

OFFICIAL



Future Combat Airspace
(ACP-2020-026)

Assessment Meeting
17 Dec 2020

OFFICIAL

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

- Introduction/Apologies for Absence CAA
- Statement of Need (discussion & review) All
- Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change Sponsor
- Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified Sponsor
- Provisional indication of the level and process requirements CAA
- Provisional process timescales All
- Next Steps All
- AOB All

OFFICIAL

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

1. Introduction / Apologies for Absence



ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

2. Statement of Need (v3)

Air Command, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, has an obligation to provide relevant tactical collective training to its combat and combat support forces to ensure UK Forces are correctly prepared to defend UK interests in line with the UK Defence Strategy. An appropriate airspace that can safely facilitate exercising large forces of modern and future air platforms, in an efficient and representative combat environment is required to meet this need.



ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Requirement principles

Priority: The events delivered by Air & Space Warfare Centre are approved at the Joint Commitments Strategic Steering Gp at 3* level

Users: Collective training (multiple capabilities) for RAF, RN, Army and partner air forces. These activities are managed by Air & Space Warfare Centre, JTEPS and Weapon Schools

- Air & Space Warfare Centre will take the lead with the design but in conjunction with these parties

Frequency: As required to meet collective training requirements. Currently forecast to be 2 periods of ~ 18 activations per year.

Duration: ~ 3 hours per activation

Timing: Notionally 0930-1230 (Local time)

Capacity: > 80 Fast jets dynamically manoeuvring plus addition combat support from wide bodied and rotary aircraft

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Core military requirements:

Minimising the risk of MAC and interaction with civil traffic to the maximum extent whilst enabling:

Full tactical employment of aircraft and weapons capability

- Supersonic flight and rapid height changes
- Overflight and loiter of rural overland (target) areas
- Use high and low altitude activity concurrently
- Representative employment ranges of simulated air-air and air-surface weapons

Representative operational numbers

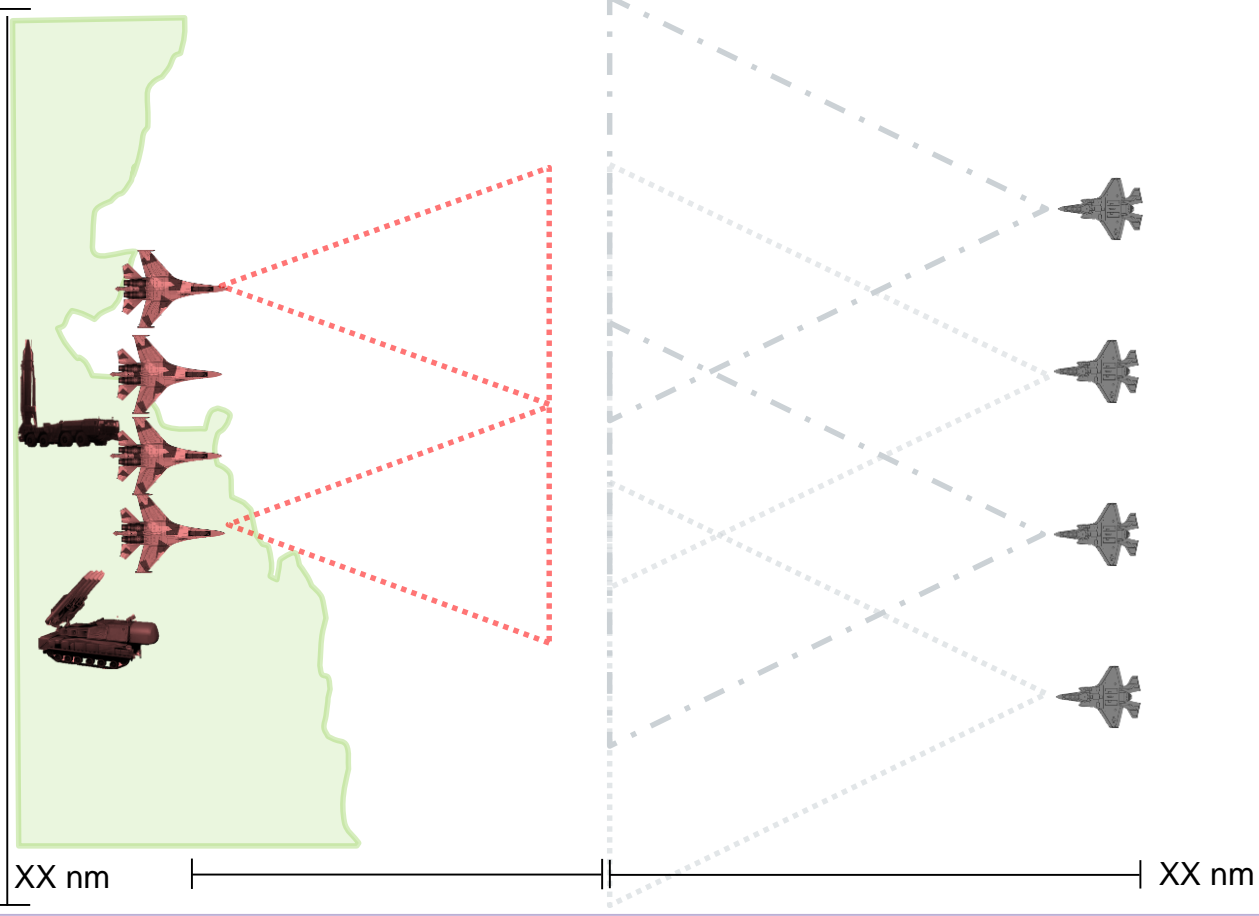
Ability to oppose from ground and air simultaneously

Contested in electromagnetic environment



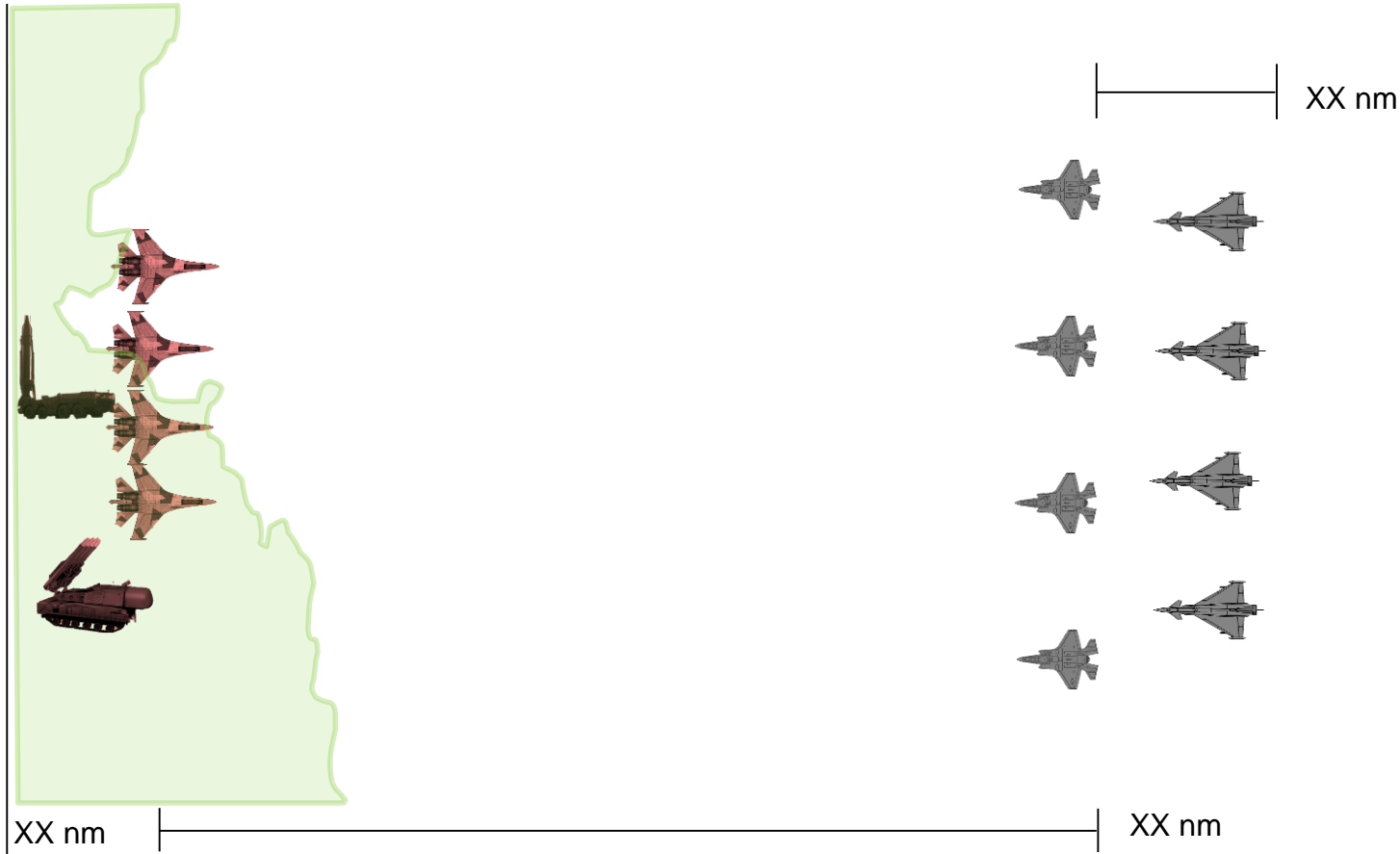
ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Missionised Formation Training



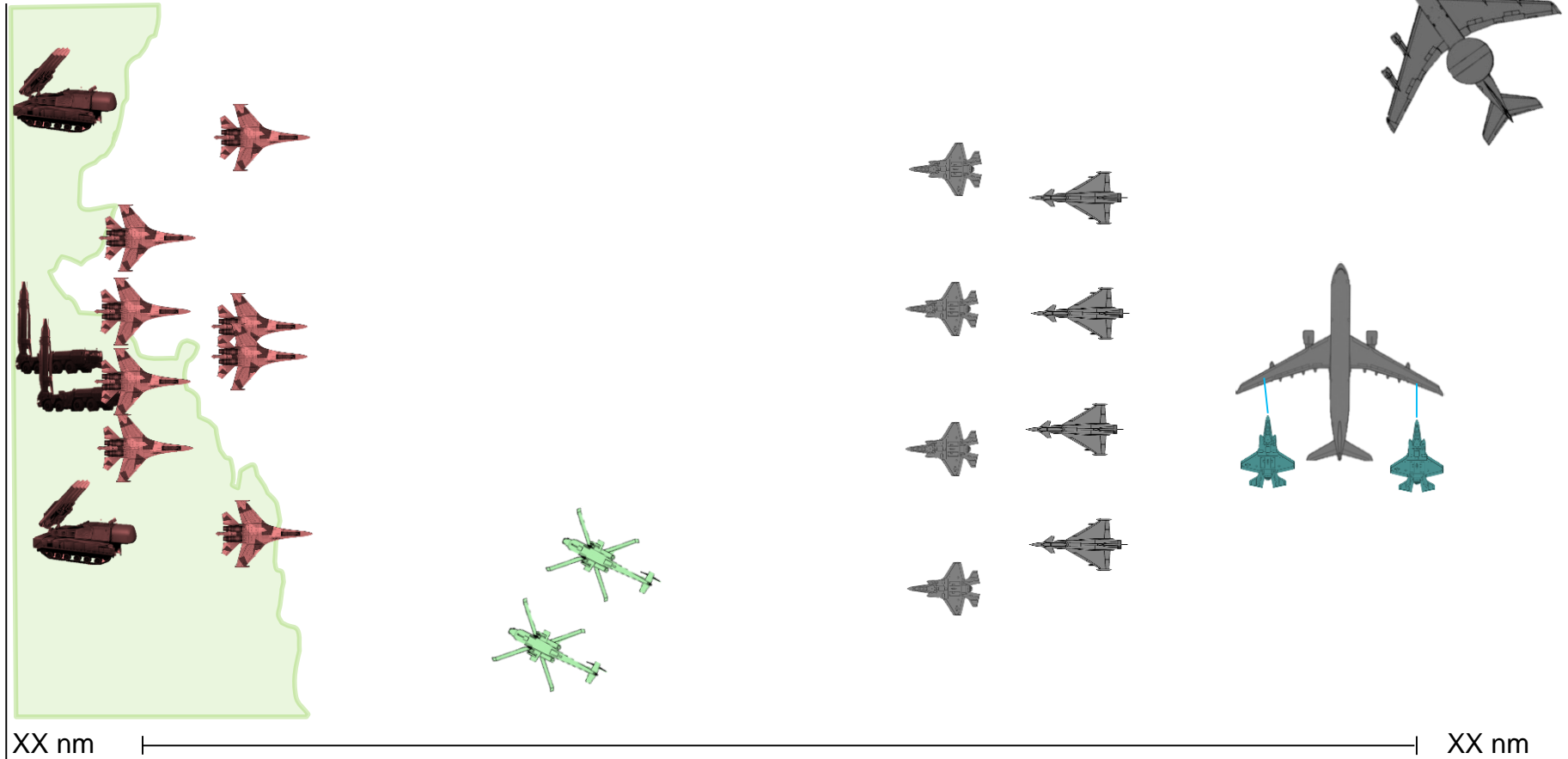
ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Integration Training



ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Collective Missionised Training



ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Core military requirements:

Minimising the risk of MAC and interaction with civil traffic to the maximum extent whilst enabling:

Full tactical employment of aircraft and weapons capability

- Supersonic flight and rapid height changes
- Overflight and loiter of rural overland (target) areas
- Use high and low altitude activity concurrently
- Representative employment ranges of simulated air-air and air-surface weapons

Representative operational numbers

Ability to oppose from ground and air simultaneously

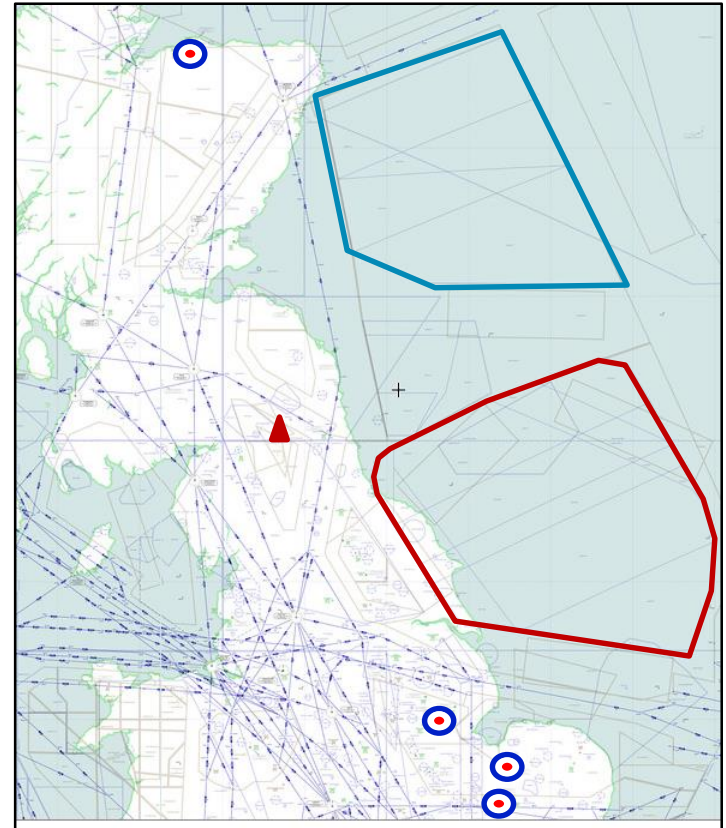
Contested in electromagnetic environment

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Current Airspace Options:

MDAs

- Suitable for Part Task Training and Integration at Squadron / Force level
- Limitations for RAF Lossiemouth (D323)
- Proximity to RAF Coningsby, Waddington, Marham and Lakenheath (D613)
- No overland areas within D613
- Neither have proximity to EWTTTR



ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

Current Airspace Options:

MDA flowing overland through Class C and / or G

- Increased risk of military and civil interaction
- Less predictable air traffic flow
- Limitations in speed and manoeuvre for military users

CACA Airspace

- Mitigated some of these issues
- MoU versus a recognised and regulated airspace known by all users
- Increased demand on NATS, LO is essential to operate
- Uncertainty of activation
- Constraints on military application

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

3. Issues or opportunities arising from Proposed Change

- Provide increased safety barriers for all UK Airspace users
- Ensure airspace design meets relevant regulation and policy, with regulatory oversight.
- Standardise activation, notification and management of airspace.
- Safe and efficient use and management of airspace.
- Provide greater predictability of airspace for planning purposes
 - To facilitate MoD activity
 - To manage/minimise impact to other airspace users (e.g. civil – flight and fuel planning)
 - Suitable for the Network

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

4. Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified

- ACP-2020-042 – Future Combat Airspace Trial will provide information, evidence and lessons identified to help inform this ACP.
- Reduce inefficiencies to MoD and NATS workforce to manage airspace and traffic.
- Identify technical or system changes required to facilitate ASM and ATC processes.

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

5. Provisional indication of the level and process requirements

- CAA

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

6. Provisional process timescales

Timescales would look to meet a CAA submission by **13 May 2022**

- DEFINE Gateway – **26 Mar 21** (document submission by **14 Mar 21**)
- DEVELOP & ASSESS Gateway – **25 Jun 21** (document submission **11 Jun 21**)
- CONSULT Gateway – **27 Aug 21** (document submission **13 Aug 21**) (*allows for full 12 week consultation*)
- Formal Airspace Change Proposal Submission – **17 Dec 21** (*allows min of 10 weeks for CAA decision, takes account of Xmas leave*)
- DECIDE Gateway **25 Mar 22**
- Target AIRAC – latest is **AIRAC 08/2022** (Submission **13 May 22**, AIRAC effective date 11 Aug 22) (*Potential to make AIRAC 09/2022 – Submission by 10 Jun 22, effective 8 Sep 22 – subject to the Ex dates*).
- Ex CW commences tbc Autumn 22 – dates tbc.

OR



ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

6. Provisional process timescales

Timescales would look to meet a CAA submission by **26 Nov 2021**

- DEFINE Gateway – 26 Feb 21 (CAA submission by 12 Feb 21)
- DEVELOP & ASSESS Gateway – 30 Apr 21 (CAA submission 16 Apr 21)
- CONSULT Gateway – 28 May 21 (CAA submission 14 May 21) (*MoD would seek a reduced consultation period of 8-10 weeks*)
- Formal Airspace Change Proposal Submission – 27 Aug 21 (*to give 8 week CAA decision – does not take account of summer leave periods*)
- DECIDE Gateway 29 Oct 21
- Target AIRAC –AIRAC 02/2022 (Submission 26 Nov 21, AIRAC effective date 24 Feb 22)
- Ex COBRA WARRIOR commences 7 – 25 Mar 22



OFFICIAL

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

7. Next Steps



OFFICIAL

ACP-2020-026 Future Combat Airspace - Assessment Meeting

8. AOB

Discussion

