

- *Field Carrier Landing Practice, or FCLP, is the foundation of carrier aviation, providing fixed wing pilots with critical real world training before going out to land on the “boat.”*
- *Before any fixed-wing pilot, no matter how experienced, attempts to qualify to land an airplane on an aircraft carrier, he or she must successfully complete multiple FCLP periods at a properly equipped airfield ashore.*
- *FCLP provides the most realistic training a pilot can receive in preparation for landing an airplane on the moving flight deck of an aircraft carrier.*

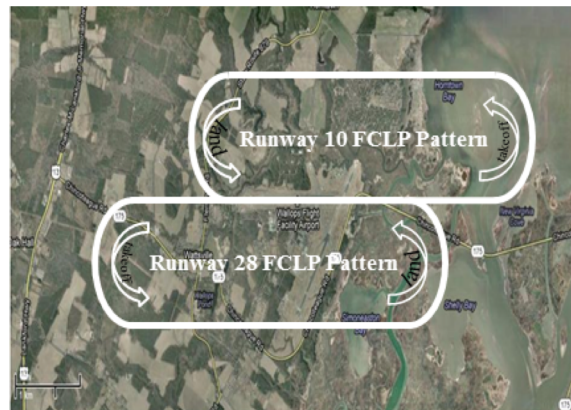
### Navy FCLP at Wallops Flight Facility

...had its beginnings with the commissioning of Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Chincoteague on 5 March 1943. NAAS Chincoteague served as an auxiliary airfield for Naval Air Station Norfolk. The station had three concrete runways of lengths 6,000, 5,100, and 4,800 feet.

NAAS Chincoteague closed in 1959, when NASA took over the facility and established the Wallops Test Center, now known as Wallops Flight Facility.

Wallops Flight Facility has three active runways: 04/22, 10/28, and 17/35, with lengths of 8,750, 8,000, and 4,808 feet respectively. Routine fixed and rotary wing flight training operations may be conducted on any of these runways dependent on the prevailing winds.

Navy FCLP at Wallops Flight Facility is only conducted to runway 10/28.



Navy C-2 conducting Field Carrier Landing Practice, or FCLP, to runway 28 at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility

FIELD

CARRIER

LANDING

PRACTICE



Navy E-2 conducting Field Carrier Landing Practice, or FCLP to runway 28 at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility

Landing an airplane on the moving flight deck of an aircraft carrier is one of the most complex and demanding tasks required of Navy pilots...



Cockpit view of a day carrier landing from three-quarter miles behind the ship

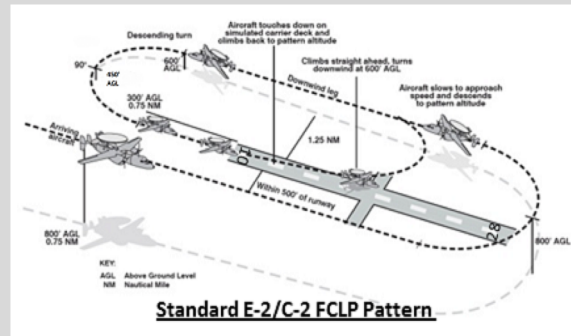
...one made even more difficult when having to land at night.



Cockpit view of a night carrier landing from one-quarter mile behind the ship

Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) is defined as that phase of required flight training that precedes carrier landing operations. It should simulate, as nearly as practicable, the conditions encountered during carrier landing operations.

---*Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (NATOPS) Landing Signal Officer Manual*---



Standard E-2/C-2 FCLP Pattern

FCLP pattern airspeeds, altitudes, and direction simulate air operations around the aircraft carrier

- Pattern direction is left
- Pattern entry is at 800 feet at an airspeed of 250 knots
- Pattern altitude is 600 feet above ground level at an airspeed of 130 - 150 knots
- Pattern is 1.0 - 1.5 nautical miles from the runway
- The separation interval between aircraft in the pattern is 45 - 60 seconds

Due to the unique and challenging nature of landing an airplane on the 700' x 100' runway of an aircraft carrier, FCLP training is always conducted under the supervision of a Landing Signal Officer, or LSO.

The LSO is responsible for training, critiquing, and grading pilots in proper carrier landing techniques.

Through training and experience, the LSO is capable of correlating factors of weather, aircraft capabilities, and pilot experience to provide optimum control and assistance in aircraft landings.

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Landing Signal Officer