

Observer function

... Air SAR Operations



A Pilot and Observer must work as a Team

Visual air searching is demanding and very fatiguing

2 to 3 hours maximum for visual efficiency !

Techniques to Reduce Observer Fatigue

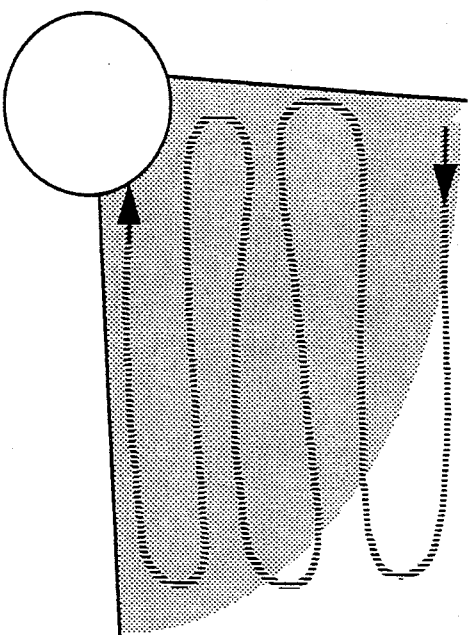
- 1. At least every 30 minutes, change seat positions if the size of the aircraft permits. Even change sides if possible.**
- 2. Try various positions until you find one that is comfortable for scanning.**
- 3. Make sure the window is clean or unobscured.**
- 4. Use binoculars or spotting instruments only to check sightings made with the naked eye.**

Techniques to Reduce Observer Fatigue (cont.)

- 5. Keep lights inside the aircraft dim to reduce reflections and contrast glare. On particularly bright days, wear eye protection for glare.**
- 6. Keep the amount of communications between crew members to a level that is essential to conduct the mission.**
- 7. Frequently use light snacks and drink during long search operations.**
- 8. Permit adequate rest periods between sorties and difficult observer missions.**

Search from the Air...

**Visual scanning goes from left to right ...
and top to bottom & back again.**



**Finds are Most Often Picked up in
the Peripheral Vision (Within a 5
Degree Radius of focus Point)**

**Good technique brings every portion of a sector into
the Observers central visual field every few seconds.**

Observation Technique

Little or No Contrast Terrain :

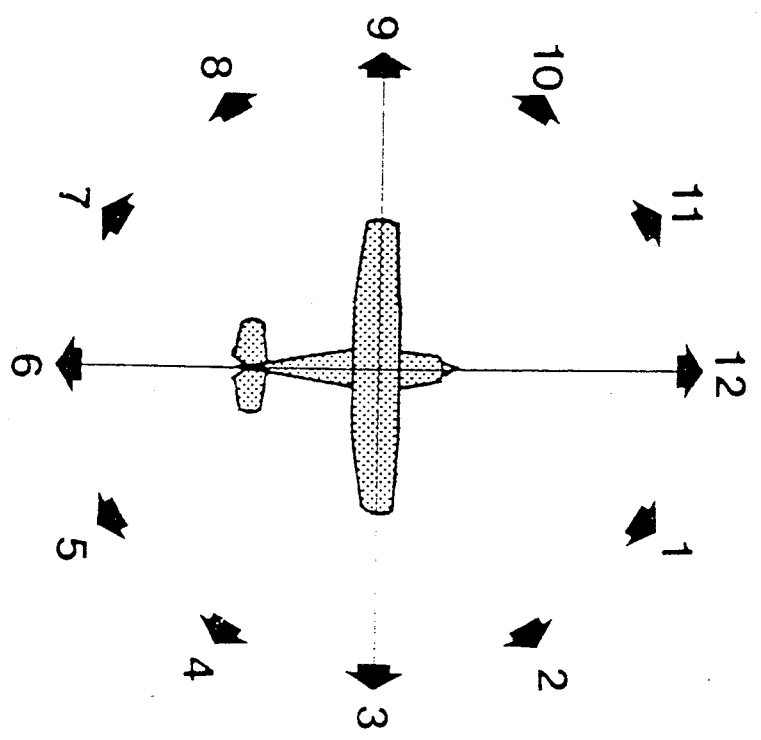
-- Periodically focus on a specific object in field of view

Night & Low Light Searches

-- Establish a systematic geometric pattern that makes use of off center (peripheral) vision

Sightings are given by relating clock position and range.

Position Points Indicating Direction To An Observer



What to Look for From An Aircraft

- ★ **Tracks and signals**
- ★ **Smoke and / or Fire**
- ★ **Color / Contrast**
- ★ **Odd angles of light**
- ★ **Rafts / lifeboats / preservers on water**
- ★ **Shiny objects / reflection**
- ★ **Movement**
- ★ **Man-made objects - vehicles etc.**
- ★ **Broken vegetation - (tree tops etc.)**
- ★ **Anything out of place - (snow sluffs or small slides, bare ground, etc).**