



**VATUSA Division Instruction for Controller  
Education **TRIAL** Program**  
USA DICE Program

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## **Chapter 1 General**

### **1.1 Purpose**

1.1.1 The purpose of this order is to establish a division training program to take a developmental controller from a Local Controller (S1) rating to Enroute Controller (C1) rating.

1.1.2 This program is subject to and authorized for use by USADP-002B (and revisions and changes thereof) under the Division Trial Training Programs.

### **1.2 Audience**

1.2.1 This policy is for use by the VATUSA Division of VATSIM, VATUSA Instructors, and all participating subdivisions within.

### **1.3 Distribution**

1.3.1 This policy shall be available on the VATUSA Website under Policies & Downloads.

### **1.4 Cancellation**

1.4.1 This order is a new policy.

### **1.5 Effective Date**

1.5.1 This order is effective as of 04/29/2023.

### **1.6 Signatories**



Meg Bruck

Deputy Director Training Services



Brin Brody

Training Services Manager

## **Chapter 2 General Policy**

### **2.1 Overview**

- 2.1.1 The Division Instruction for Controller Education (DICE) Program is a training program that is managed by VATUSA Training Staff for the purpose of providing a standard training flow for developmental controllers.
- 2.1.2 The DICE Program training will be conducted by DICE Team Member Instructors.
- 2.1.3 The DICE Program consists of both theory and practical components.

### **2.2 Roles and Responsibilities**

- 2.2.1 The following positions are found in USADP-002:
  - a. VATUSA Training Staff
  - b. Training Administrator (TA)
  - c. Instructor
  - d. Probationary Instructor
  - e. VATUSA Instructor
- 2.2.2 It is the responsibility of VATUSA Training staff to maintain and monitor the DICE Program.
- 2.2.3 VATUSA Training staff are responsible for preparation and training of DICE Team members.

### **2.3 DICE Team Member Responsibilities**

- 2.3.1 The DICE Team Member is a division training staff role that:
  - a. Serves as a VATUSA Instructor (Rating - II).
  - b. Reports to the Deputy Director Training Services (or their designee).
  - c. Assists the VATUSA Training Staff in division training goals, including but not limited to the development of training materials, theory and practical training sessions with developmentals, and other tasks at the discretion of the Deputy Director Training Services (or their designee).
- 2.3.2 As a division training staff member, DICE Team Members shall be assigned to the ZHQ subdivision.
- 2.3.3 Any DICE Team Member that wishes to remain in an active training role at the subdivision level may do so with approval from the subdivision TA.
- 2.3.4 DICE Team Members shall be active in the DICE Team Chat in the VATUSA Discord to receive updates and allow for collaboration within the group.
- 2.3.5 Controllers interested in participating in the DICE Team shall apply to the VATUSA Training Team via email at [training@vatusa.net](mailto:training@vatusa.net) for further guidance.

## **Chapter 3 VATUSA S3 to C1 Program**

### **3.1 Overview**

3.1.1 This order is designed to take a developmental controller from a Terminal Controller (S3) rating to Enroute Controller (C1) rating.

### **3.2 Participation**

3.2.1 Subdivisions may choose to participate in this program.

3.2.2 Subdivisions wishing to participate in this program should express their interest in writing to VATUSA Training Staff at [training@vatusa.net](mailto:training@vatusa.net).

3.2.3 VATUSA Training Staff will verify participation with both the Subdivision TA and ATM/DATM.

3.2.4 Participating subdivisions are expected to enroll all eligible developmental controllers in the S3 to C1 Program subject to the availability of the DICE Instructors.

3.2.5 Developmental S3 controllers who have already initiated C1 training at a participating subdivision may elect to enroll in the DICE S3 to C1 Program.

### **3.3 Eligibility**

3.3.1 S3 controllers with a major endorsement in a participating subdivision are eligible to participate in the DICE S3 to C1 Program.

### **3.4 Enrollment**

3.4.1 It is the responsibility of the subdivision to enroll S3 controllers in the DICE C1 Enroute Course in the VATUSA Academy.

3.4.2 All DICE Students, regardless of their home subdivision, will complete the same training progression as outlined in Appendix A.

### **3.5 Completion**

3.5.1 Upon completion of the DICE C1 Enroute Course in the VATUSA Academy, students will be assigned the C1 Rating Examination.

3.5.2 Upon successful completion of the C1 Rating Examination, students are eligible for live network monitoring at a participating training center and at the student's home subdivision.

3.5.3 Live network monitoring at a participating training center will be conducted by a DICE Team member.

3.5.4 Live network monitoring at the student's home subdivision will be conducted by training staff of the subdivision or by a DICE Team member with approval of the subdivision TA.

3.5.5 Students are required to complete at least one live monitoring session at their home subdivision before they can be deemed OTS ready.

**3.6 Over The Shoulder (OTS) Examination**

- 3.6.1 Students shall be deemed "OTS Ready" by an Instructor once they successfully demonstrate practical application of all C1 competencies..
- 3.6.2 An OTS Examination should be conducted by a member of the DICE team and an Instructor from the student's home subdivision.
- 3.6.3 If an Instructor from the student's home subdivision is not available for an OTS Examination within 30 days of the student being deemed "OTS Ready", the OTS Examination may be conducted by a member of the DICE team and any VATUSA Instructor.
- 3.6.4 The OTS Examination may be conducted at a DICE Program Training Center or at the student's home subdivision, as agreed upon with the student's home subdivision.

**3.7 Removal**

- 3.7.1 DICE Team members and VATUSA Training Staff may remove developmental S3 controllers if:
  - a) The student is habitually unprepared for training
  - b) The student misses three consecutive training sessions
  - c) The student displays unprofessional behavior
- 3.7.2 Participating developmental S3 controllers may request removal from the program in writing to the student's home subdivision TA. The subdivision TA is responsible for notifying the VATUSA Training Department that the student has requested removal from the program.
- 3.7.3 Participating developmental S3 controllers will be removed from the DICE S3 to C1 Program if they transfer to a non-participating subdivision.

## Appendix A: C1 Training Topics

- I. General Control (D-Side on the Network)
  - A. Identifies enroute separation minima, including 3 mile separation areas & wake turbulence requirements (when applicable)
  - B. Coordinates with other control positions, when necessary
    - 1. Issues handoffs in a timely manner
      - a) Difference between radar, voice & control
    - 2. Issues pointouts to appropriate controller
    - 3. Apreq's shortcuts/amendments as required
  - C. Amends aircraft data-blocks and flight plans to reflect control instructions given to the aircraft
    - 1. Completes route amendments (exc. phraseology)
    - 2. Amends altitudes as appropriate (interim and final)
    - 3. Uses scratchpad/fourth line of datablock
  - D. Calculated when aircraft should be issued descent instructions
    - 1.  $\frac{((A-B)/1000)*3+(Y-Z)/10}{}$ 
      - a) Starting Altitude
      - b) Ending Altitude
      - y) Starting Speed
      - z) Ending Speed
  - E. Speed adjustments
    - 1. Mach vs. IAS
  - F. Develops an efficient scan and adhering to the proper priority of duties
    - 1. Actively scanning airspace AND datablocks
  - G. Altimeter issuance/settings
    - 1. Lowest usable FL
    - 2. Altimeter more than 1 hour old
- II. En-route sequencing in departure/arrival sector (Sweatbox Scenarios)
  - A. Building MIT
    - 1. Turns vs. Speeds
  - B. Speed management
    - 1. Long term plan
    - 2. Watch and reassess
  - C. Vectoring for spacing/conflicts (use your vector lines (stingers) and route lines to find conflicts)
    - 1. Using degree turns rather than headings
    - 2. Compensating for winds aloft
  - D. Altitude management – Climb/Descend-VIA vs Pilot's discretion vs hard altitudes
- III. Weather, Deviations & Reroutes (Theory only?)
  - A. Weather Theory
  - B. Weather Services

- 1. SIGMETs
  - 2. Convective SIGMETs
  - C. SWAP Routes
- IV. Low altitude sectors
  - A. Non-radar in the en route environment
  - B. Non-radar VFR towers
  - C. MIA, MEA, MOCA, ETC
- V. Area specific items
  - A. Very brief overview on military on the chance a VSOA decides to come play
  - B. How to adhere to LOAs and the enroute implications of LOAs
- VI. Position Relief Briefing
  - A. DO NOT RUSH THE BRIEF
  - B. Weather trends