Prescott Tanker Base, Tanker 156
2. ETE	10 minutes out	10 minutes out
3. Load status	Load and return	Return and hold
4. Fuel Status	Negative fuel	Positive fuel