

## *Aircraft Manifesting - Digital Scales*

On our arrival at the Longview Mob Center at Longview Texas, the manifesting and loading process at Gregg County Airport of charter jet aircraft would take between 2 or 3 hours per flight, and utilized all five staff in the "manifest room", the bus parking zone, and on the airport ramp.

Prior to April 14<sup>th</sup> all crew personnel were weighed separately using a sliding beam "doctors scale" and a hanging compression scale for individual units of cargo. Each measurement was calculated manually and summed on the Passenger Manifest. Time required to process 20 PAX was approximately 10 minutes (or 5 crews per hour). The minimum number of staff to complete this task was five (two to handle each scale, two to tabulate the manifest, and one to direct crews). This is the "traditional" way of manifesting crews.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> a consultation was held between Mark Smith (Team ASGS) and Barry Hicks, Area Command Aviation Coordinator. At this meeting it was suggested that several changes be made to improve efficiencies and safety of the airport operations. Included in these changes was a recommendation to obtain digital scales for improved time efficiency of manifest procedure.

Barry suggested that we seek to rent or lease two digital platform scales from a local source. A call was placed to Fairbanks Scale Inc. of Longview, TX for customer service and orders placed for the only two locally available digital scales: 1) 2'x 2' 500 lbs. capacity portable platform scale, and 2) 5'x 5' 5000 lbs. capacity platform scale. Neither instrument was capable of summing individual measurements to total weights by crew groupings - thus manual tabulation was still required. Neither scale had print capabilities.

Following the weekend of April 12<sup>th</sup>, the scales were available to be delivered and set up by the Fairbanks representative. The large 5000 lbs. capacity scale was 120 volt powered and, because it weighed over 800 lbs. itself (steel diamond plate construction), took six persons to move into the building. The smaller personnel scale is battery powered (6 "C" cells) and is mounted on wheels for easier transport. Costs for rental of the equipment from Fairbanks was about \$52.00 per day for both units.

We began using the new scales for crew and cargo manifesting on April 15<sup>th</sup> and everyone involved expressed a greater preference for the digitals over

the older technology. Faster processing speeds were gained immediately -- up to seven crews per hour - and they reduced the number of staff needed in the "manifest room" from five to three. Manual calculation was still required, as manifest weights must be listed by individual units regardless of automated summing capabilities on any scale.

It is recommended that in any future large scale Airport mobilization and demobilization, digital scales be utilized for most effective manifest processing. The 5' x 5' scale was larger than needed for personal gear and cargo, and was difficult to set up due to its weight. Digital scales are also available in 3' x 3' platform sizes and can be programmed to read any capacity. A 2' x 2' personnel scale and 3' x 3' cargo/personal gear scale would fulfill most requirements.

Reference: Fairbanks Scales Inc. on the Internet for further information on worldwide weight measurement services.

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