

Leadplane Training Lesson Plan

Leadplane Triangle

12-11-N9065-HO

Objective:

To familiarize the student with the three basic areas of learning associated with leadplane training and how performance in these areas can improve and degrade throughout the training.

Content:

Leadplane training can be grouped into three basic areas.

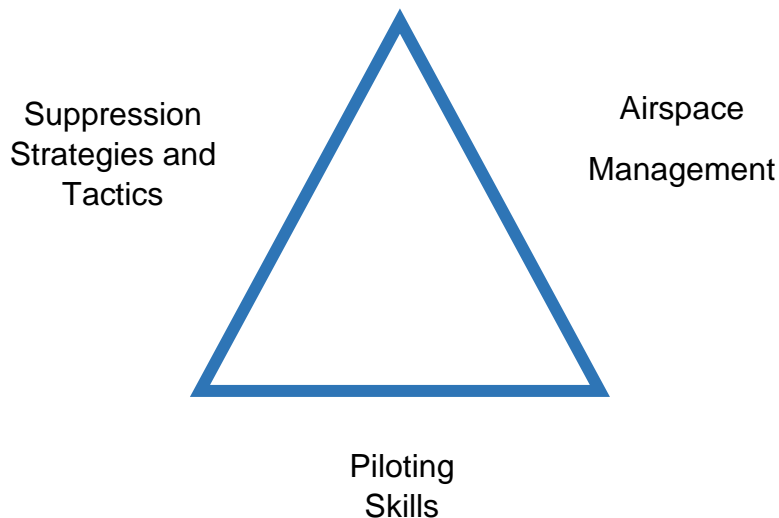
Suppression Strategies and Tactics.

Airspace Management.

Piloting Skills.

Each of these areas can be considered a leg of the Leadplane Triangle. The Leadplane Triangle is a graphical representation of the performance of a student during the training. It can be used by the student and evaluator to identify the student's improvements and degradation during training. A successful leadplane student must be knowledgeable and skillful in each of the three legs to be successful.

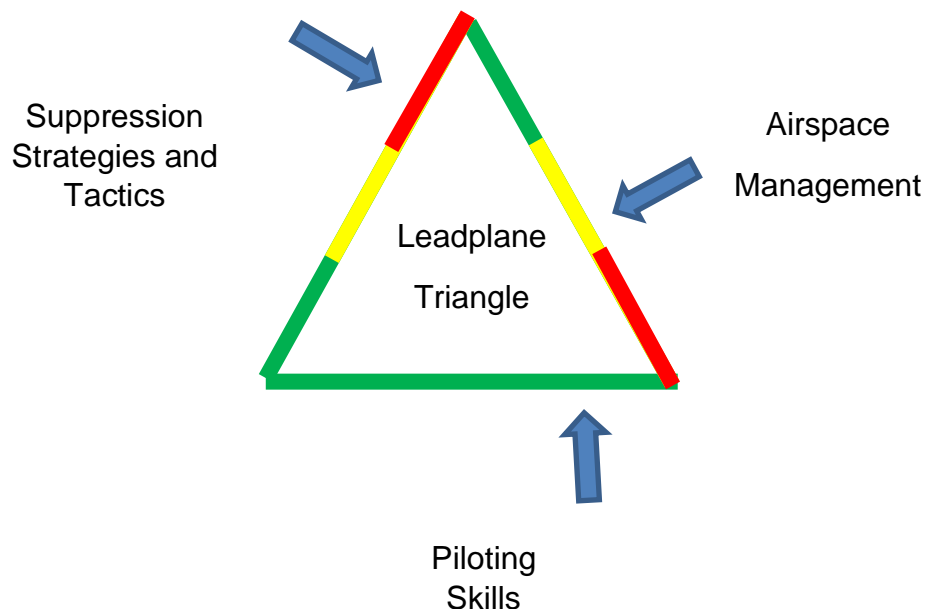
The Leadplane Triangle



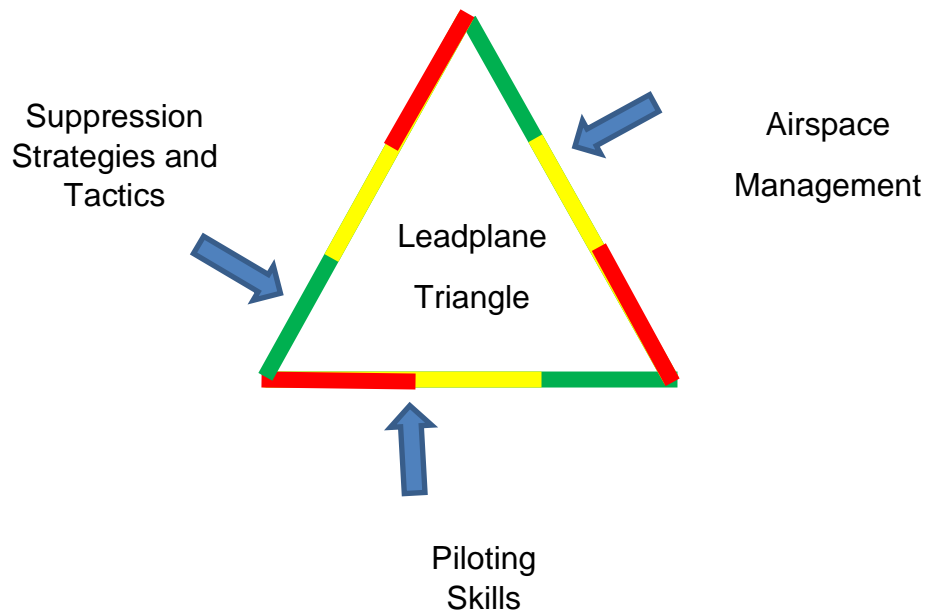
Thinking of the training in these three areas will make grouping specific tasks more manageable. Each leadplane student will come to the training with different experiences that will help them in each of the three areas.

Even though a student may have a strong knowledge base in one area, performance in that area may degrade due to the introduction of new tasks that may take much of the student's attention.

When a student is doing well with the tasks in one area it can be seen as green on the Leadplane Triangle leg. As the student's attention is concentrated on tasks associated with other legs of the triangle, legs that may have been green may slip into the yellow or red zones. Being able to point to a colored area of each leg will help the evaluator and student see how the training is progressing.



Pilots that come from a part 135 or similar background may come into the training with strong piloting skills. As an example, the task of airspeed control in the low level environment may be evaluated as in the green until other new tasks like airspace management are introduced. Many pilots find that airspeed control may degrade during high workload times in the earlier stages of training. This is normal. Evaluations of airspeed control may fluctuate up and down the scale during training but the goal is for these fluctuations to get smaller and smaller. Fluctuations in each area will always happen to some degree but the goal is that the pilot's changes will only fluctuate between the upper and lower area of green.



Pilots that come from a firefighting/ATGS background may come into the training with strong suppression strategies and tactics knowledge or airspace management skills. As an example, the task of suppression tactics may be evaluated as in the green until other new tasks like airspeed control in the low level environment are introduced. When this happens there is less time and attention that is available for developing tactics and it may be rated in the yellow. Many pilots find that airspeed control may degrade during high workload times in the earlier stages of training. This is normal. Evaluations of airspeed control may fluctuate up and down the scale during training but the goal is for these fluctuations to get smaller and smaller. Fluctuations in each area will always happen to some degree but the goal is that the changes will only fluctuate between the upper and lower area of green.

It is helpful to group the tasks associated with leadplane training into the three areas of the Leadplane Triangle. By looking at the tasks within a leg of the triangle it will give an overall representation of how the pilot is progressing in each of the areas of training. This representation is not meant to be measured specifically but to give an overall picture of the training.

Suppression Strategies and Tactics

Anchor, Flank and Pinch,

Direct Attack,

Indirect Attack,

Coverage Levels,

Fire Anatomy,

Values at Risk,

Fire Behavior,

Airtanker Type Use,

Effectiveness,

Structure Protection,

Coordination with the Ground,

Fire Size Up.

Airspace Management

Fire Traffic Area,

Initial Point,

Verbal Skills,

Brevity,

Briefings,

Horizontal Separation,

Vertical Separation,

Fences,

Holding Points,

Helicopter Sequencing,

Situational Awareness,

Target Descriptions,

Time Management,

Aircraft Sequencing.

Piloting Skills

Aircraft Proficiency,

Leadplane Profile,

Altitude Control,

Airspeed Control,

Angle of Bank,

Risk Management,

FM Radios,

Victor Radios,

Wind Corrections,

Mountain Flying,

Tanker Pilot Techniques,

Use of Checklists,

Single Pilot,

Resource Management,

Judgement,

Responsibility for Separation.

The Leadplane Triangle should be used as an evaluation tool to help the student and evaluator track progress through the training.

Completion Standards:

The lesson is complete when the student can demonstrate suppression strategies and tactics, airspace management and piloting skills to a level that is considered in the green area of each leg of the triangle.