



Ministry of Defence

ACP-2021-048

Assessment Meeting



Agenda

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| Introductions | CAA |
| Statement of need (discussion and review) | All |
| Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change | Change Sponsor |
| Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified | Change Sponsor |
| Provisional indication of the level and process requirements | CAA |
| Provisional Process Timescale | All |
| Next Steps | All |
| AOB | ALL |

Introductions and apologies

Statement of need

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 a representative combat environment is required to meet this need.

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 the exercise planning in conjunction with these parties

Activation Period:

5-23 Sep 2022. Expected to be 18 activations of 3 hours each. Time TBD.

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

Core military requirements

Minimising the risk of MAC 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

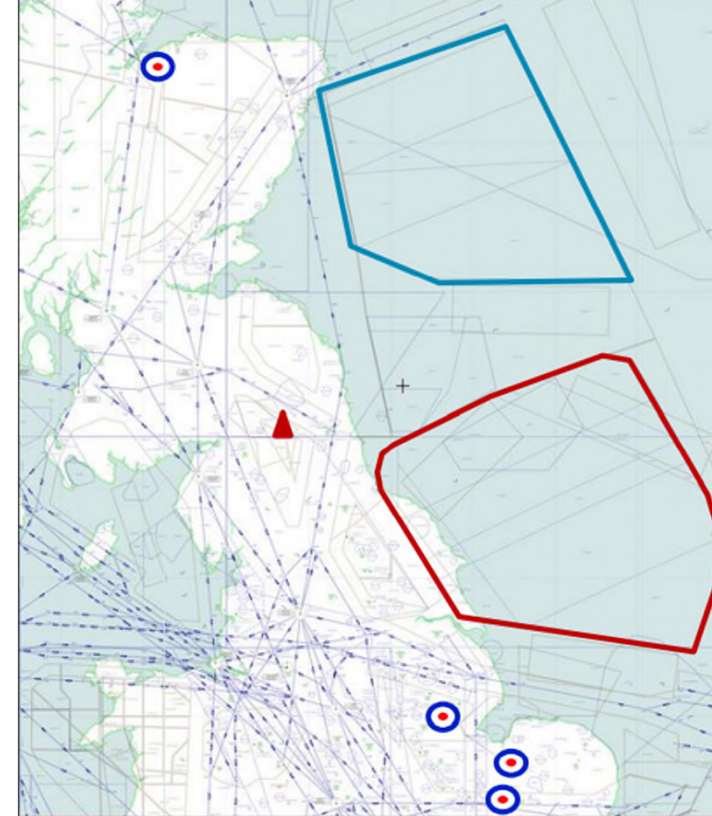
Contested in electromagnetic environment

160 x 90 nm dimensions for 5th gen aircraft

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 Electronic Warfare Tactics and Training Ranges.

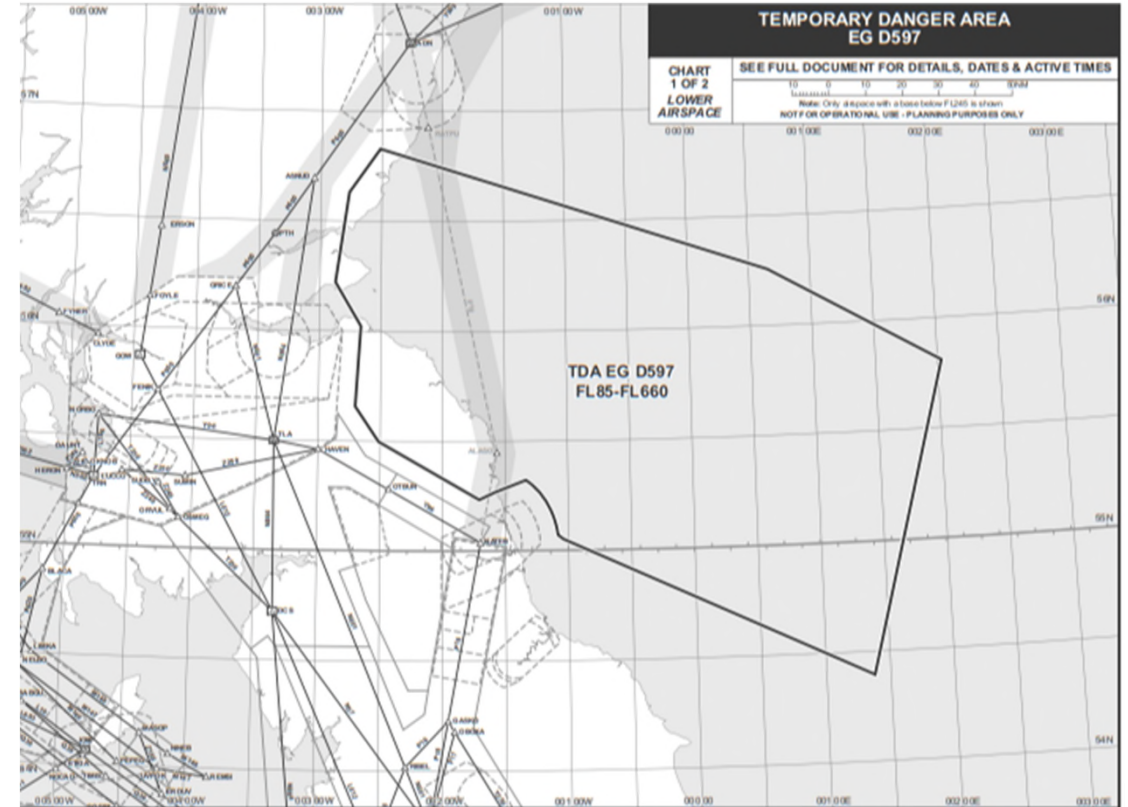


TDA EG D597

Activated for CW 21-2 and 22-1 (ACP-2021-007)

CW 22-2 falls outside the 90 days allowed for temporary change

ACP-2020-026 in progress for a permanent change but will not be completed in time.



Issues or opportunities arising from proposed change

- Utilise extant TDA and tried & tested processes.
- Data from 2 activations to be used to learn lessons and improve
- Engagement based upon evidence from previous activations
- Familiarity with design reduces risk
- Can combine ACP-2020-007 lessons learned with planning for ACP-2021-048

Issues

- Previous trial data from C-19 affected travel downturn – not representative. September D597 activation will have more useable data.
- Engagement fatigue – this is the fourth ACP for a change in the same geographical location. May be more difficult to achieve meaningful input.

Options to exploit opportunities or address issues identified

- Opportunity to formalise protocols with NATS
 - Predictability of activation times allows for efficient flight planning
 - Will be activated only when required, increasing availability to other users
 - Having all exercises players within segregated airspace increases safety for all
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- Rejection of the proposal does not negate the need for military exercises, the temporary change allows us a more practical amount of airspace to deliver the full extent of training with new and future aircraft and weapons.

Provisional indication of the level and process requirements

Proposed Stakeholders

Military Airspace Users

Military and civil ATS providers

Airports and airfields

Airlines



Provisional process timescale

- Cobra Warrior 22-2 runs 5th-23rd September 2022.
- Cobra Warrior 21-2 is September 2021 – collate any lessons identified from this Ex in Oct 2021.
- Nov-Dec amend or update any processes following the feedback from TDA 597 activation.
- Latest SUP prior to Ex is 25 Aug 22, deadline for submission to NATS – 15 Jul 22.
- Ideally, aim for 28 Jul SUP, submission to NATS - 17 Jun 22.
- CAP 1616 – CAA require 28 days to decide.

Next steps



Any other business