

THE ROLE OF AIRFAST AS A PIONEER FLIGHT IN SUPPLYING LOGISTICS IN INDONESIA REMOTE AREAS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract. Pioneer flight is directed to connect remote, underdeveloped, and underserved areas by any modes of transportation, and is not commercially profitable. As one of the government's efforts towards equitable development, the development of pioneering transportation in remote areas is expected to increase the level of the local economy. During the COVID-19. The purpose of this study is to determine the role of pioneer flights in remote areas in Indonesia, and to analyze the general or standard procedures of pioneering flights in the transport of passengers and the transport of goods during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study used descriptive qualitative methods.

Keywords: Pioneer flight, Supply Chain, Air Transport, COVID-19, Remote Area.

INTRODUCTION

Based on Law No. 1 of 2009 concerning Aviation article 1 that: a. an airplane is any device that can fly in the atmosphere because of the lifting power of the air reaction. b. Air transportation is any activity using an aircraft to transport passengers, cargo, and mail for one or more trips from one airport to another or several airports. c. Pioneer air transportation is commercial air transportation that serves the flight network and routes to connect remote and inland areas or areas that are difficult to reach commercially by any modes of transportation which is not profitable. d. An air freight company is a company that operates airplanes to be used to transport passengers, cargo, and post by collecting payment. e. Pioneer routes are those that function to connect remote and inland areas and areas that are difficult to be contacted by any modes of transportation. (Belakang & Kontribusi, n.d.)

Regulation of the Minister of Transportation number PM 9 of 2016 that: "To connect remote, disadvantaged areas that have not been served by any modes of transportation and to encourage the growth and the development of the areas in order to create stability, defense, and security of the state, it is necessary to hold a pioneering air transport."

Pioneer flights are intended to provide access to remote, inland, and areas that are difficult to reach by any modes of transportation to encourage regional growth and development and/or to achieve stability of national defense and security, even though they are not yet commercially profitable. (Dewantari & Udara, 2019)

The pioneering air transport routes choose those remote areas that are difficult to reach by any modes of transportation. With the presence of pioneering air transportation in selected areas, it is hoped that it can contribute regional growth and development in the framework of equitable development. (Litbang & Udara, 2013). The idea of achieving national development standards is how provincial capitals can reach all remote areas of Indonesia. For some provinces in the form of islands, the main problem is transportation. Using sea transportation collided with speed and time. The Utilization of air transportation is the most appropriate solution. (Franciscus & Kusumalestari, 2016)

The background of pioneering flights is because Indonesia is an archipelago country based on its geography (Tangkilisan, 2016). Transportation in the mountainous regions is still very limited. In general, land transportation services are still very limited and no regular routes serve inter-regional activities (Rantelino, 2012). Thus, airlines play a major role in the creation and preservation of national integration, especially in border areas. According to Sutarwati (2013), pioneering air transportation for people in a disadvantaged and isolated area will help open their regions so that they can facilitate communication, help people understand their rights and obligations as citizens, and participate in politics, prevent and overcome the factors that cause disintegration of the nation because of differences in language, culture, and religion and strive to maintain and maintain the unity and integrity of unity.

Pioneer Air Transport consists of pioneering passenger air transport and pioneering cargo air transport. There are several pioneering flights in Indonesia, namely: Airfast Indonesia, Susi Air, Garuda Explore, Trigana Air services, Wings Air, NAM Air. Airfast Indonesia was founded in 1971, Airfast Indonesia began as a small helicopter operator that obtained most of the business from Indonesian oil exploration industry. Decades of experience in operating various types of aircraft in various regions of Indonesia, Airfast provides services to meet both logistical and non-logistical needs. The reason we chose Airfast Indonesia in our research is that Airfast Indonesia has demonstrated its expertise and resources internationally in many countries as pioneer transportation. Nowadays, Airfast Indonesia has spread in several regions in Indonesia, including Batam, DKI Jakarta, Karimunjawa, Tanjung Warunki, Balikpapan, Gosowong Halmahera, Sorong Papua, Ketapang and Timika Papua.

On March 2, 2020, it was confirmed that COVID-19 cases had entered Indonesia. COVID-19 was an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The new virus and the disease it caused were unknown before the start of the outbreak in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Based on sources from the coronavirus world meters as of June 21, 2020 coronavirus cases in Indonesia ranked the 29th in the world with a total of 45,891 cases, the death rate 2,465, and recovered 18,404. COVID-19 is now a pandemic that occurs in many countries around the world so it is very influential on the economy in all aspects and the world of aviation. As we know the spread of the coronavirus is very fast and easy to spread.

The pioneering cargo air transport subsidy is needed to facilitate the transportation of staple goods and imported goods to meet the needs of the community in remote, inland, and border areas. The pioneering cargo air transport subsidy is carried out to realize social stability related to efforts to reduce disparity in the price of goods in remote and inland and border areas. The types of goods that can be transported in cargo pioneering air transport activities are adjusted to the staple goods and imported goods that are regulated in Presidential Regulation Number 71 of 2015 concerning Determination and Storage of Staple Goods and Important Goods. (Susanti, 2016)

The determination of this subsidy is based on the following considerations: a. Fulfill the criteria for pioneering air transportation b. The airport can serve pioneering air transport flights c. Airline companies ready for operation d. Availability of funds from the Central Government and or Regional Governments. (Sukhairi, 2017)

Some subsidy criteria that determine pioneering air transport can be seen in Table 1. Supply Chain Management is the management of various activities in the context of obtaining raw materials, followed by transformation activities so that it becomes a product in the process, then becomes a finished product and is continued with delivery to consumers through a distribution system. The activities carried out include traditional purchases and various other important activities related to suppliers and distributors. (Hayati, 2015)

Table 1. Pioneer Air Transport Subsidy Criteria

No.	Criteria	Sub-Criteria
1	Connecting remote, disadvantaged and commercially disadvantaged areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas far from the provincial capital/no other modes of transportation available than modes of air transportation. -Service and availability of modes of transportation other than irregular air transport, relatively small capacity. - The Activity of economic activities and governance between regions is relatively small and the low social and cultural relations between regions.
2	Encourage regional growth and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The area has the potential to be developed and the existence of interdependent relations between regions from economic, cultural, and governance aspects. - Program development and inter-regional or integrated development. - Giving regional added value from social, economic and cultural aspects
3	Achieve national defense and security stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The area is adjacent to the borders of other countries - Reducing social inequality compared to other regions.

There are several definitions of logistics, according to the Council of Logistics Management (CLM), logistics is part of the supply chain management process that plans, embodies and controls the efficiency and effectiveness of the flow and storage of goods and services and related information between points of consumption to meet customer needs. Logistics is responsible for ensuring that the right product is in the right place, at the right time, in the right conditions at the right price for customer satisfaction. (Hayati, 2015)

In the COVID-19 emergency, disruptions in the logistics sector due to closure of regional access or PSBB in Permenkes 9 2020 concerning PSBB Guidelines in the framework of Accelerating COVID-19 Handling referred to Government Regulation Number 21 of 2020 concerning Social Restrictions Large-Scale To Accelerate Handling of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), causes disrupting the smooth flow of goods or logistics, especially the distribution of staples goods. Inequality of supply and demand for logistics causes prices rise dramatically while logistical actors face diversity of policies between regions. Meanwhile, the whole community requires administration of logistical support in supporting the necessities of life, especially on pioneering routes.

The spread of the pandemic virus has an impact on all business sectors, especially aviation. Airline Passengers, cargo, food providers, airport authorities, aircraft parts manufacturers, travel agents, and MRO organizations all are affected by this pandemic virus. For example, the airline capacity is limited to take only 50% of passengers. This does not happen in one country, but almost in all countries all over the world.

In the case of the cargo business, this pandemic problem also harms the cargo business worldwide, especially the air transport. However, even though the total tonnage of cargo has fallen and is expected to continue for several months, air cargo has been recognized as a vital partner for many humanitarian supply chain activities. As published by IATA (2020) in a recent press statement, air cargo plays a major role in delivering medicines, medical equipment, medical parts, and repair components for hospital use throughout the world. At the same time, air cargo is the main carrier that supplies food to affected countries. (Rahman et al., 2020)

The current challenges of the aviation industry in this pandemic era, especially the pioneering flight routes of logistical supply constraints affect various types of commodities include:

1. How's the role of pioneer flights in supplying logistics to remote areas in the COVID-19 pandemic situation?
2. How's the standard operation procedure (SOP) of pioneering flights in the transport of passengers and the transport of goods during the COVID-19 pandemic?

METHOD

Qualitative descriptive research describes all situations or circumstances that exist, namely describe the situation according to the time the research is conducted. Mukhtar (2013: 28).

Qualitative research according to Cresswell (2014: 287) proposes that "qualitative methods rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and draw on diverse designs" which can be interpreted freely regarding qualitative research related to text or image data, uses unique steps in data analysis, and diverse designs.

In this study, the data is obtained by collecting primary and secondary data or information from PT Airfast Indonesia and the Air Transportation Office through an interview method and spreading questionnaire. we also got information from two informants, they are Irwan Ardianto Sunardi & Bony Bagus who work as a pilot and flight attendants at PT Airfast Indonesia . To test the data we used credibility testin which the confidence of the data in this study was carried out by the triangulation method. Sources of data reception from information sources obtained from PT Airfast Indonesia. Data collection method used in the study is Deep Interview.

DISSCUSION AND RESULT

PT Airfast Indonesia specializes in contract operations, aircraft management services, passenger charters and cargo services for oil, mining, and construction industries in Indonesia and other countries in the region. Helicopter services include land and offshore transportation, medical evacuation flights, internal and external cargo transportation, drilling rigs, construction support, and air survey work. Fixed-wing services include medical evacuation flights, unscheduled airline operations, and air survey work.

Pioneer means the first effort or the beginning, opening the way. Pioneer flights are the pioneer and first flights.

The main role of Pioneer Aviation is to support the connecting, supporting the development and economic development in transition regions, and connecting developing regions. Corona pandemic has a very significant impact on flight activity on pioneer routes. Large-scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) is quite an obstacle in supplying logistics in remote areas in Indonesia for land transportation Therefore, the role of the pioneering movement as an air transportation mode was requested to be a facility to equip supplier logistics in remote areas of Indonesia at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PT. Airfast Indonesia provides both passenger and cargo services, in which each Logistics delivery is carried out every Thursday and Friday, with an average of 3 Tons in one shipment. For passengers, the flight is operating every day. One flight can carry 25 passengers using a helicopter-type MI-171. During normal times, PT Airfast Indonesia in collaboration with Freeport Indonesia has contributed to assist infrastructure development, human resource development, and supply of necessities as well as medical equipment needs to the rural and

mountainous communities. In addition to sending food aid and health equipment, Airfast also helps in the delivery of heavy equipment such as excavators.

During COVID-19 on March 26, 2020, the Airfast route was closed, neither the flights nor the cargo, also to supply logistics to remote areas was stopped. Therefore people only relied on government assistance to distribute their cultivation products. From the central government and also the cluster, the task of Freeport was not approved to be held. At the time of this pandemic, the new SOP was implemented on June 15, 2020, which was a regulation starting from the shipment of cargo with a protocol for spraying disinfectants to crews who had to wear masks, gloves, and eye protection, but not face shields which is not suitable since it is less flexible. Regulations for passenger transportation already impose physical-distancing by reducing passenger capacity by 50%. Passengers must complete document requirements such as the letters result of Rapid, PCR, or Swab test



Figure 1.
Spray Disinfectant
Officers When Spraying Disinfectant on Cargo Unloaded From Airfast Aircraft.
Source: seputarpapua

The following is a table of logistical handling procedures during normal times and during a pandemic.

Table 2. Procedure for Handling Airfast Pioneer Flight Quantity.

1	Logistics Transportation Handling Procedures	
	During normal times	During the pandemic
	REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION NUMBER 79 of 2017 Article 6 (1) Air transportation based on Article 2 number 1 letter b, is carried out based on flight routes determined by the Director-General. (2) Pioneer routes approved in paragraph (1) are determined based on criteria for: A. transporting goods/transportation to the area that is moved and areas	REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION No. 18 of 2020 Article 2 Transportation Control in the Context of Prevention of Corona Spread 2019 (COVID-19) is carried out through: A. controlling transportation for the whole area; b. Transport controls in areas designated as Large-Scale Social Restrictions; and

	<p>that are left behind or areas that have not been served by other modes of transportation; and/or</p> <p>b. supports the decline in prices of goods needed by the community.</p> <p>Article 7</p> <p>(1) Types of goods that can be transported by air transport</p> <p>A. staple goods and essential goods, by following per under statutory provisions;</p> <p>b. livestock; and</p> <p>c. other types of goods according to the needs of the community in underdeveloped, discussed, outermost, and border areas.</p> <p>Article 10</p> <p>Further provisions regarding the regulation of the method of transporting goods through pioneering air transport by Regulation of the Director-General.</p> <p>Article 12</p> <p>(1) Pioneer air transportation is organized by the government.</p> <p>(2) The transportation is carried out by following per under the provisions (1) carried out by the commercial air transport agency through the auction process by following per under the provisions of the applicable legislation and by following per under the agreement outlined in the contract.</p> <p>Article 15</p> <p>(1) Pioneer air transport activities shall be carried out based on routes, flight frequency targets and passenger targets for pioneering passenger air transport and/or based on routes, flight movement targets and cargo targets for cargo pioneering air transport determined by the Director-General and carried out after the contract is signed in accordance with the provisions of the legislation.</p>	<p>c. Transportation control for homecoming activities in 2020.</p> <p>Article 3</p> <p>Article 2 letter is carried out on transportation that transports passengers and logistics/goods.</p> <p>Article 10</p> <p>Transportation controls approved by passengers in Article 9 represent the amount of transportation requested.</p> <p>Article 14</p> <p>Article 10 paragraph (1) for air transportation is approved:</p> <p>A. airport capacity (slot time) reduction based on evaluation;</p> <p>b. 50% (fifty percent) of the total seating capacity with the provisions of maintaining physical distance; and</p> <p>c. Related to upper limit rates and/or enforcement of additional charges/fees following statutory provisions.</p> <p>Article 18</p> <p>Transporting aircraft can be used to transport goods inside the passenger cabin (passenger compartment) specifically for transporting medical, health, and sanitation and food needs.</p>
2	Quantity of Airfast Pioneer Flights	
	During normal times Average 30 Ton / month	During the pandemic 0 ton/month

CONCLUSION

The wave of the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected all aspects of life, as well as the implementation of the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) which resulted in disruption of logistics activities and passenger flow especially in the aviation sector both commercial and pioneering aviation. Pioneering flight which connect remote and inland areas and areas that are difficult to be contacted by any modes of transportation, has become the only main transportation.

Comparisons during normal times and pandemics are also very significant. Both from government regulations to New SOPs are implemented in order to survive in this COVID-19 wave. PT Airfast Indonesia itself also implements several strict health protocols and SOPs for its own employees, passengers and logistics.

Recommendation to PT Airfast Indonesia, especially to whom cooperate with Freeport Indonesia, need continuously implement the health protocol to prevent from Corona Pandemic contagious or contamination. It is expected that the company keeps supporting the remote areas in supplying the logistic needs and providing transportation for passengers.

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