



Air Vice-Marshal P A Atherton OBE RAF
Director MAA

Military Aviation Authority
Juniper 1 #5102,
MOD Abbey Wood (North),
Bristol BS34 8QW
www.gov.uk/maa

See Distribution

20151204-DMAA Post Display
Season Letter

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MAA AIRSHOW ASSURANCE ACTIVITY 2015 - POST DISPLAY SEASON FEEDBACK

References:

A. [CAP 403 Flying Displays and Special Events: A Guide to Safety and Administrative Arrangements.](#)

B. [RA 2335 Flying Displays and Special Events.](#)

1. As you will be aware, the MAA undertook a series of flying display assurance and oversight activities over the 2015 season. MAA regulations cover a broad range of Flying Displays and Special Events¹ and, throughout the season, we have sought specific assurance of a number of these activities. In 2015, the military was scheduled to support over 290 events² and, as with the 2014 season, selection of our assurance activities was conducted using an intelligence led, risk-based analysis process. As always, I must caveat this by stating that our findings are based on our sampling and, as such, this note cannot be used as evidence of global compliance or safety.

2. We have a common goal of improving Aviation Safety (AS) at Flying Displays and Special Events and the purpose of this note is to provide you with a summary of the MAA's oversight from 2015. I have included 2 annexes which provide guidance to Flying Display Directors (FDDs), Annex A, and Operational Duty Holders (ODHs), Annex B.³

3. Maintaining a robust oversight of military regulated events and, where possible, those civilian regulated events where military aircraft participate, is paramount. The tragic events of the 2015 season merely highlight why we must continue to strive collegiately to improve flying display AS. I hope that the information we provide will help you in your planning for the 2016 flying display season. As always, I offer the assistance of the MAA if you require any more information on the contents of this letter; moreover, I continue to encourage open engagement prior to and during the 2016 display season. I will hand over to Rear Admiral Paul Chivers on 8 December. I know that

¹ Air shows at MOD establishments in the UK; Air Shows at any non-MOD establishment in the UK where the only participants are military aircraft; the participation of UK military registered aircraft at any Air Show globally; and the participation of any foreign military aircraft at Air Shows in the UK, whether a civilian or military venue.

² An increase from the 270 in 2014.

³ This covering note and Annex A will be published on our new MAA Displays.GOV website, but Annex B will remain internal. All findings were discussed at the 2015 Post Season Symposium held at Shrivenham, 3-4 November 2015.

he is looking forward to addressing the Pre-season Display Conference⁴ and answering any questions the display community may have.

Paul Atherton

Annexes:

- A. 2015 Display Season – FDD Guidance.
- B. Redacted.

Action:

Redacted

⁴ 10-12 Feb 16 – Details available from Mr Evan Davies, tel: 0306 793 2411.

2015 Display Season – FDD Guidance

1. The MAA found that liaison with FDDs during the 2015 display season was, without exception, positive. In general, FDDs provided the MAA with requested evidence in an expeditious manner. Key MAA observations which FDDs might wish to consider for the 2016 display season are as follows:

- a. **Foreign Military Participants.** An MAA Regulatory Article (RA) 2335 [Annex B](#) must be submitted to the MAA for foreign military participants at UK flying displays:
 - i. The MAA holds Annex B Approval Panel in May, June and July, in order to review and approve, where appropriate, foreign military participants. In accordance with [RA 2335 para 8d](#), Annex Bs must be submitted to the MAA no later than **1 month prior to an event**; this is necessary to afford adequate time to review the Annex B and promulgate the MAA's decision. We recognize that events beyond the FDD's control can lead to late submissions and, as seen in 2015, the MAA will make every effort to process these expeditiously. I cannot however, offer any guarantee that we will be able to conduct ad hoc Approval Panels for those Annex Bs submitted late.
 - ii. As with 2014, Annex Bs were often submitted with noticeable errors or omissions. I would urge FDDs to scrutinize Annex Bs prior to submission, to ensure that they are both complete and accurate. Failure to do so may result in staffing delays and FDDs run the risk of not gaining an approval in time.
- b. **Timely Submission of Documentation.** The MAA undertakes to submit their requests for information to FDDs in a timely manner. In turn, it is requested that FDDs provide the requested information by the stated date, to afford the MAA sufficient time to review the documents ahead of the event.
- c. **Abingdon Air & Country Show.** This event has historically been conducted as a CAA regulated event. The show takes place on MOD land and, although there has always been contractual permission to use the land from the Defence Infrastructure Organization, the display must be MAA regulated. [RA 2335 para 9 refers.](#)