



## DC-3 World Rally 2005 flight WR 05-04.

This flight is a gentle jaunt around a few of the Caribbean Islands.

Departure from the infamous runway at St. Barthelemy needs a little care as the runway at 2,100ft is short for a DC3, and to add to the problem there is high ground beyond the end of the runway.

My own way to facilitate a short field take off is to first and foremost ensure you are carrying only the amount of fuel needed for the flight plus the necessary reserves, and make sure there are no stowaways to upset the payload calculations..!! Now set a quarter flaps and a few notches of nose down trim. Hold the brakes until full power is reached and then go for it. As soon as the rudder is effective push the column forward to get the tail off the ground early. This allows the speed to build up. Glue your eyes to the end of the runway and hold her on the ground for as long as safely possible before positively lifting her off the ground. Wheels up immediately and raise the flaps as soon as possible. After doing this for a few times a 'normal' departure is quite boring in comparison.

The flight is a 'bus stop' trip through the islands with a variety of styles of approach to keep you busy.

Don't forget to check fuel levels and payload before departure.

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