

**CHAPTER 26****OPERATIONS ROOM PERSONNEL**

*(MOD Sponsor: FLEET COMMANDER ACOS(W))*

This chapter has been diversity and inclusion impact assessed by the sponsor in accordance with Departmental policy. No direct discrimination or adverse impact was identified. This chapter is due for review at the next routine amendment exercise.

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## CHAPTER 26

### OPERATIONS ROOM PERSONNEL

#### 2601. Operations Room Supervisor (ORS)

1. Suitably qualified and experienced officers or senior ratings or leading hands are to be nominated by the Captain as Watchkeeping Operations Room Supervisors.
2. During their watch, the Operations Room Supervisor is responsible to the Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) and/or Anti Air Warfare Officer (AAWO) for:
  - a. The efficient compilation, validation and display of the Operational Tactical situation obtained from own sensor information and that of remote units.
  - b. Implementing the manning and equipment requirements of the PWO.
  - c. The provision of those services required to ensure the efficient conduct of the operations room, and the effective flow of internal and external communications to and from the operations room.
  - d. Ensuring that equipment failures or defects that affect operational efficiency are reported without delay to the relevant sections.



**Notes:**

1. *Should there be no PWO/AAWO closed up, the ORS is to assume the duties of Officer in Charge of the Operations Room and consequently becomes responsible to the OOW.*
2. *For a breakdown of other Officer/Supervisors and Compiler Operations Room Duties refer to BR 1982 Part 3 Chapter 16.*

#### 2602. Anti Air Warfare Officers

1. Ships carrying area defence weapons or in which fixed wing aircraft are embarked will be complemented with suitably qualified and experienced officers as watchkeeping Anti Air Warfare Officers (AAWO).
2. The AAWO is the officer delegated with authority to conduct the air battle. He/She is subordinate to the Principal Warfare Officer.
3. Responsibilities. He/she is responsible for:
  - a. The safety of all aircraft under his/her direction.
  - b. The tactical employment and direction of aircraft used for air defence, including aircraft used in the AEW role.
  - c. The weapon co-ordination and integration of all AAW assets under or assigned to the ship's tactical control and the deconfliction of weapon systems from aircraft.

- d. Safe airspace management and co-ordination of airspace users within his/her sphere of influence unless an AD is borne to whom aspects may be delegated. (See **Para 2603 2 [sub para d](#)**).
  - e. The supervision of fire control emission safety during flying operations. (See **1901.5**).
  - f. Ensuring that the action information organization meets the tactical and safety requirements of air operations.
4. The senior AAWO is responsible for the overall supervision and training of Fighter and Helicopter Controllers.

### **2603. Air Director**

1. In the CVS and QEC, suitably qualified and experienced Fighter Controllers will be complemented as watchkeeping Air Directors (AD).
2. **Responsibilities.** For the purpose of allocating and co-ordinating the mission control and safety services provided to aircraft, the on watch AD is responsible to the AAWO, or in his/her absence the PWO for:
  - a. The safety of all aircraft controlled by the ship's Fighter and Helicopter Controllers.
  - b. The standard of mission control of air defence aircraft and the safety services provided by all Fighter and Helicopter Controllers on watch in the discharge of their duties.
  - c. Ensuring that ship's Fighter and Helicopter Controllers are not tasked to control more aircraft than their qualification and weather conditions permit.
  - d. The tactical airspace management and safe co-ordination of air assets under the ship's control with those being controlled by co-operating units.
  - e. Carrying out AAWO's AAW directives.
  - f. Liaison with relevant embarked Flag Staff, AAWO, PWO, aircraft controllers, Homer, Flyco, Air Ops and APS for the efficient management of air assets during both mission and recovery/departure phases of any sortie.
  - g. Liasing with aircraft controllers and particularly the Homer to ensure awareness of the development of potentially hazardous or emergency situations.
  - h. Ensuring that the position of ditched aircraft or baled out aircrew is passed to the AAWO and the Operations Officer.
  - i. Monitoring the timely despatch/receipt of Airmove and Operations Normal messages.
  - j. Ensuring the efficient compilation of the SAP for air safety purposes.

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- k. Ensuring all Fighter and Helicopter Controllers establish appropriate control rules.
  - l. Taking the appropriate overdue action for aircraft under the ship's control.
  - m. Providing a tactical appreciation for pre-flight briefings.
3. The Senior Air Director is responsible to the senior AAWO for the standard of the ship's fighter and helicopter control team.

### 2604. Fighter Controller

1. Fighter Controllers are Warfare Officers qualified to undertake and be responsible for the mission control and safety of fixed wing aircraft assigned to them according to their control grade. They should also be conversant in the methods of Air Battlespace Management and act as the Command Advisor in such matters.
2. **Responsibilities.** A Fighter Controller is responsible to Command through the AWO, for:
- a. The mission control and safety services of all fixed wing aircraft assigned to them.
  - b. Advice on the capability, current state and use of weapon systems under the FC's control.
  - c. Supporting the planning and conduct of AAW serials and operations.
  - d. Advice on the application of Air Battlespace Management systems and procedures.
  - e. Acting as the Command Meteorological Advisor in the absence of a METO or an embarked Ship's Flight.
3. **Current Knowledge.** The Fighter Controller is to keep themselves current in:
- a. The capabilities, performance and associated weapon systems of all aircraft likely to be placed under their control.
  - b. The current techniques in the employment and tactical use of such aircraft and associated weapon systems.
  - c. The capabilities, tactics and countermeasures employed by potential enemy aircraft.
  - d. The mission control requirements and safety services for the control of aircraft in both the UK and operational environments.
  - e. The capabilities and limitations of the unit and associated systems used for aircraft control and Air Battlespace Management.

## 2605. Aircraft Control

1. The type of control which Fighter and Helicopter Controllers are permitted to execute, in certain environmental conditions, depends on the control grade of the controller. These grades in turn depend upon the qualification and the current practice of the controller and are laid down in BR 766(C).
2. When aircraft are being employed tactically, they will receive mission control, together with a safety service. Mission control is that aspect of control related solely to an aircraft's operational task. When not being employed tactically, aircraft may be provided with a safety service only.

## 2606. Helicopter Controller

1. Helicopter Controllers are officers and ratings qualified to undertake and be responsible for the mission control and safety services of helicopters, fixed wing trials and support aircraft (e.g. Fleet Requirements Air Direction Unit) according to their control grading.
2. **Responsibilities.** The Helicopter Controller is responsible to the PWO for:
  - a. The provision of appropriate safety service and/or mission control of aircraft assigned to him/her.
  - b. To be conversant, current and compliant with the maritime procedures laid down in BRd 766/768.
  - c. Keeping Command informed of aircraft status and any other factors affecting aircraft safety and /or tactical situation.
  - d. Compilation of the flying briefing form under the direction of the responsible officer iaw BRd 766.
  - e. Provision of appropriate aviation advice to Command.
  - f. Understand the capabilities and limitations of maritime ATM equipment used as detailed in CCUs.
  - g. To be in date for Air 203 course and hold a HKTC validation.

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3. In CVS and QEC the Helicopter Controller is responsible to the AAWO through the AD when closed up for Para 2 [sub para a](#), [sub para c](#), [sub para d](#), [sub para e](#), [sub para f](#).
4. Current Knowledge. The Helicopter Controller is to remain current in:
  - a. The capabilities, performance and weapon system characteristics of all aircraft likely to be placed under his/her control, and the action to be taken in the event of a helicopter emergency or ditching.
  - b. The current techniques in the employment of helicopters and their weapon systems.
  - c. The capabilities and method of operation of those ship equipments used for aircraft control.

### **2607. Air Traffic Control Duties**

1. All Air Traffic Control duties and responsibilities are detailed in BRd 767, FAA 1700 (FAA Duties and Responsibilities).