RA 2360 - Portable Electronic Devices

Rationale

Portable electronic devices (PED) are portable information systems or devices with or without the capability of wireless local area network (WLAN) or wireless personal area network (WPAN) connectivity. These include, but are not limited to, mobile telephones, pagers, personal digital assistants, laptops, memory sticks, thumb drives, and two-way radios. PED may interfere with Air Systems by means of electro-magnetic interference or battery pack fire. Consequently carriage and operation of PED within UK military Air Systems needs to be controlled.

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Operation of Intentionally Transmitting PED

1. All PED that are known, or suspected, to intentionally transmit radio frequencies should be switched off for the entire duration of the flight, including start and shut down periods. This prohibition does not apply to intentionally transmitting PED that have been specifically cleared for use by the appropriate Type Airworthiness Authority (TAA) or Release to Service Authority (RTSA) or, for non-RTS flying operations, are included in the Military Permit to Fly (MPTF) or Certificate of Usage (CoU).

Operation of Unintentionally Transmitting PED

2. All other PED may be classed as unintentionally transmitting, and should not be used in the following phases of flight (as a minimum): taxi, take-off, approach, landing, fuelling and arming operations, during mission critical stages and during abnormal or emergency conditions. These restrictions do not apply to unintentionally transmitting PED that have been specifically cleared for use by the appropriate TAA or RTSA or, for non-RTS flying operations, are included in the MPTF or CoU. Prohibition should also be applied in the vicinity of RPAS and RPAS ►RPS◄ where vulnerability is identified.

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Operation of Intentionally Transmitting PED

3. Examples of intentionally transmitting PED include:
   a. Cell phones (cellular, portable or mobile phones), personal computer equipment with cellular network devices, two-way pagers, satellite phones and two-way radios.
   b. Personal computer equipment with ►◄ WLAN or ►◄ WPAN devices, radio transmitters and remote control equipment.

Operation of Unintentionally Transmitting PED

4. Examples of unintentionally transmitting PED include:
   a. Personal computing equipment (with any intentional transmitting function disabled), radio receivers and ►Global Positioning Systems◄.
   b. Audio and video equipment, electronic games, time measuring equipment and medical equipment.
Operation of Negligible Transmitters

5. Certain items of unintentionally transmitting PED, e.g. implanted medical devices, time measuring equipment or permitted medical equipment are of sufficiently low power that they may be regarded as negligible transmitters and therefore not subject to these restrictions. In cases where it is impossible or unreasonable to request the device be switched off for critical phases of flight, and where doubt exists about the whether or not a device constitutes 'negligible' power status, advice may be sought from the appropriate TAA or RTSA.