ATO | 2021 EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE INITIATIVES | FOCUS FIVE

The National Airspace System (NAS) is the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world.
While safety is always paramount, efficiency maximizes the use of available airspace. In 2020, the ATO undertook several initiatives to improve operational efficiency. Continuing to build on this foundation, the ATO will focus on five Efficiency Performance Initiatives for 2021.

Advancing NAS efficiency requires a better understanding of operational interdependencies and the intrinsic mixture of science and art that make up air navigational services. The ATO will expand its infrastructure of dashboards and efficiency tracking mechanisms in 2021. These data analytics tools will be the key to measuring progress and identifying where to concentrate corrective actions for years to come.

Miles-in-Trail Stringency

Reducing or eliminating unneeded Mile-in-Trail (MIT) is more relevant now than ever. The compounding effects of MIT initiatives as they ripple through the system lead to system delays and overall inefficiencies. Striving to be the most efficient aerospace system in the world starts at the very lowest level. With the use of the improved Stringency dashboard and targeted MIT reduction action plans, Traffic Management Officers will continue to search for areas where the reduction or elimination of MIT is needed and appropriate.

Program Compliance

In 2020, a new dashboard was created to track facility EDCT compliance for Ground Delay Programs (GDPs) at the departure airport. In 2021, we will educate our workforce on the importance of GDP compliance and the impacts of non-compliance, including excess vectoring, en route holding, ground stops and diverts. As the airlines begin to repopulate the skies and the use of GDPs increases, our goal in the coming year will be to increase EDCT compliance by 5%. Leading air carriers have also committed to better educating their personnel on the importance of EDCT compliance. Increased compliance within the ATO and with Industry is expected to expose other factors which lead to over and under-delivery at the receiving facility.

Arrival Fix Balancing

Arrival fix balancing will continue to be a joint effort between Industry and the ATO. The ATO has assembled a dashboard that identifies overscheduled arrival fixes. Armed with this data, AJR and AJT will work with industry to develop mitigation strategies at our busiest airports. Balancing arrival demand into our busiest airports will have wide ranging benefits to include fewer Miles-in-Trail initiatives, less tactical airborne re-routes and reduced scheduling delays into the overhead stream. The goal of arrival fix balancing is to maximize throughput at the destination airport.
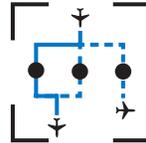
Airspace Flow Program (AFPs)

The ATO is using new data analytics to determine the Unimpeded FCA Throughput (UFT) for FCA's used to implement AFP's. Using historical data to determine UFT allows for a true starting point to discuss Day of Operations AFP rates. In addition to the refinement of FCA throughputs, a new Midwest FCA structure will be established in preparation to dry-line weather events. The ATO will also educate traffic management personnel on the optimal use of AFPs.

National Traffic Management Log (NTML) TMI Reporting

The ATO is committed to using data to make actionable, informed decisions to improve aviation efficiency. The National Traffic Management Log (NTML) is the primary data source for efficiency metrics. NTML accuracy at the service delivery point is vital to organizing the data into actionable information. In 2021, the ATO shall develop standardized training and guidance for NTML entries particularly with Traffic Management Initiatives (TMIs). Improved NTML data will help us prioritize our efficiency goals and allow us to make meaningful efficiency decisions across the aviation system.

The ATO is committed to being a data driven agency that relies on efficiency metrics to successfully improving aviation efficiency.

SAFETY EFFICIENCY

The FAAs TFM job is to ensure **SAFETY** of flights and the **EFFICIENT** utilization of NAS resources.

FAA
Air Traffic Organization