



Sunny Swift

“Picture the airfield traffic”

IT'S SUNDAY, AND A WONDERFUL SUMMER'S DAY. SUNNY AND GEORGE ARE IN THE BRIEFING ROOM, GETTING READY FOR HIS TRAINING FLIGHT.

IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY BUSY DAY. THE LANDING TRAFFIC PATTERN WILL BE VERY CHALLENGING AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS

WHEN FLYING BACK FROM THE TRAINING AREA, PLAN ENOUGH TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE TRAFFIC SITUATION AT THE AIRFIELD. LISTEN IN ON THE FREQUENCY AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE

AND OFF THEY FLY. THEN, AFTER FINISHING THE FLIGHT PRACTICE, GEORGE AND SUNNY ARE BACK 10 NM SOUTH OF THE AIRFIELD. THEY LISTEN TO THE RADIO COMMUNICATION EXCHANGES WITH HANGELAR INFO.

HANGELAR INFO DELTA JULIET PAPA, RIGHT DOWNWIND RUNWAY 11.

HANGELAR INFO DELTA TANGO ROMEO, APPROACHING RED SCHOOL BUILDING.

HANGELAR INFO DELTA ECHO KILO SIERRA CHARLIE, 5 MIN SOUTH, REQUEST LANDING INFORMATION.

DELTA SIERRA CHARLIE, HANGELAR INFO, RUNWAY 11 IN USE, QNH 1019, WATCH OUT FOR GLIDERS AND THREE MORE AIRCRAFT IN THE PATTERN.

WOW, SOME TRAFFIC! I CAN SEE THE PIPER APPROACHING THE SCHOOL BUILDING, BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

YES, IT'S DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. IN ANY CASE, IF THERE'S A LOT OF TRAFFIC AT THE SAME TIME, AND WE DON'T KNOW IF THE INTENTION IS FULL STOP OR TOUCH AND GO, IT'S BETTER NOT TO JOIN THE LANDING PATTERN DIRECTLY, AND TO PLAN TO HOLD 5 MIN FROM THE AIRFIELD

WHY NOT USE THE CONSPICUITY DEVICE IN THE AIRCRAFT, TO HELP IDENTIFY THE OTHER TRAFFIC?

YES, THIS CAN HELP, BUT ONLY TO BUILD A PICTURE BEFORE APPROACHING THE AIRFIELD. CLOSE TO THE AIRFIELD AND JOINING THE PATTERN, WATCH OUTSIDE. SEE AND AVOID PREVAILS. KEEP CHECKING YOUR BLIND SPOTS.

SUNNY AND GEORGE ARE FINISHING THE HOLDING PATTERN, AND INFORM HANGELAR THAT THEY ARE READY TO JOIN RUNWAY 11 DOWNWIND FOR FULL STOP.

HANGELAR INFO, DELTA ECO UNIFORM, ABOUT TO JOIN RIGHT DOWNWIND FOR RUNWAY 11 FOR FULL STOP, WE WILL BE OVER THE RED SCHOOL BUILDING IN 2 MINUTES

DON'T ENTER A TRAFFIC PATTERN WITHOUT HAVING AN ACCURATE MENTAL PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN TERMS OF THE TRAFFIC. FOLLOW THE TRAFFIC PATTERN AND THE CIRCUIT ALTITUDE CLOSELY, COMMUNICATE YOUR POSITION AND INTENTION ACCURATELY, AND DON'T HESITATE TO HOLD IF NECESSARY.

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