

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE  
**HEADQUARTERS AIR DEFENSE COMMAND**  
Clark Air Base, Mabalacat City, Pampanga

OACCS-3/CAAdj

25 August 2023

**STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE  
NUMBER 2023-17**

**DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION, AND CLASSIFICATION OF TRACKS  
WITHIN THE PHILIPPINE AIRSPACE AND THE AIRSPACE ABOVE  
THE PHILIPPINE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE**

**I. REFERENCES:**

- A. Executive Order 292: Administrative Code of 1987
- B. Republic Act 9522 defining the Archipelagic baselines of the Philippines;
- C. Presidential Decree 1599 series of 1978: Establishing the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone;
- D. Administrative Order no. 222 s. 1953 Establishing the Philippine Air Defense Identification Zone (PADIZ)
- E. National Military Strategy;
- F. AFP Standing Rules of Engagement (SROE) 2005;
- G. Rules of Engagement (ROE) for Air Defense 2020;
- H. PAFM 3-03 Air Defense Manual 2016.
- I. PAFM 3-05.04 Fighter Intercept and Escort Manual.
- J. 1944 Chicago Convention/Convention on International Civil Aviation

**II. PURPOSE:**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prescribes the guidelines on detection, identification, and classification of tracks to appropriately establish the identity and intention of aircraft within the Philippine airspace; Philippine Air Defense Identification Zone (PADIZ); and airspace above the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**III. SCOPE:**

This SOP includes all corresponding processes involving detection, identification and classification of all tracks within the Philippine airspace; Philippine Air Defense Identification Zone (PADIZ); and the airspace above the Philippine EEZ.

**IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

- A. **Air Defense** – The protection of territorial airspace in order to secure the sovereignty of the state and territorial integrity of the national territory from air threat.
- B. **Civil Track** – Track that are known to be as civilian aircraft like commercial domestic/international flights and General Aviation.

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C. **Classification** – the assignment of type of track as a result of initial assessment based on available data provided at Philippine Air Defense Control Center (PADCC).

D. **Detection** – Sensing of airborne objects using by Air Defense Surveillance Radar and other sensors.

E. **Friendly Track** – Identified military aircraft, including foreign military aircraft with proper coordination from the AFP.

F. **Hostile Track** – During peacetime operations, track is declared hostile by the Commander-in-Chief, based on the recommendation by the Chief of Staff; or the Air Component Commander (Commanding General, Philippine Air Force); or the Air Defense Commander; or by the Interceptor invoking self-defense.

- During wartime operations, all enemy fighter/ attack aircraft are declared hostile track.

G. **Identification** – Confirmation of track(s)'s route, position and intent based on relevant information from all available sources. Identification maybe through the following means:

1. Correlation of flight plan with Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP);
2. Existence of approved foreign military diplomatic flight clearance;
3. Coordination with other Major Services and Agencies;
4. Confirmation of track(s)'s general position and route/ heading from radar surveillance reports from Battle Control Center (BCC);
5. Confirmation for Electronic and Signal identification (Identification, Friend or Foe/Selective Identification Feature (IFF/SIF); and
6. Response to Radio Challenge on guard frequency.

H. **Intrusion** – the act of a foreign civil or state aircraft entering the national airspace of another state without securing permission from the latter regardless of whether there is manifest hostile intent.

I. **Known Track** – track that has associated and verifiable data.

J. **Military Track** – track that are known to be from Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or foreign armed forces.

K. **Neutral Track** – Foreign military aircraft with appropriate clearance from CAAP or other relevant agencies, but without prior coordination from PAF or AFP.

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- L. **Pending Track** – track detected but not classified within two (2) minutes.
- M. **Special Track** – track that is highlighted which requires constant monitoring and coordination with CAAP and other relevant agencies. The following tracks will be classified special:
  - 1. Aircraft in distress/emergency
  - 2. Designated VIP Aircraft
  - 3. Hijacked Aircraft
  - 4. Search and Rescue Aircraft
- N. **Surveillance** – The systematic observation of airspace within the Philippine airspace and Philippine Defense Area of Operations (PDAO).
- O. **Suspected Hostile Track** – track suspected to be with hostile intent against the Philippines based on the current flight profile and initial assessment from Intelligence sources.
- P. **Track of Interest (TOI)** – a high-priority track with no data and no response to radio challenges.
- Q. **Unknown Track** – Aircraft with no data from CAAP (Squawking or non-Squawking) nor from other relevant agencies. This includes aircraft that responded to radio challenges.

**V. POLICIES:**

- A. The PAF shall be responsible for the Air Defense of the Philippines.
- B. The freedom of overflight in international airspace shall be guaranteed and maintained.
- C. The procedures enumerated in this SOP are based on existing international and domestic laws, and shall be strictly followed by all Air Defense elements during the detection, identification, and classification of tracks within the Philippine airspace; PADIZ; and the airspace above the EEZ.

**VI. PROCEDURES:**

- A. Surveillance is conducted by Battle Control Center (BCC) and PADCC 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a layered concept of operations with the National Capital Region or the ADDC's radar site locations as the center of gravity (or "Bullseye").

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B. Upon detection of TOI, BCC shall inform PADCC for identification. Should the PADCC be first to detect the TOI, PADCC shall likewise inform the concerned ADDC. The TOI data forwarded to PADCC or BCC include Lead time relative to designated inner, outer circle, territorial airspace, and priority facility listed in Critical Assets List (CAL) and Defended Assets List (DAL).

C. BCC and PADCC classify the TOI as Pending **(P)** Track.

D. Procedures for Identification of TOI within two (2) minutes which starts from the call from BCC or Civil Military Liaison (CML) to PADCC for identification of TOI:

1. PADCC refers to existing clearances and flight schedules.
2. PADCC coordinates with CAAP through the CML Flight Data.
3. PADCC provides feedback to BCC on the result of coordination with CAAP.
4. Manila Area Control Center (MACC), local aerodrome, and/or PADCC through the BCC challenges the TOI for identification and solicit intention. Radio challenge must only be done while the track is within PADIZ and/or Philippine Airspace.

E. After two (2) minutes, the PADCC re-classifies the TOI from Pending Track to Unknown **(U)** Track if there is no available data at hand. On the other hand, PADCC re-classifies the TOI from Pending Track to Friendly/Civil/Neutral/Special based on the available information.

F. BCC and PADCC continue to monitor the track.

G. The PADCC with the collaboration of its Battle Staff, Command Operation Center (COC), will coordinate with the following offices/units/agencies for specific information regarding the TOI to disseminate and/or gather pertinent information.

1. Intelligence units of AFP, Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG);
2. Flying Units of AFP, PNP, and PCG;
3. AFP Command Center
4. Air Force Command Center
5. Navy Intelligence Fusion Center (NIFC)
6. Army Operations Center (AOC);
7. Operation Center of concerned UC

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8. Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG); and

9. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) through the Defense Attachés.

H. PADCC performs Threat Assessment on the Unknown/Neutral track based on updated data.

I. After exerting all efforts to identify the unknown track, the PADCC alerts the Air Defense Alert Center (ADAC) for possible scramble of interceptors and provide TOI data.

J. PADCC notifies the Firebases and provide track data.

K. The Chief, PADCC/ Chief Weapons Controller / duty Air Weapons Controller issues Scramble Order for visual identification (VID) to ADAC.

L. ADAC shall inform WOC, 5<sup>th</sup> FW of its scramble mission. Likewise, WOC, 5<sup>th</sup> FW shall inform concerned Offices and Units.

M. The PADCC Command Center will inform the Presidential Situation Room (PSR) on the current situation.

N. After the issuance of the Scramble Order, PADCC shall inform the following:

1. Command Operations Center (COC), ADC

2. Air Force Operations Center

3. AFP Command Center

4. Operations Center of Concerned UC;

5. Naval Operations Command Center (NOCC) and Army Operations Center (AOC) as necessary.

O. PADCC updates the Air Defense Commander (ADC) on the TOI.

P. PADCC may recommend to ADC to upgrade the Alert Level from Air Defense Condition (ADEFCON) 1 to ADEFCON 2. (refer to Annex "A": ADEFCON)

Q. ADC provides guidance or recommends to the Air Component Commander the upgrading of Alert Level from ADEFCON 1 to ADEFCON 2.

## **VII. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A. All Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) Forces should be knowledgeable in the current ROE for Air Defense.

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B. PADCC shall be responsible for providing command-and-control during Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) operations.

C. BCC shall be responsible in providing situational awareness to the interceptor.

D. 5FW shall be responsible in providing alert aircraft with pilots at ADACs.

E. The 960 AMDG/ AMD Batteries shall ensure weapons readiness and monitoring during the whole duration of interception. Likewise, the Anti-Aircraft Gun Elements are operationally ready and alert.

**VIII. COMMAND:** Current Command and Control and ROE are in effect.

**IX. SIGNAL:** Current CEOI in effect.


**X. RESCISSION:** All publications and instructions/directives whose provisions are in conflict to this SOP are hereby rescinded.

**XI. EFFECTIVITY:** This SOP takes effect upon publication

**BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MALINIT:**

OFFICIAL:

**AUGUSTO N PADUA**  
Colonel PAF (NSA)  
Chief of Command Staff

  
**REDEMER B PUTOL**  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant PAF  
Command Adjutant

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"A"

**ANNEXES:**

**ANNEX "A" – RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ANNEX "B" – FLOW OF COMMUNICATION**

**ANNEX "C" – IADS EXECUTION TIMELINE (DECISION MATRIX)**

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ANNEX A:

Responsibilities:

A. **Battle Staff**

1. **BATTLE COMMANDER (BC)**

~~- Initiate coordination via hotline or other medium to;~~

- a. Shall immediately notify OC3-ADC/COC.
- b. Shall initiate coordination via hotline or other means of communication to the Air Defense Commander to relay the air defense situation, who will then subsequently apprise the Air Component Commander.
- c. With clearance from the Air Component Commander, shall notify the National Command Authority (Commander in Chief, SND, and Chief of Staff) upon confirmation and clearance from Air Defense Commander and Air Component Commander using the designated telephone hotlines and other means of secured communications necessary.

2. **CHIEF INTELLIGENCE (CI)**

-Initiate coordination with counterpart agencies to identify the pending / unknown track(s) and the intention to;

- a. Intelligence units of AFP, Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG);
- b. Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG);
- c. Other Agencies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) through the Defense Attachés.

3. **CHIEF AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT (CAM)**

- Initiate coordination with CAAP liaison for additional information and classification regarding detected pending track(s).

B. **O-C3/ COC, ADC shall be responsible:**

- coordination to O-A3 and AFCC, PAF on the detected TOI and all information relative to C2 Battle Staff Air Defense procedures.

C. **O-A3/ AFCC, PAF shall be responsible:**

- coordination to O-J3 and AFPCC, PAF and concerned Tactical Operations Wing (TOWs) on the detected TOI and all information relative to C2 Battle Staff Air Defense procedures.

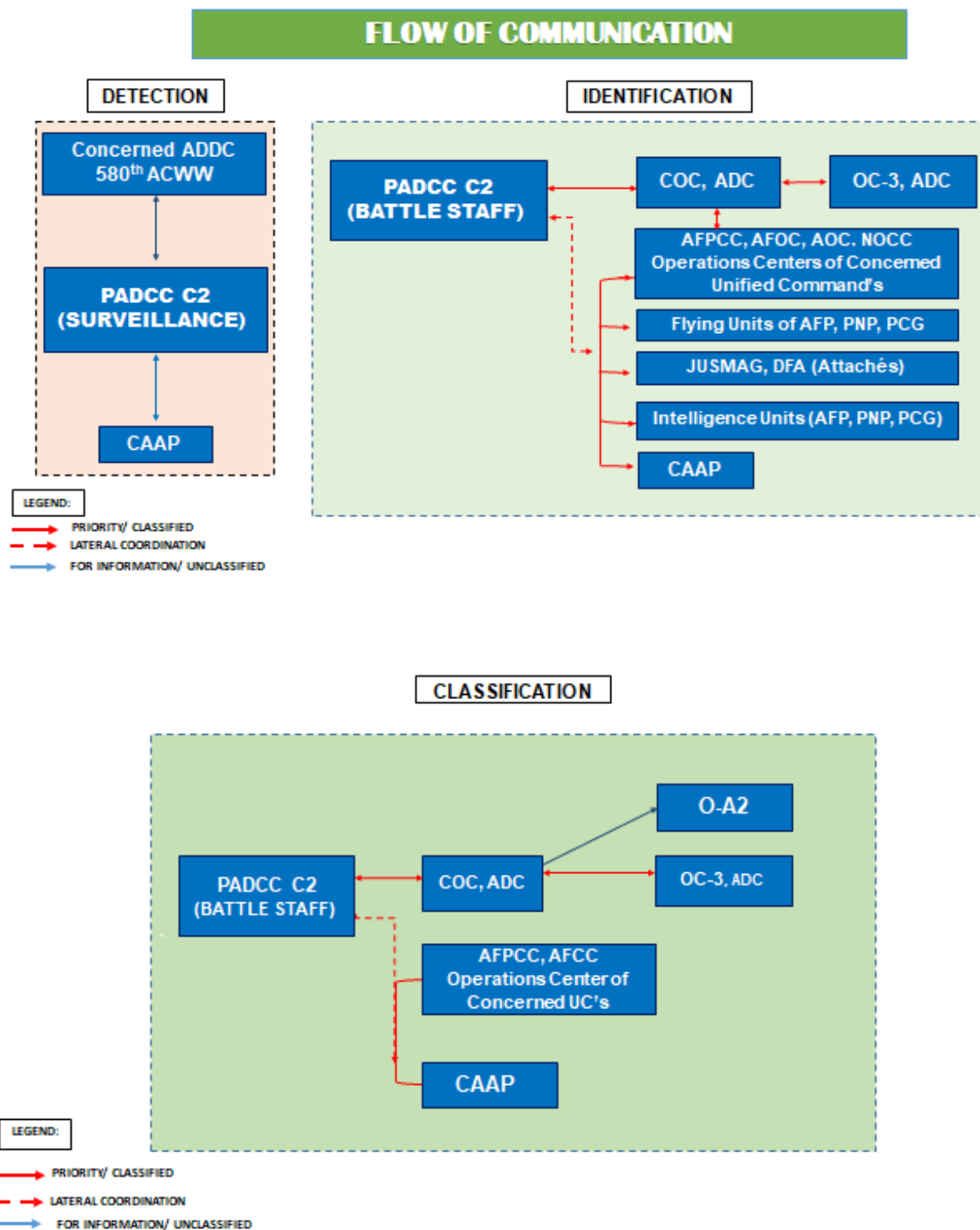
D. **Concerned TOWs shall be responsible:**

- coordination to concerned O-U3 of Unified command on the detected TOI and all information relative to C2 Battle Staff Air Defense procedures.



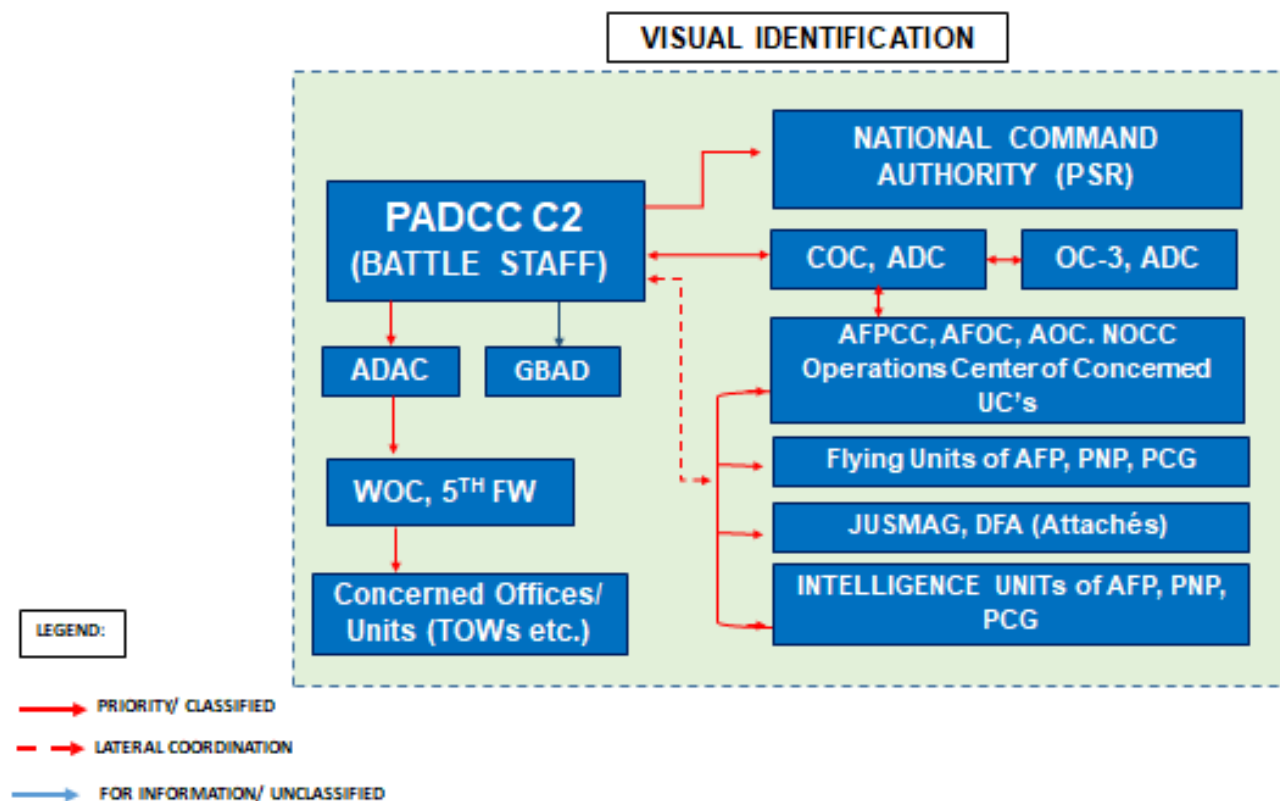
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## Annex B:





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Annex C:

# IADS Execution Timeline (Decision Matrix)

Factor	System						Communication Process
Critical Time							10 mins
Bullseye (DA)							23 mins
Intercept Point							13 mins
							10mins
		5 mins					5mins
Detection		2 mins	3 mins	15 mins	3 mins		
Threat	UT (Fighter) 0.6M	160NM			110NM	70NM	
Action	Sensor	ID	Monitor				
	C2	ID	Classify				
		Alert ADAC					
	Decision	Assess and Alert					
	Interceptor	Suit Up/ Battle Station		Runway Alert	Scramble	Intercept	
	AMDS	25 -30 mins to set-up					



EO292  
AD ROE  
AD Manual  
Protocols