

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR Y 007/2023

UNITED KINGDOM



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Subject

Operational

Cancellation

Y042/2020



NOTIFICATION OF FORWARD AIR CONTROL EXERCISES AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT EXERCISES

- 1 The Ministry of Defence conducts Forward Air Control Exercises and Close Air Support Exercises (known as FACEx/CASEx respectively) throughout the United Kingdom. During these exercises, a Joint Tactical Air Controller (JTAC) directs the action of fast-jet and/or rotary aircraft engaged in simulated close air support of land forces.

***Note:** JTACs are responsible for the tactical direction of aircraft engaged on Close Air Support (CAS) activities, however a JTAC cannot provide an Air Traffic Service (ATS) as they are not trained or authorised to do so.*
- 2 Such training exercises may involve one or more of these aircraft, conducting simulated attack profiles against selected ground targets throughout the UK. Fast-jet profiles may involve dynamic lateral and vertical manoeuvring of aircraft at speeds of up to 450 knots IAS. Whilst engaged in training the aircraft may not be able to comply with Rules of the Air and Air Traffic Services (RAC) requests.
- 3 FACEx/CASEx activity will be subject to NOTAM action, to notify of the time and vertical extent of the exercise area. Each NOTAM will also contain a telephone number of the JTAC and, as a minimum, a UHF frequency on which information on the participating aircrafts' last reported positions and/or levels can be tactically obtained. When available, the UHF frequency and telephone number will be supplemented with a VHF frequency. Whilst **no UK Flight Information Services will be available from the ground operator**, pilots intending to transit the activity areas are advised to telephone the ground operator prior to flight, and if possible, establish communications on the published frequency to enhance their situational awareness.
- 4 Due to the expeditionary nature of this type of activity, it is possible for it to take place throughout both the London and Scottish FIRs, within Class G airspace. It is to be noted that the **NOTAMs pertaining to CASEx/FACEx do not segregate airspace**; therefore, extreme caution should be exercised when transiting such notified areas.
- 5 A NOTAM which notifies airspace volumes which intersect with Controlled Airspace **do not** permit participating aircraft to operate inside Controlled Airspace, without first obtaining an ATC clearance to do so.
- 6 **Example NOTAM**

A) EGT
B) 2301010800
C) 2301011600
E) AIR EXER. MIXED FAST JET AND ROTARY ACFT WILL CONDUCT HIGH ENERGY MANOEUVRES IN SUPPORT OF GROUND OPS WI 5NM RADIUS: 525105N 0004612E (SCULTHORPE DISUSED AD). PROFILES MAY INVOLVE DYNAMIC LATERAL AND VERTICAL MANOEUVRING OF AIRCRAFT AT SPEEDS OF UP TO 450 KNOTS IAS. ACFT MAY BE UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH RAC. FOR FURTHER INFO AIC Y007/2023 REFERS. OPS CTC 225.000MHZ / 118.000MHZ / 07000 000000. 2023-01-0000/AS3.
F) SFC
G) FL195
- 7 Further information may be available from the Joint Forward Air Control Training & Standardisation Unit (JFACTSU), RAF Leeming, on Telephone: 01677-457855.
- 8 Further enquiries relating to notified activity may be made with Airspace Regulation (Utilisation) on Telephone: 01293-983880.