AIRSPACE CO-ORDINATION NOTICE

NATS RADIO AIR & GROUND INVESTIGATIONS INTERFERENCE SOURCE LOCATION FLIGHTS

ALL TIMES UTC

Reference:


INTRODUCTION

1. As re-notified/requested at Reference A, the following measures have been agreed by SARG with the Sponsor and ATC service providers to accommodate the subject Unusual Aerial Activity.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

2. An aircraft has been especially equipped by NATS En-route Ltd (Engineering) for use in the location of sources of interference harmful to NATS ATC radio & radar systems. The aircraft’s primary role is the resolution of severe and harmful interference to NATS AGA communications services, both VHF and UHF, which may be experienced at ATCRUs, airports and/or by aircraft operating within UK airspace. The aircraft can also be used to investigate interference to navigational aids and/or ATC radar systems.

3. The nature of such investigation flights means that the routes and the altitudes that will be flown are usually ad hoc and may involve complex search patterns. In addition, as the majority of aircraft experiencing interference are within regulated (Class A) airspace, it is often necessary for investigation flights to be conducted in regulated airspace.

DATES

4. As required; this ACN is valid until further notice.

TIMES

5. As required, but between 0700-2000 hrs daily when notified.

VERTICAL LIMITS

6. Aircraft operating levels between SFC - FL100, as required by the investigation.
CO-ORDINATES OF AREA OR EVENT

7. The area of operation will depend upon the nature of the radio interference source being investigated. However, for ATC planning/coordination purposes a most likely flight profile would be a cruise climb to FL100 for transit to the search area. On arrival, the flexibility to fly any heading within 20 nms of a specified point at any level at or below FL100 (to enable the on-board direction finder to locate the interference source) would assist in the timely and successful completion of the task.

OPERATING AUTHORITY OR SPONSOR

8. The following authorities will sponsor this activity:
   
a. Engineering Sponsor, Mr R A Kerr, NATS En Route Ltd., Engineering Service Delivery, Mailbox 6, 4101, Swanwick Centre, Sopwith Way, Hampshire, SO31 7AY.
      
Tel: Mob: 07769 725 121.

Fax: 01489 612 091.

E-mail: bob.kerr@nats.co.uk

b. Aircraft Operating Authority, Capt Z Islam (Chief Pilot), Redhill Aviation Ltd., c/o Redhill Aviation Ltd, Main Block, Redhill Aerodrome, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5JY.

Tel: 01737 822 959.

Mob: 07803 755 560.

Email: IslamRedhill@aol.com

Email: redhillaviation@aol.com

CONTROL AUTHORITIES

9. The nominated Pilot is requested to telephone the duty ATC Watch Manager/Supervisors, at the appropriate ATC Service Unit (as detailed below), prior to departure to arrange flight times and to detail the area of interest and airspace required, quoting this ACN activity number.
   
a. LTC (Swanwick) - Senior Watch Assistant.
      
Tel: 02380 401 110 / 401 102.

b. LAC (Swanwick) - AC Watch Supervisor.
      
Tel: 01489 612 420.

c. LATCC (Mil) West - ATC Supervisor.
      
Tel: 01489 612 417.
d. LATCC (Mil) East - ATC Supervisor.
   Tel: 01489 612 408.

e. Prestwick Centre - Operational Supervisor.
   Tel: 01294 655 300.

f. Manchester Airport / Twr ATC.
   Tel: 01614 995 336.

g. LNOR - ATC Supervisor.
   Tel: 02380 401509.

h. Cardiff Airport - ATC Watch Manager.
   Tel: 01446 712 562.

i. Bristol Intl Airport - ATC Watch Manager.
   Tel: 01275 473 857.

j. Farnborough Airport - ATC Watch Manager.
   Tel: 01252 526 025/ 15.

**AIRCRAFT**

10. The investigating aircraft will be a Piper PA31 Navajo Chieftain. Reg: **G-OJIL**. Callsign: “SHERLOCK”.

**CO-ORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS**

11. The following general operating procedures will apply:
   
   a. The Pilot/ Sponsor is to contact the appropriate area ATC Watch Supervisor on the day, prior to departure, to discuss the most suitable time frame for the investigation flight and to notify or update the sortie details including area of operation and planned operating levels. NSF Procedures may need to be applied.

   b. ATSUs are requested to provide radar services (or negotiate alternative provision) to the investigation aircraft whilst on task. The dedicated control frequencies will be allocated tactically on the day.

   c. The Pilot/ Sponsor should note that there might be other aircraft operating below/ outside controlled airspace that are unknown to ATC.

   d. There may be delays and/ or height restrictions due to higher priority traffic.

   e. Carriage of a serviceable transponder (including Mode ‘C’) has been specified.
f. In view of the flight safety importance of these flights, and to ensure the investigating task is completed expeditiously, CAT ‘E’ is granted for this activity. The SSR Code 0024 is approved for use during these flights.

g. The Pilot will be responsible for obtaining all necessary ATC clearances and for maintaining R/T contact with appropriate ATC authorities. The Pilot/ Sponsor is requested to enter in Box 18 of the Flight Plan ‘NATS COMMS/RADAR INTERFERENCE INVESTIGATION FLIGHT ACN 2014-00-0115 REFERS’.

h. The aircraft Captain will be responsible for obtaining prior clearance to enter any UK Danger Areas affected by the flight profile from the appropriate Range Control Authority.

**OTHER NOTIFIED ADJACENT ACTIVITY**

12. Other Unusual Aerial Activities (UAA)s may have been notified to Airspace Regulation (Utilisation), some of which may take place during the investigation period and within the required operating area. These UAA's will be the subject of NOTAM action by Airspace Regulation (Utilisation). It is essential that daily pre-flight briefing includes a thorough check of NOTAMs applicable.

**AERONAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS**

13. NOTAM action is not appropriate, nor required for the notification of these flights.

**AMENDMENT ACTION**

14. This ACN replaces ACN 13-00-0115, which may now be destroyed.

15. Proposed changes to this ACN should be sent by the quickest means to the Sponsor or Airspace Regulation (Utilisation), Tel: 020 7453 6599, DFTS: (9) 6453 6599, quoting the Activity Number at the top of page 1.

Sqn Ldr Mark Wakeman  
Airspace Regulator (Utilisation)  
Civil Aviation Authority
Distribution:

Action:

NATS Ltd Engineering Sponsor [Mr R A Kerr]
Redhill Aviation Ltd Flight Operations [For Capt Z Islam]
LNOR Supervisor
LATCC(Mil) Ops Officer
Supervisor West
U Ops O West
MABCC

Prestwick Centre Duty Ops
LAC (Swanwick) Swanwick Operational Procedures (AC)
LTC (Swanwick) Swanwick Operational Procedures (TC)
Western Radar Ops

Cardiff Airport Mgr ATS
Bristol Intl Airport Mgr ATS
Farnborough Airport Mgr ATS

Information:

CAA SARG ATS Standards Division
Prestwick Centre Duty Ops
NATS AIS MAISO

AIS Team Leader

Belfast Aldergrove Airport Mgr ATS
Birmingham Airport Mgr ATS
East Midlands Airport Mgr ATS
Edinburgh Airport Mgr ATS
Glasgow Airport Mgr ATS
Leeds Bradford Airport Mgr ATS
Liverpool Airport Mgr ATS
London (City) Manager ATS
London (Heathrow) ATC Ops
London (Luton) Manager ATS
London Stansted Airport Mgr ATS
Newcastle Airport Mgr ATS
Prestwick Airport Mgr ATS
Southampton Airport Mgr ATS