ASSI OT Principle

Best practices are embedded in the ASSI OT principle which should be available to air traffic controllers at their operational positions in case of Radio Communications Failure (RCF).

Acknowledge the RCF, determine if it is a partial or complete communications failure; make blind transmissions if necessary.

Separate and Squawk. Separate the aircraft accordingly (identified vs unknown traffic). Instruct crew to select Mode A code 7600 and if necessary, allow long final, keep the active runway clear of everything - departures, arrivals, personnel and vehicles.

Supervise and Silence. Call for assistance from the Supervisor. Silence the non-urgent calls (as required), look for means to establish possible relay by other stations.

Inform those who need to know e.g: the supervisor and all concerned ATC units as well as the airport authorities at the destination or alternative aerodrome.

Offer support by transmitting blind and providing any information considered necessary such as type of approach, runway length and aerodrome details, etc.

Time. Help to provide time for the crew to assess the situation and adhere to the RCF procedures. Minimise R/T calls, prioritise the RTF aircraft, wait for the crew to call you – avoid asking questions or contacting them if possible.

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