

## Distress and Diversion

The Distress and Diversion Cell (D&D) is the Emergency centre of LATCC(Mil) based at the London Area Control Centre (LACC) near Southampton. The purpose of this pocket brief is to provide you, our aircrew customers, with essential safety and operational information needed for us to assist you when in an Emergency. Our main aim remains to provide **you** with a safe and accurate service irrespective of your status, to enable you to complete your sortie and for us to continue to provide enroute safety information to other airspace users.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries related to our area of operations.

### Unit Tasks (in order of priority)

- Assistance to aircraft in emergency.
- Search and Rescue alerting service for both Military and Civil ac on UHF and VHF Guard.
- Carry out tracing action for missing / lost ac.
- Facilities for Practice Emergency procedures on UHF and VHF Guard.
- Provide a Radar Control / Deconfliction / Traffic / Basic Service to ac in emergency or transit to a diversion aerodrome.
- Maintain and disseminate up to date weather information and RPS values.
- Maintain up to date aid state of emergency airfields within the UK FIR.



## Contact Details

Address -

Distress and Diversion  
Box 13  
London Area Control Centre  
Sopwith Way  
Swanwick  
Hampshire  
SO31 7AY

Telephone -

Military - 95586 2406  
Civil - 01489 612406  
Fax 2392

### LATCC Mil Ops Room –

Supervisor 2408  
Asst Sup 2419

E-Mail - [d&d.mil@nats.co.uk](mailto:d&d.mil@nats.co.uk)

***Aircrew and ATC are encouraged to visit.***

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***Please contact D&D via details above for more information.***

**ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**

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## Distress and Diversion Cell (D&D)



**Callsign  
“London Centre”**



## Pilot Notes:



**Remember - we are here to help you.**

## **Distress and Diversion Areas of Responsibility**

### **Airspace and Coverage**

The D&D Area Of Responsibility (AOR) covers an area from as far North as Newcastle to as far South as the Isle of Wight. West from Lands End and East to the Dutch FIR boundary. Within this AOR the D&D cell is open 24hrs a day and 365 days a year, listening in on both 121.5 and also 243.0. D&D will respond to any emergencies that occur.

### **D&D Base of DF coverage on 121.5**

Within the London TMA down to and including 2000'.

Outside the London TMA down to 3000'. (*Below these altitudes DF coverage may still be available depending on obstacles / atmospheric conditions / distance from DF receivers*).

### **Emergency Frequencies**

- 243.0** - Military Guard emergencies.
- 245.1** - Military emergency practices.
- 121.5** - Civil emergencies.

### **VHF DF Transmitter Sites are located at:**

Birmingham  
Cardiff  
RAF Coningsby  
Gatwick  
Heathrow  
Little Rissington  
Manchester  
Manston  
RAF Shawbury  
Stansted  
Thorney Island  
RAF Wattisham  
Woodvale  
RAF Wyton  
RNAS Yeovilton

## **PHRASEOLOGY**

**\*LISTEN OUT BEFORE TRANSMITTING\***

**Aircraft** - "London Centre, Callsign, request Practice Pan".

**London** - "Callsign, London centre, Practice Pan acknowledged, continue when ready" (Note: *Position report may be given*).

**Aircraft** - "Practice Pan x3, Callsign, nature of Practice emergency and assistance required".

or...

**Aircraft** - "Training fix, Training fix, Training fix, Callsign Training fix".

**London** - "Callsign, London Centre, your position is ....., do you require further assistance?".

Note: position information is derived from Direction Finding (DF) equipment and not radar, hence position reports may have a +/- error of 3nms. If you require an exact position, Radar Identification is required.

### **TOP TIPS**

Emergency squawk 7700,  
RT Failure 7600,  
Hijack 7500

– Please use them – if in a **real** emergency, it will get our attention and aid your identification.

When changing squawk to 7000 please be careful as it is only 1 digit away from 7700! We deal with every 7700 as an actual emergency.

If you file a flight plan IFR or VFR and deviate from it please **tell someone** as tracing action will be taken.

Also if you are in receipt of an ATS and lose RT contact with the unit, when you have landed please let the unit know or we will assume you have had a problem and tracing action will begin.

**Call early** as pride can be a killer. Please practice as much as you want. It is free and one day it may save your or another person's life.