

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR EXPERIENCE FLIGHTS OPERATING PROCEDURES.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Royal Air Force has 12 Air Experience Flights (AEF) located throughout the United Kingdom to provide flying experience to young persons belonging to the Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force, using the two-seater Grob Tutor. The Royal Air Force and the Directorate of Airspace Policy have co-sponsored this AIC to inform all pilots of the operating procedures of the AEF.

2. Operating Procedures

2.1 The operating hours of the AEF do not necessarily comply with the published opening hours of their parent station, and most of their flying is conducted at weekends, and on occasions, bank holidays. Additionally, it is common for the control tower to be manned, but no radar service provided.

2.2 The typical profile of an AEF flight is a short duration flight of 20-25 minutes, usually conducted between 2000ft and 5000ft agl, remaining in close proximity (up to 15nm) to their parent station; aerobatic manoeuvres may be conducted. A minority of sorties will also include stalling or spinning, operating at heights up to 10,000 ft agl.

2.3 Whilst the captain of the aircraft will be an experienced pilot, the passenger could be on his/her first flight, accordingly, their ability to assimilate all that is happening around them could be limited.

2.4 Most flights are conducted under Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC), but on occasions aircraft may fly in Instrument Meteorological Conditions if required.

3. Notification

3.1 Details of times/days of the week/areas/altitudes/contact frequency/contact numbers are at Annex A.

3.2 Pilots who wish to check on AEF activities once airborne are advised to call where possible the listed VHF frequencies prior to entering the notified airspace. However, a radar service may not be available on this frequency. If a radar service is available at the unit and is required by the calling pilot, they will be directed to call another frequency.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Many people involved in aviation today have had their first taste of flying with an AEF. To ensure that young people are encouraged to be involved in aviation it is essential that such flying is conducted as safely as possible and with an element of fun and excitement.

AEF	Parent Station	ICAO Indicator	Operating Days	Contact Telephone Number	Frequency¹
1	MOD St Athan	EGDX	Mon-Fri (Jun-Sep) Tue-Sat (Oct-May)	01446 797405 (Ops) 01446 797413 (AEF Flt Cdr)	Cardiff Approach 125.85 St Athan Tower 118.125
2	MOD Boscombe Down	EGDM	Wed-Sun	01980 662294 (Ops) 01980 663551 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 130.00 Twr 130.750
3	Colerne	EGUO	Wed-Sun (Term Time) Mon-Fri (Holidays)	01225 745363 (Ops) 01225 745347 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 120.075 Twr 372.575
4	Glasgow International Airport	EGPF	Sun-Thu	01418 871011 (Ops)	App 119.1 Twr 118.8
5	RAF Wyton	EGUY	Weds-Sun Mon-Fri (Holidays)	01480 458752 (Ops) 01480 458785 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 134.050 Twr 119.975
6	RAF Benson	EGUB	Wed-Sun	01491 837766 (Ops) OC AEF Ex 5230 Ops Room Ex 5228	App 120.9 Twr 127.150
7	RAF Cranwell	EGYD	Wed-Sun	01400 266924 (Ops) 01400 266927 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 119.375 Twr 125.050
8	RAF Cosford	EGWC	Wed-Sun	01902 377148 (Ops) 01902 377108 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 135.875 Twr 128.650
9	RAF Church Fenton	EGXG	Wed-Sun	01347 846762 (Ops) 01347 847986 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 126.5 Twr 122.1
10	RAF Woodvale	EGOW	Wed-Sun	01704 877216 (Ops) 01704 877220 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 121.0 Twr 119.750
11	RAF Leeming	EGXE	Tue-Sat Mon-Fri (Camps)	01677 456172 (Ops) 01677 457342 (AEF Flt Cdr)	App 127.75 Twr 120.5
12	RAF Leuchars	EGQL	Wed-Sun	01334 836390 (Ops) 01334 836395) AEF Flt Cdr	App 126.5 Twr 122.1

¹ See Paragraph 3.2 regarding use of this frequency.