

## RA 2325 - Air Weapons Carriage, Training and Demonstrations

### Rationale

United Kingdom military ► *registered Aircraft* ◀ may be required to carry weapons during training and operational flying. The carriage of air weapons can increase Risk to Life (RtL) for Aircrew, ground personnel and third parties. This Regulatory Article puts in place measures and procedures to mitigate this increase in RtL.

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### Definitions

#### ► Definitions Relevant to this RA

1. **Air Weapons.** For the purposes of this RA, air weapons are considered to include both live and inert variants of Air Launched Weapons (ALW)<sup>1</sup>, captive carriage weapons (where the weapon is secured to the Aircraft and unable to be released or jettisoned), guns, ammunition, pyrotechnics and countermeasures containing Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives when installed on the Aircraft (not carried as cargo). ◀

### Regulation 2325(1)

#### Carriage of Air Weapons ► and Towed Targets ◀

2325(1) Air weapons ► and towed targets ◀ **shall** be carried in accordance with (iaw) the Release To Service (RTS) or, for non-RTS flying operations, the Military Permit to Fly ► ◀.

### Acceptable Means of Compliance 2325(1)

#### Carriage of Air Weapons ► and Towed Targets ◀

2. The operation, handling and Maintenance of air weapons **should** be iaw approved data and procedures.

3. Aviation Duty Holders (ADH) or Accountable Managers (Military Flying) (AM(MF)) **should** publish orders laying down the safety precautions to be observed and procedures to be followed when ► air weapons and towed targets ◀ are carried on, ► released, or jettisoned ◀ from, ► Aircraft. ◀

4. ADH and AM(MF) **should** ensure that warning notices detailing the dangers posed and precautions to be taken, are displayed at access points to any area where ► Aircraft ◀ carrying weapons may be operating on the ground. Additionally, local bye-laws and other civil regulations that impose further restrictions **should** be adhered to.

#### Performance Failure of Air Weapons

5. After the performance failure of an air weapon, which includes inadvertent release of a towed target, the Aircraft Commander **should** ensure that:

a. The positions of all relevant switches / mechanisms are noted and then set to 'safe'.

b. All necessary actions are taken to minimize the risk of further hazard. In the event of a length of cable trailing from the ► Aircraft, ◀ which cannot be retracted, the Aircraft Commander **should** take such action that will minimize the risk of damage to personnel and property and inform the controlling authority (if in receipt of an Air Traffic Service).

c. The incident is reported to the ground control with which the Air System is in communication, giving the location of the weapon / target and any other relevant information.

d. Air Traffic Control at the destination is informed of the incident so that the appropriate personnel may meet the ► Aircraft ◀ on landing.

<sup>1</sup> ► ALW are defined in the MAA02: MAA Master Glossary; ALW are a subset of air weapons. ◀

## Acceptable Means of Compliance 2325(1)

- e. A full investigation of the incident, iaw ► DSA 03 OME Part 2<sup>2</sup>◄, is made after landing. ►◄

### Misfire and Hang-Up Precautions

6. When a misfire of ► guns,◄ ammunition, ► countermeasures,◄ rockets, guided missiles or ► stores◄ hang-up occurs, the Aircraft Commander **should** keep the weapon pointed into a safe area for the time required to allow for a late discharge. ► Thereafter, the Aircraft **should** be recovered to a suitable location appropriately able to deal with the misfire / hang-up.◄ The weapon **should** be assumed to be dangerous until rendered safe by appropriate armament personnel.

### After-Flight Safety Precautions

7. At the end of every flight, the Aircraft Commander **should** ensure that ► they have◄ returned the ► Aircraft◄ to the ► appropriate◄ armed state iaw the Air System ► Document Set◄ or that no explosive armament stores are fitted.

## Guidance Material 2325(1)

### Carriage of Air Weapons ► and Towed Targets◄

#### Performance Failure of Air Weapons

8. The term 'performance failure' as stated in ► DSA 03 OME Part 2<sup>2</sup>◄ includes:
- Failure to Release or Launch.** A failure to release (ie hang-up) or launch (ie misfire) occurs when any ► air weapon or equipment◄ is retained by an ► Aircraft◄ after the normal or emergency release sequence has been completed.
  - Irregular Release.** An irregular release occurs when any ► air weapon or equipment◄ is released, launched or fired from an ► Aircraft◄ in a different manner than that selected by the Aircrew. This includes premature or delayed releases / launches.
  - Failure to Function.** A failure to function occurs when any ► air weapon or equipment,◄ after successful release / launch from an ► Aircraft,◄ fails to operate iaw the Aircrew pre-release selections ► (eg non detonation).◄
  - Irregular Functioning.** Irregular functioning occurs when any ► air weapon or equipment◄ is released, launched or fired correctly, but operates in a manner different to that selected or programmed during preparation or loading. ► Such occurrences would include premature detonation of a bomb or missile warhead.
9. **Inadvertent Release.** An inadvertent release occurs when the Air System stores management system operates as selected, but not as intended (eg stores released by mistake, at the wrong instant, or as a result of incorrect switch selection).
10. Irrespective of whether a report is required by DSA 03 OME Part 2<sup>2</sup>, a DASOR iaw RA 1410<sup>3</sup> may still be appropriate.◄
11. Where appropriate processes exist, the Aircraft Commander may ► delegate◄ responsibility for the replacement of safety pins to external stores to ► appropriately qualified◄ ground crew / engineers.

## Regulation 2325(2)

### Air Weapons Training and Demonstrations

- 2325(2) Air weapons training and demonstrations **shall** only be ► conducted◄ within approved areas or ranges.

<sup>2</sup> ► Refer to DSA 03 OME Part 2 (Formerly JSP 482), available on the gov.uk website.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to RA 1410 – Occurrence Reporting and Management.◄

**Acceptable  
Means of  
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2325(2)****Air Weapons Training and Demonstrations**

12. All air weapons training and demonstrations **should** be conducted iaw the published orders for the area to be used.
13. ► **Outside a promulgated area or range, air weapons training and demonstrations **should** only be conducted at sea, iaw BRd 1043<sup>4</sup>.** ◀
14. The marking of buildings for training or demonstrations **should** be iaw STANAG 3564<sup>5</sup>.
15. Live air weapons demonstrations **should** be carried out iaw STANAG 3564<sup>5</sup>.

**Guidance  
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2325(2)****Air Weapons Training and Demonstrations**

16. The details of STANAG 3564 are available to Defence Contractor Flying Organizations by request to the MAA.

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<sup>4</sup> ► Refer to BRd 1043 - Gunnery and Guided Weapon Practices User Instructions. ◀

<sup>5</sup> Refer to STANAG 3564 Rules for Live Air Weapons Demonstrations.

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