

# AvSEF PAPER

## Exercise Diamond Storm 2024

### Northern Territory

#### SUBMITTED BY

Royal Australian Air Force – Joint Airspace Control Cell

#### CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Military Exercise Diamond Storm 2024 (DSM24) is a major Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) exercise incorporating a wide range of tactical flying activities across northern Australia over the period 12 – 26 June 2024. Aircraft will be operating from Darwin and Tindal.

Due to increased congestion, aerodrome works at Darwin, and the nature of high-density military fast-jet operations, all aircraft should anticipate delays. To minimise impact to civil and military operations, supporting procedures, such as MIL priority windows at Darwin Aerodrome and advice of additional holding fuel requirements, are necessary. These procedures are pertinent to ensuring that both military and civilian traffic can be safely managed with the additional challenge of the Darwin runway works scheduled throughout 2024. The timings have been devised in consultation with Darwin ATC and Darwin International Airport (DIA), and have been designed to ensure sufficient gaps for all traffic types to be facilitated within ATC hours.

#### KEY ISSUES

This proposal notes the following key issues:

- Increased air-traffic density resulting in delays to civil aircraft at YPDN
- Priority departure windows for MIL ACFT (YPDN)
- This consultation will not address any airspace configurations. Temporary Airspace in support of MILEX Diamond Storm shall be addressed in a subsequent AvSEF paper, published at a later date (Q1 2024).
- [Amendment 1 of this document alters the DSM24 evening MIL priority windows, as per Table 1.](#)

#### FEEDBACK TO

Joint Airspace Control Cell - [adf.airspace@defence.gov.au](mailto:adf.airspace@defence.gov.au)

#### CLOSE DATE

31 Jan 2024

#### OVERVIEW

Elements of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will be conducting Exercise Diamond Storm 2024 over the period 12 – 26 Jun 2024.

The activity will be conducted from Darwin and Tindal, and due to the increased complex military operations and aerodrome works will require military priority windows and additional holding.

## PROPOSAL

**Darwin Aerodrome procedures:** Due to increased congestion, Darwin runway works, and the nature of high-density military fast-jet operations, all aircraft should anticipate some delays during exercise traffic periods.

### - **Holding Fuel**

- **Aircraft > 7000kg MTOW:** It is anticipated that aircraft above 7000kg MTOW planned to arrive during DSM24 airspace activation periods will be required to carry 30 minutes holding fuel in addition to normal requirements.
- **Aircraft ≤ 7000kg MTOW:** Due to restrictions imposed by aerodrome works at Darwin, LAHSO operations to Runway 18/36 will not be available. Due to this restriction, aircraft with an MTOW 7000kg or less that are planned to arrive during DSM24 airspace activation periods can anticipate a requirement to carry 15 minutes of holding fuel in addition to normal requirements for traffic management.
- Confirmed holding fuel requirements shall be published via AIP SUP.

### - **Cable engagements**

- The possibility of arrestor cable engagements at Darwin on runway 11/29 is increased. Aircraft captains should be aware that runway 11/29 may be unavailable for periods up to 30 minutes following an engagement. Aircraft captains should consider the possibility of the requirement for diversion to alternate airfields following a cable engagement.

### - **Military Priority Windows**

- It is necessary that military priority be afforded for small windows to enable expeditious tactical departure from Darwin INTL airport, and to minimise the impact to civil operations. The windows proposed below include mitigations for runway works and backtracking requirements. Where possible, civil operations should plan to avoid these periods. Departures will be held on the ground and arrivals held outside the Darwin Control Zone or 40NM Darwin as applicable, until the priority window has ceased.
- Outside of published military priority windows, equal priority will be afforded to all aircraft IAW extant AIP procedures.

<b>Diamond Storm MIL Priority Windows – Darwin Aerodrome</b>		
<b>Wed 12 Jun</b>	1300 – 1345 (local time – I/K)	0330 – 0415Z (UTC)
	1900 – 1945 (local time – I/K)	0930 – 1015Z (UTC)
<b>Thu 13 Jun</b>	1300 – 1345 (local time – I/K)	0330 – 0415Z (UTC)
	1530 – 1615 (local time – I/K)	0600 – 0645Z (UTC)
<b>Fri 14 – Tue 25 Jun</b> (Mon – Fri only, nil weekends)	1300 – 1345 (local time – I/K)	0330 – 0415Z (UTC)
	1900 – 1945 (local time – I/K)	0930 – 1015Z (UTC)

<b>Wed 26 Jun</b>	1300 – 1345 (local time – I/K)	0330 – 0415Z (UTC)
	1530 – 1615 (local time – I/K)	0600 – 0645Z (UTC)

**Table 1: DSM24 Military Priority Windows at Darwin Airport Amendment 1**

Another AvSEF will be published at a later date (expected Q1 2024) to consult the airspace configuration, including temporary restricted and danger areas.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback to JACC: [adf.airspace@defence.gov.au](mailto:adf.airspace@defence.gov.au) by Friday 31 Jan 2024.