

# HIGH EXPANSION FOAM AND SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS FOR DOD HANGARS

2017-04-19
BY BRIAN ERBSTOESSER, PE
FOR GREAT PLAINS CHAPTER
SFPE



Introduction – DoD Hangars are used for shelter, maintenance, and inspections of aircraft and helicopters that are worth millions of dollars. Fire suppression systems are there to protect the aircraft and helicopters, buildings, and above all... personnel. This presentation is to discuss DoD Fire Suppression Systems for Hangars.

Presentor – Brian Erbstoesser, PE – Fire Protection Engineer, 17 Years of Experience

What are typical systems that protect Department of Defense Hangars?

Wet Pipe Sprinkler Systems – Administration Areas Dry Pipe Sprinkler Systems – Hangar Bays Low Level, High Expansion Foam – Hangar Bays

What is Low Level, High Expansion Foam?

### Starting Point - Criteria

Private Sector uses National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 409

Department of Defense (DoD) uses Various Criteria (Army, Navy, Airforce, Marines)

- Unified Facilities Criteria (UFCs)
   3-600-01
   4-211-01, 4-211-01N
  - 4-211-02, 4-211-03F
- Engineering Technical Letter (ETLs)
   AF ETL 02-15
- Engineering Construction Bulletins (ECBs) ECB 2015-17
- NFPA

NFPA 11, 11A, 20, 22, 24, 70, 72, 409

Where to find the criteria? www.wbdg.org (Whole Building Design Guide)

NOTE: Many changes in the criteria over the last 4 years – can be confusing

### Have criteria...now what?

**How to protect hangars?** 

# **Active Systems:**

- Wet Pipe Sprinkler Systems in Administration Areas Typical for All Normal Buildings (Light Hazard, Ordinary Hazard, etc.)
- Dry Pipe Sprinkler System for Hangar Bays (Requirement is .2 gpm over 5,000 square feet).
- Low Level, High Expansion Foam System in Hangar Bay as well as the Dry Pipe System.

# **Passive Components:**

- Draft Curtains every 15,000 square feet.
- Hangar Separated by All Other Areas by Minimum 1
   Hour Fire Rated Walls

# Let's Talk Low Level, High Expansion Foam System....

# **Typical Components:**



**High Expansion Foam - 2% or 3% - Not AFFF** 

# **Typical Components - Continued**

Atmospheric Storage
Tank – No Bladder Tanks

High Expansion Foam Generator







Foam Proportioner In-line

# **Typical Components - Continued**



Foam Pumps – Stainless Steel or Resistant to Foam Corrosion





Multi-Spectrum IR Flame Detector

**Deluge Valve - Electric** 

# Design Strategy – How to Design the System?

NFPA 11 (National Fire Protection Association) is General Guidance

It is the basis for ETL 02-15

What is required? Performance....

Cover 90 Percent of Aircraft Silhouette in one minute or less (floor layout)

Cover aircraft servicing area and adjacent areas to a depth of one meter (3.2 feet) In four minutes or less

2.6 cubic feet min/square feet to 4 cubic feet min/square feet

### **Important Necessary Data:**

NFPA 291 – Hydrant Flow Test Data – Available Water Flow and Pressure (critical design information)

This determines need for Fire Pumps, Foam Concentrate Pumps, Foam Generators, and overall System Performance

Select some preliminary equipment (HEF Generators) and put together some possible layouts

Start calculations.....What calculations?

## Calculate Minimum Discharge Rate or Total Generator Capacity

$$R=({V/T}+Rs) \times Cn \times Cl$$

R=Rate of discharge in cubic feet/min
V=Submergence volume in cubic feet (next formula)

 $V=A \times D$ 

A= Area of the aircraft servicing floor and adjacent floor areas (square feet) D=Depth = 3.28 feet

T= Submergence time in minutes = 4 minutes Rs= Rate of foam breakdown by sprinklers (next formula)

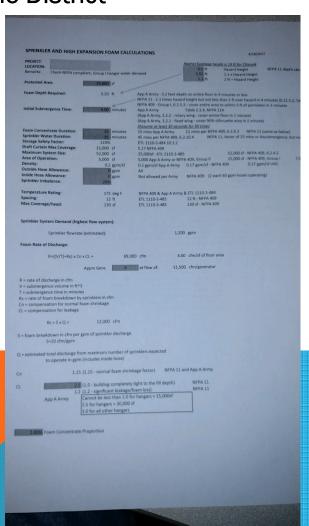
 $Rs = S \times Q$ 

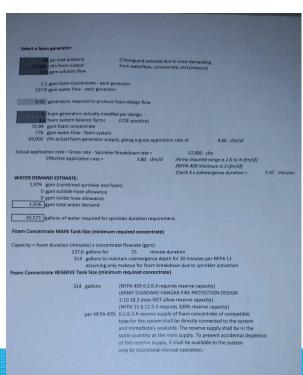
S=Foam breakdown from sprinklers (10 cubic feet per minute \* gpm)
Q= Estimated total discharge from sprinklers (expected to operate)

Cn = Compensation for normal foam shrinkage = 1.15 (empirical)
Cl = Compensation due to leakage around doors and windows and
unclosable openings (values in ETL 02-15)

The calculations can be done by hand.

A good tool is an Excel Spreadsheet created by US Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District





# Design/Selection of Components

Select High Expansion Foam Generators

Select Fire Pumps (if necessary)

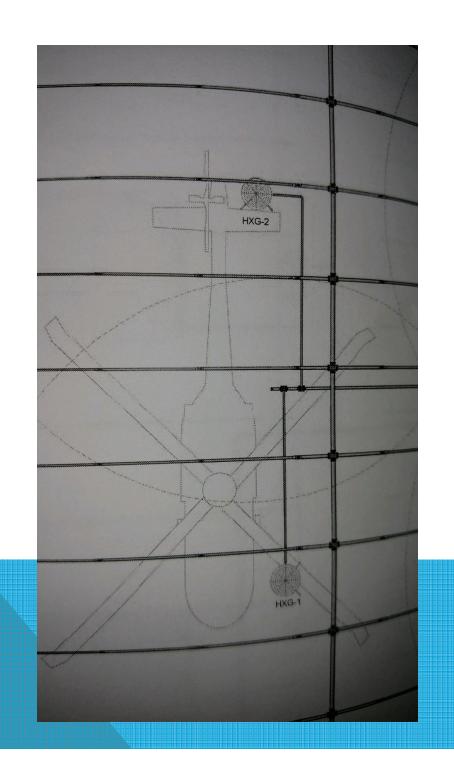
Select Foam Concentrate Tank Size

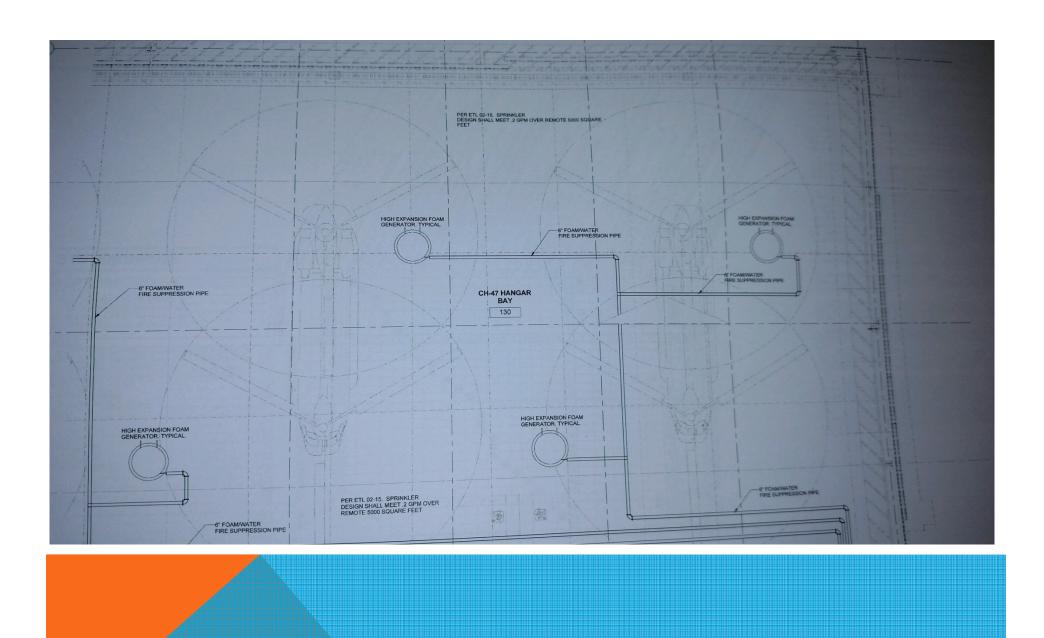
Select Foam Pumps

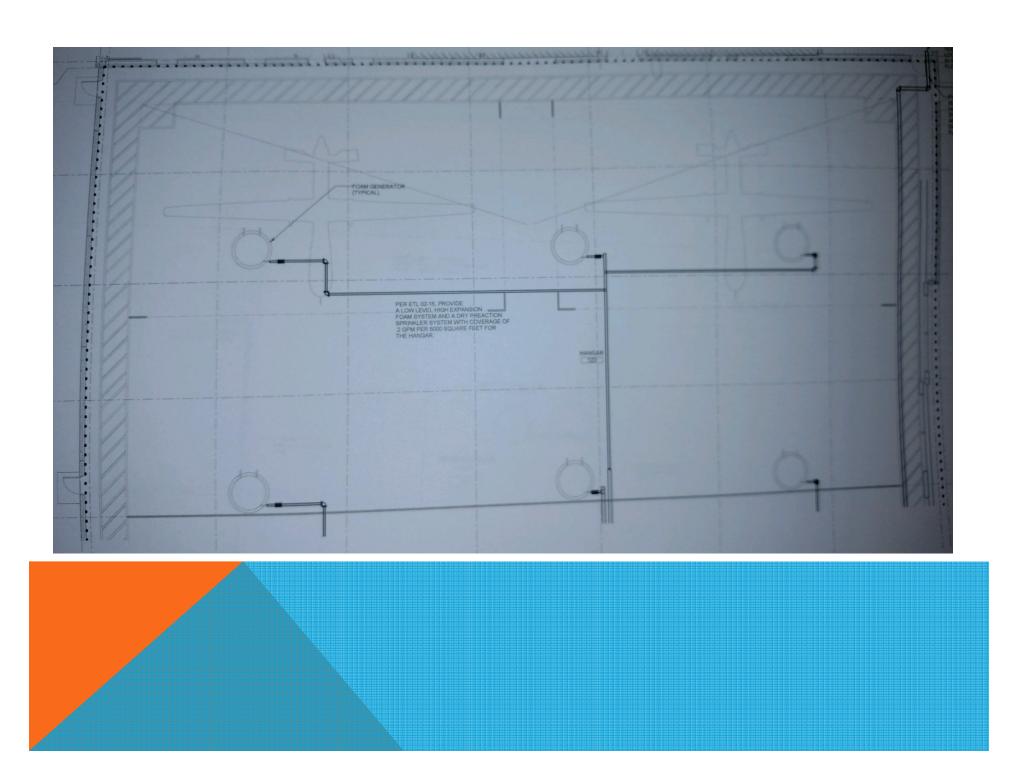
Select Deluge Valve (HEF Valve)

Start Layouts - Build Model

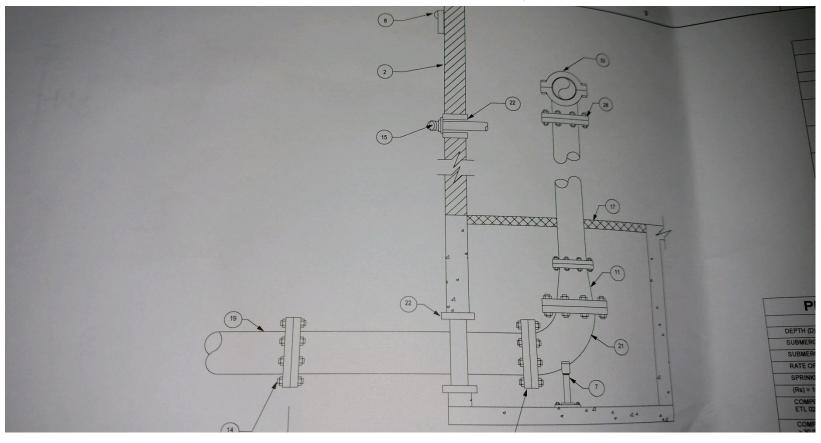


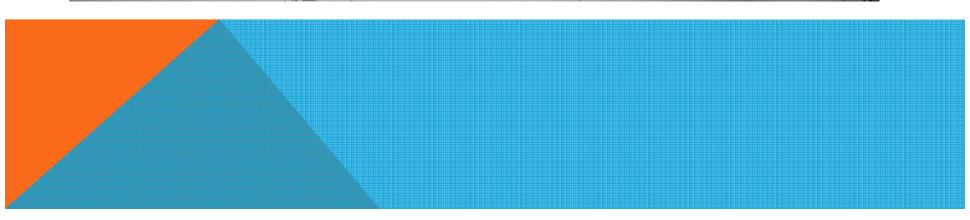


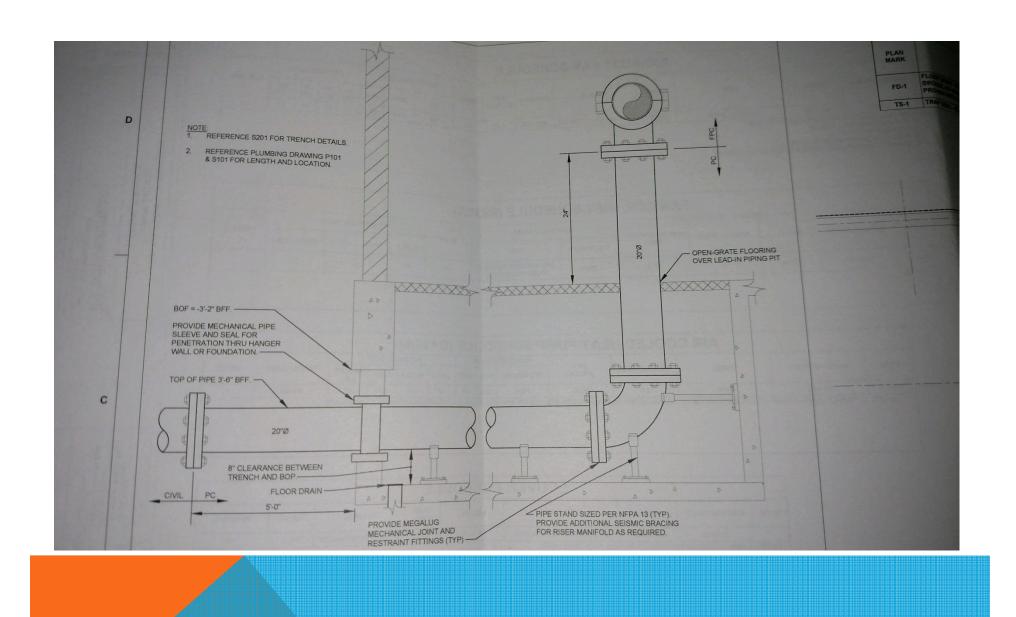


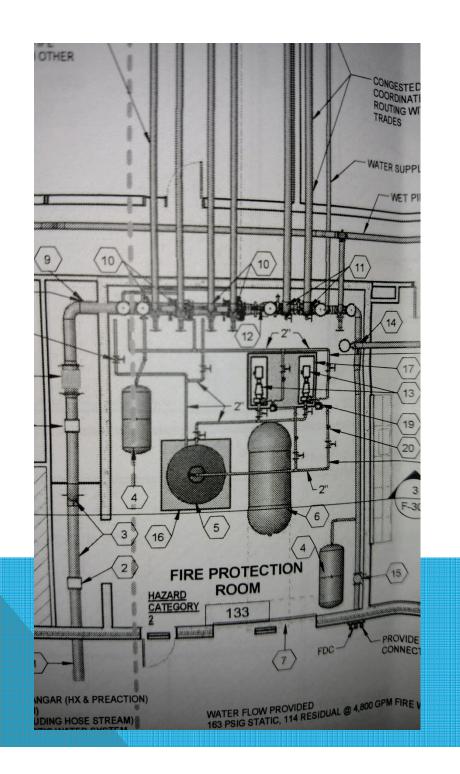


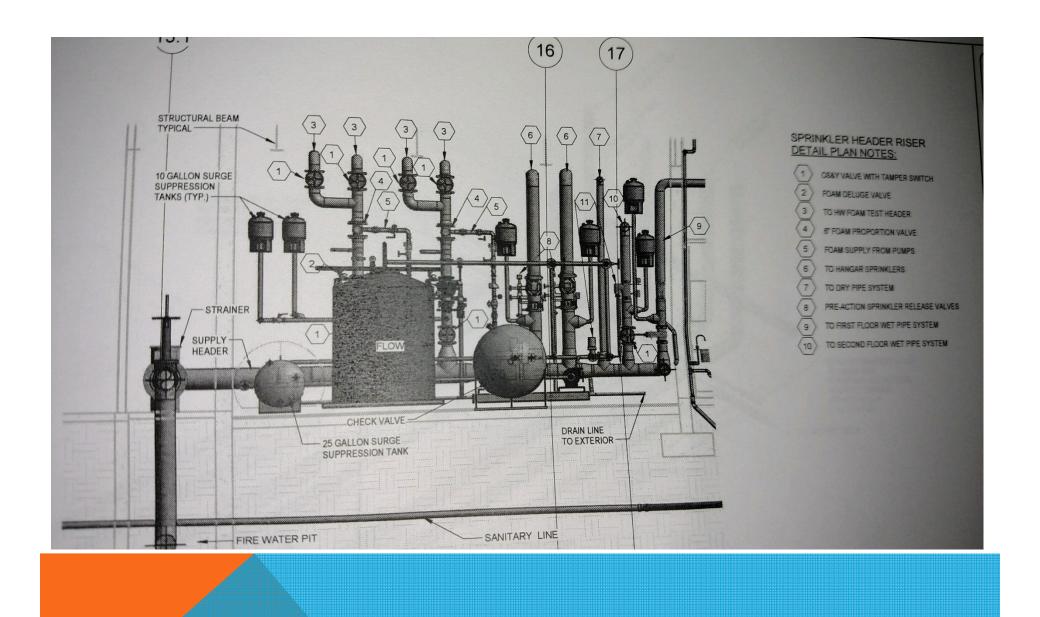
# Examples of Water Service Entrances, Room Layouts, and Riser Information

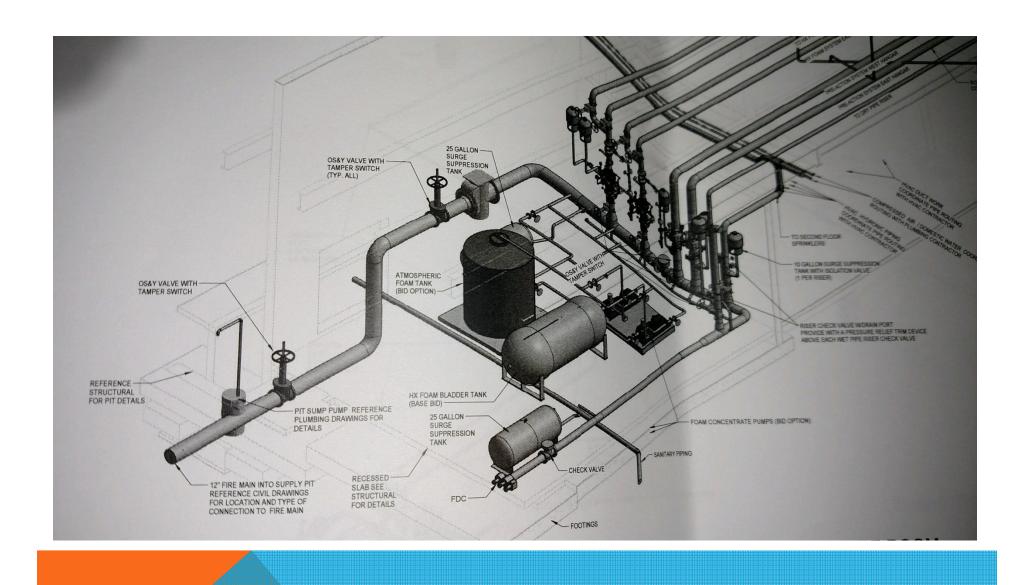


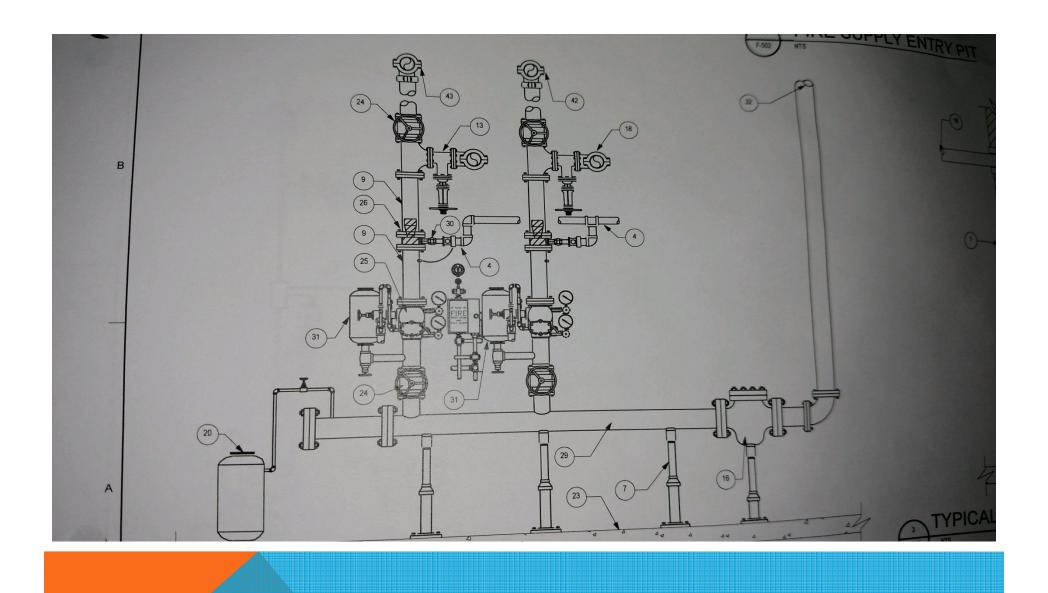






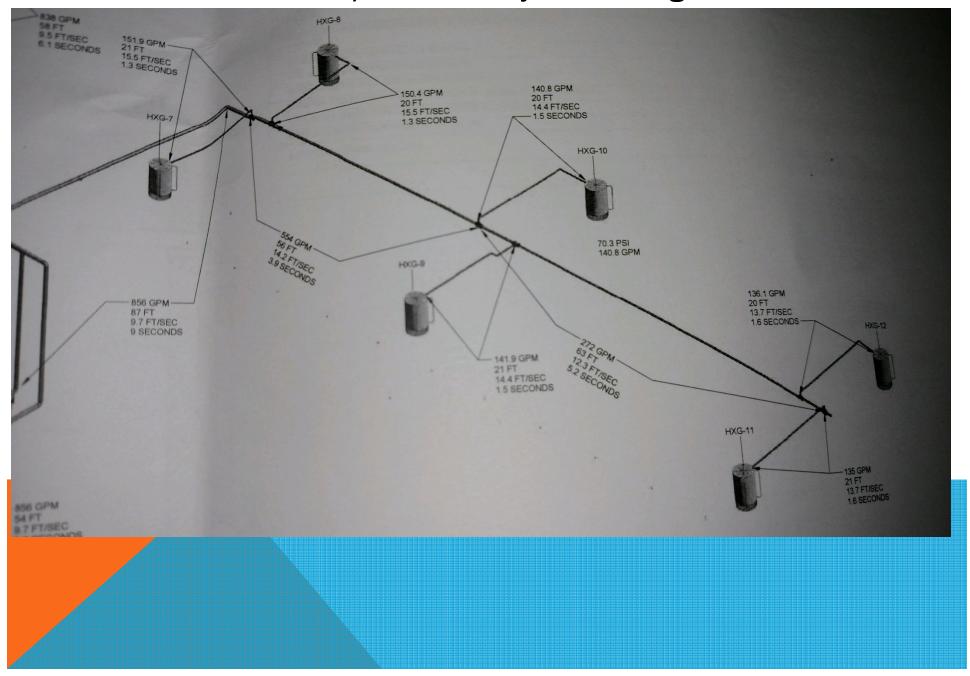


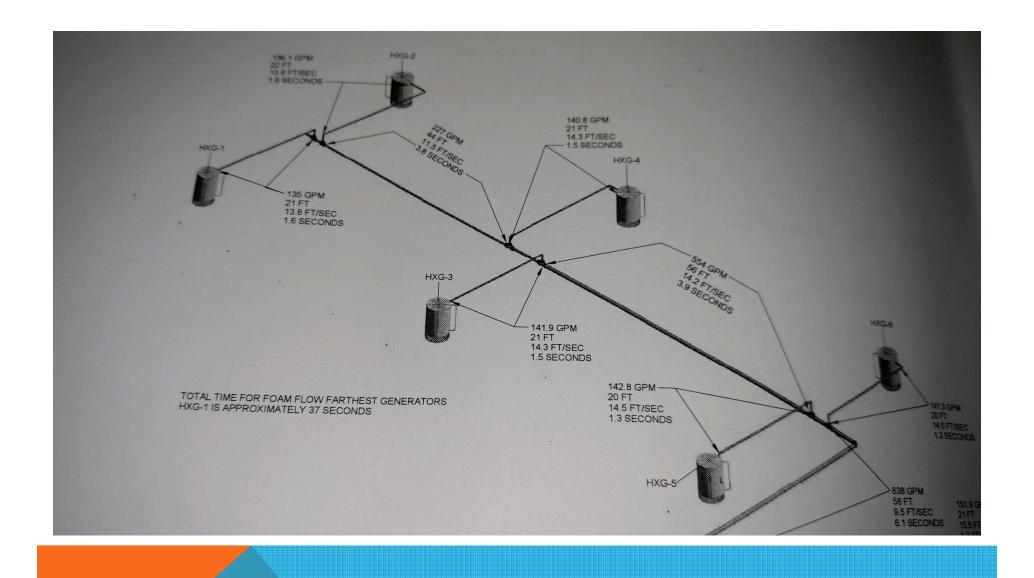






# Validate/Calculate System Design





#### Time Analysis for : Headset\_1

Dry pipe system

System Volume Downstream DPV Volume Fluid Gas Differential Trip Ratio Accelerator

768.6 gal 768.6 gal Water @ 60F (15.6C) Air @ 40°F and Opsi 0 (Deluge valve) Not Used

**Headset Time Parameters** 

Trip Time Fluid Delivery Time Operating Time Required Fluid Delivery Time Safety Factor

N/A 18.36s N/A 60s 69.4%

**Water Supply Parameters** 

Flow (gpm)	Pressure (psi)
0	136
2800	128

#### Parameters of the 12 Open Heads

Head#	K-Factor	Orifice	Minimum Operating Pressure	Transit Time	Fluid Delivery Time	Oper. Time SHALL NOT exceed 60s	Open Time
	(gpm/psi½)	(in)	(psi)	(s)	(s)	(s)	(s)
N1	16.8	0.772	50	18.19	18.19	N/A	0
N10	16.8	0.772	50	5.855	5.855	N/A	0
N11	16.8	0.772	50	2.856	2.856	N/A	0
N12	16.8	0.772	50	3.917	3.917	N/A	0
N2	16.8	0.772	50	18.36	18.36	N/A	0
N3	16.8	0.772	50	14.05	14.05	N/A	0
N4	16.8	0.772	50	15.27	15.27	N/A	0
N5	16.8	0.772	50	11.4	11.4	N/A	0
N6	16.8	0.772	50	12.09	12.09	N/A	0
N7	16.8	0.772	50	7.675	7.675	N/A	0
V8	16.8	0.772	50	9.271	9.271	N/A	0
N9	16.8	0.772	50	5.115	5.115	N/A	0

Protocol: NOT USED **NOT USED Statement** 

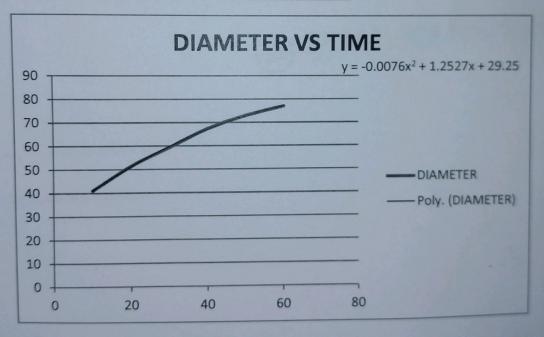
#### **Modelling Assumptions**

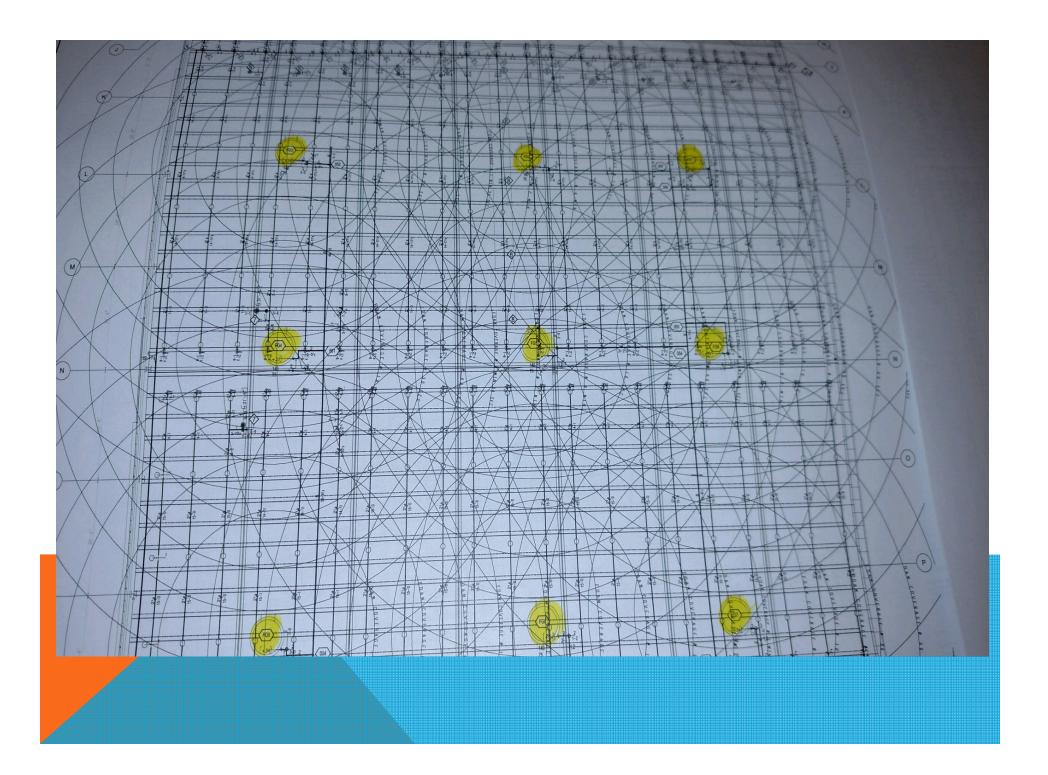
- Fluid is incompressible.
   Pipes do not suffer deformation.
   Fluid front is perpendicular to pipe centerline.

TABLE 1					
			DIAMETER OF		
	OPERATING TIME	TIME TO DEVELOP FOAM	FOAM @		
HEF GENERATOR	50 PSI (SEC)	(SEC)	1MINUTE (FT)		
N1	18.19	41.81	68.36		
N10	5.855	54.145	74.83		
N11	2.856	57.144	76.05		
N12	3.917	56.083	75.64		
N2	18.36	41.64	68.25		
N3	14.05	45.95	70.79		
N4	15.27	44.73	70.10		
N5	11.4	48.6	72.21		
N6	12.09	47.91	71.85		
N7	7.675	52.325	74.02		
N8	9.271	50.729	73.27		
N9	5.115	54.885	75.14		

OPERATING TIME FROM FLUID DELIVERY CALCULATIONS FROM ANSUL
TIME TO DEVELOP FOAM = 60 SECONDS LESS OPERATING TIME TO REACH 50 PSI AT GENERATOR
DIAMETER FROM FOAM SPREAD DATA TABLE FOR JET-X15 GENERATOR WITH JET-X 2% FOAM @ 50 PSI

TIME	DIAMETER
10	41
20	51.5
30	59.5
40	67.5
50	73
60	77





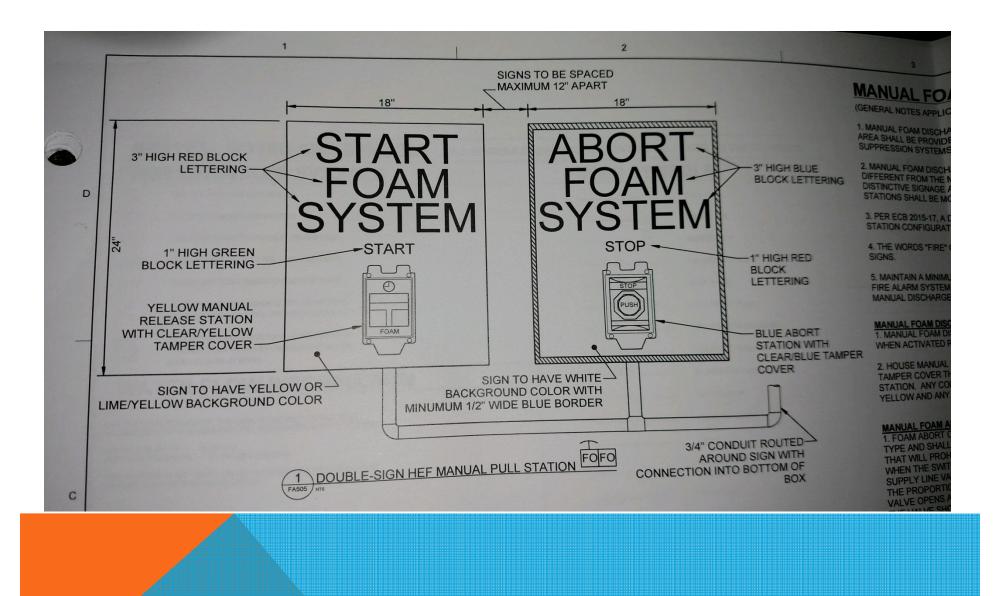
# **Activation of System**

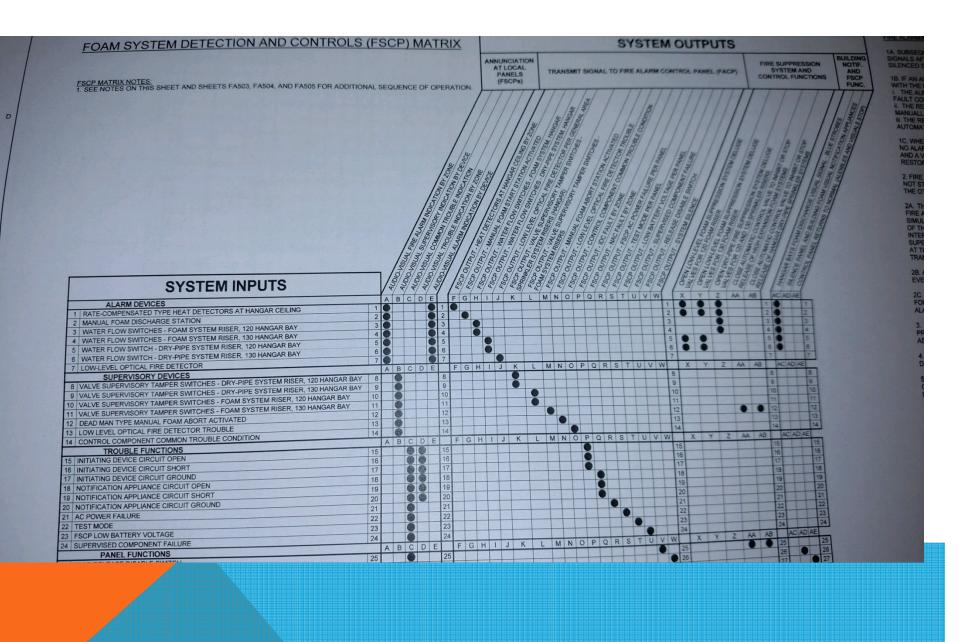
ECB 2015-17 (Typical) Changes to Reduce False Activation of High Expansion Foam Systems in Army Hangars

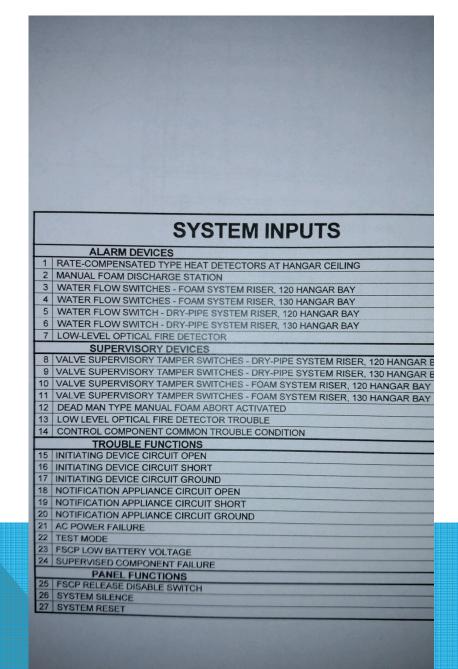
"With the exception of a manual foam release station, the cross-zoning of two automatic initiating devices in the hangar bay is required to release the high expansion foam. This is permitted to be the cross-zoning of a sprinkler water flow switch and an optical flame detector, or two optical flame detectors"

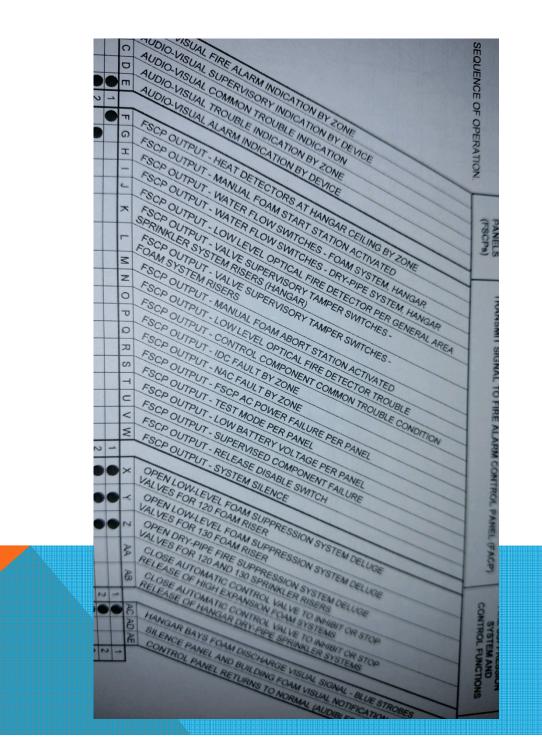
Note: Water flow switch is activated by heat detectors at the ceiling of the hangar bays.

"Activation of the first automatic initiating device shall annunciate at the local Panel and send a general alarm to the fire alarm control panel and the Fire department. Activation of the second automatic initiating device shall In addition to the above, release the high expansion foam."









# Testing and Acceptance PAT and FAT

GSAB Hangar Ft. Carson, Colorado 21 13 20.00 20-1 July 7, 2015

The following is a Checklist or Guideline the TCX uses for Preliminary Acceptance
Testing (PAT) and Final Acceptance Testing (FAT). There are likely items that will not
apply to this project, likewise, there are likely items necessary for this project that are not
on the list. Please utilize the document as a guideline to understand the depth of testing
expected by the TCX.

#### Preliminary Acceptance Test (PAT) and Final Acceptance Test (FAT) Check List (edited March 19, 2014)

- 1. This is a check list to be used prior to commencing preliminary and final acceptance tests.
- The intent is to stream line the preliminary and final acceptance testing procedures and to accomplish a successful and quality acceptance test. The items (comments) are based on lessons learned and best engineering judgment.
- This document may be used as a check list and in assigning action items to the subcontractors by the CQC manager.
- Discuss the testing procedure with the Base Fire Marshal and Base Civil Engineer and obtain approval.
- 5. Provide test procedures for each specification section separately.
- 6. Provide a list of tests to be performed for each specification section.
- 7. Provide a test plan for each day of the test such as Day 1, Day 2, etc.
- Allocate adequate time for each test. Please note that 100% testing will be done during PAT and FAT. FAT is a complete repeat of the PAT except for hydrostatic tests, flushing, and megger tests. The complete FAT will be witnessed by the TCX representative. Simultaneously conducting more than one test is not permitted. Please do not mix training with testing.

# **Testing and Acceptance**

ECB 2015-17

Final Tests – "Perform pan fire acceptance tests, using the expected aircraft fuel, at multiple locations on the hangar floor, including at least one at each designated aircraft parking spots to demonstrate coverage by at least three optical flame detectors. Use a 2' x 2' (or smaller) test pan. Three detectors are required to activate within 20 seconds."

**Videos – Sample Tests** 

Who Accepts - AHJ - DoD

AHJ for DoD is USACE Technical Center of Expertise (TCX)

Middle East District and then Contracting Officer (COR)

# Failed Preliminary Test



Requirement: Cover 90% of Silhouette within 1 minute Results of Retest: Photo Taken at 1 Minute/10% Covered. Failed



# Past Problems - Mishaps



De-icer Truck in Hangar – Bagram AFB 12/22/2015

# Marine reportedly filled Japan Air Force hangar with foam June 16, 2015



# King Hangar at Eglin, AFB January 10, 2014 One Person Dies



#### References:

NFPA 11 Standard for Low-, Medium-, and High-Expansion Foam NFPA 11A Standard for Medium- and High-Expansion Foam Systems NFPA 409 Standard on Aircraft Hangars

AF ETL 02-15 Engineering Technical Letter: Fire Protection Engineering Criteria – New Aircraft Facilities

AF Criteria Changes – 10 March 2016 (similar to ECB 2015-17)

ECB 2015-17 Engineering and Construction Bulletin – Changes to Reduce False Activations of High Expansion Foam Systems in Army Hangars

UFC 3-600-01 - Fire Protection Engineering for Facilities

UFC 4-211-01 – Aircraft Maintenance Hangars

UFC 4-211-02 - Aircraft Corrosion Control and Paint Facilities

http://www.chemguard.com/about-us/documents-library/design-manual.htm

# Questions?

