



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Aviation Safety Authority

Directorate of Aviation Operations (DAVNOPS) Town Hall – DASR Non-Technical Skills

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Opening comments

Director Aviation Operations

GPCAPT Nicholas Pausina

Aim

- Engage the Aviation Safety community regarding:
 - potential changes to the regulation
 - actual changes to the supporting training packages
 - the transition to DASR NTS.

Briefing scope

- Background
- Current and future states
- DASR NTS regulatory clarifications
- Transition and change management arrangements
- DFSB supporting products
- Next steps
- Known Unknowns

Background

- DASA released DASR NTS in February 2024 with an implementation period of 12 months.
 - Release was to occur simultaneously with the release of DASR SMS and NTS guidebooks (both delayed)
 - Presents a substantial change to NTS training requirements
 - Integration of skills-based NTS training and assessment into an organisation's FMS (or equivalent)
- The MRH-90 Taipan ASIR recommended that DASA review the DASR NTS implementation plan and the application of independent assurance in order to:
 - **improve the interpretation and application** of AMC and GM by regulated entities
 - better address NTS-related safety risks in the operating environment.
- In response, DASA:
 - has reviewed the implementation plan for DASR NTS; this brief forms part of that broader plan
 - is proposing to replace elements of DASR NTS, **to provide greater flexibility** to regulated entities and to enhance compliance understanding
 - is reviewing DASR NTS compliance timelines to provide Defence aviation organisations **additional time** to prepare for compliance.

Current and future states

Current state

- DASR AIRCREW.55 **remains the extant regulation** for NTS until transition to DASR NTS

Future state

- Staged implementation
- Clarifications and additional guidance to be provided in AC 002/2026 **v2.0**
 - May further defer DASR NTS compliance
 - May revoke DASR sub-clauses
 - Clarifies available NTS supporting resources
 - Provides transitional considerations for inclusion in an organisation's change management plan
- DASR NTS revision (NPA Q4 2026, release July 2027) incorporating:
 - AC 002/2026 v2.0 requirements
 - ASIR Rec 13 and 22 elements (Multi-Crew Coordination and Spatial Disorientation)

DASR NTS proposed regulatory changes

DASR NTS revocations

- DASR sub-clauses pertaining to NTS training and delivery
 - Replacing knowledge- and skills-based training with a training and education continuum
 - Aligns with DASR SMS Safety Promotion (Component 4)
 - Introduces an education element and 3 training elements (knowledge, contextualisation and application)
 - Supports use by other personnel and organisations involved in Defence Aviation operations (following DASM withdrawal)
 - Removing the notion of NTST (trainer) and NTSF (facilitator)
 - Replaced with outcomes-based requirements **providing flexibility** to MAOs, ANSPs and ABMOs to define the training requirements, qualifications and Currency for personnel delivering NTS training and education.

Personnel delivering NTS training

- MAOs, ANSPs and ABMOs should define in OIP the training, qualification and Currency requirements for personnel delivering the NTS training and education continuum
 - Sufficient credibility and capable of linking Human Factors and NTS concepts to real-world application within the operational context
- May continue to use third-party providers to deliver NTS training

Transition and change management arrangements

Transition planning and activities already undertaken IAW extant DASR NTS and AC 002/2026 v1.0 are not wasted – forthcoming revisions will not fundamentally change transition or compliance requirements

Commitment to the change

- MAOs, ANSPs and ABMOs should actively plan schedules and lines of effort to transition by the due date
- DAVNOPS staff will engage the safety community to assist

Organisational design, accountabilities and responsibilities

- Organisations may require changes to their organisation structure and personnel roles and responsibilities
- Dedicate sufficient resources early to identify organisational change requirements
 - Personnel responsible for implementation should attend an NTS workshop during the transition to DASR NTS

Training, mentoring and communication

- DASA will implement a program of education and gap training
 - Town Hall briefings
 - NTS supporting products
 - NTS workshops
 - Aviation Safety Officer (Advanced) NTS module
 - MAO convocations

Transition and change management arrangements (cont'd)

Policy, plans and process changes

- Organisations will need to update their NTS-related OIP and processes
- DASA will publish (on the DASA website) the Present, Suitable, Operating and Effective (PSOE) NTS assessment indicator methodology to assist with validation of NTS OIP updates for compliance

Information technology, data and record requirements

- No additional IT or data requirements
- Requirement for MAOs, ANSPs and ABMOs to record NTS training in an enduring format

Compliance, conformance and performance systems

- In transition
 - DASA will pause issuing Findings on the legacy AIRCREW.55 during the transition period, unless DASA identifies a serious risk to safety
 - DAVNOPS staff are available to support organisations in achieving compliance
- Post organisational transition to DASR NTS
 - On-going O&E per agreed schedules
 - Focus on the evaluation of conformance and effectiveness elements of the PSOE methodology

DFSB products supporting NTS training

Current:

- *Aviation NTS Continuation Training*
- *Aviation NTS Foundation Course*
- *Aviation NTS Guidebook: Fundamentals for Aviation Professionals (Ed 3)*
- **Discontinued.** *NTS Trainer/Facilitator Course*
- [NTS Training intranet webpage.](#)

Updated (coming soon):

- **Revised.** *Aviation NTS Fundamentals Course - Q4 2026*
- **Revised.** *Aviation NTS Guidebook: Fundamentals for Aviation Professionals (Ed 4) - Q4 2026*
- **New.** *Aviation NTS eAssessment – Q4 2026*
- **New.** *Aviation NTS education packages – Q4 2026*
- **New.** *Aviation NTS Guidebook: Essentials for Training (Ed 1) – Q3 2026*
- **New.** *Aviation NTS workshops – Q4 2026*
 - A forum for personnel involved in the implementation and delivery of NTS training to come together to exchange ideas, share experiences, and discuss emerging issues and best practices
 - During transition, workshops will focus on implementation of the NTS changes
 - Post transition, workshops will focus on delivery of NTS training
 - Personnel will be able to nominate for workshops from Q3 2026
- **New.** *ASO(A) NTS training module – Q4 2026*
- **Cancelled.** *Aviation NTST Course*

Next steps

- Release of AC 002/2026 v2.0 (by 31 Jul 26)
- Second NTS Town Hall (August 26)
- Release of DF SB supporting products (from Q3 2026)
- DASR NTS NPA (Q4 2026)
 - Stakeholder consultation through Q3 2026 ahead of NPA release

Known Unknowns

- There is NTS material in the DASM without a home
- DASA is aware that NTS applies to a broader section of the community than Aircrew, UAS, ATC and ABMs
 - There is intent to capture those applicable trades in DASR
- ASIR recommendations for Multi-Crew Coordination, Spatial Disorientation and AVFM are under consideration for inclusion

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QUESTIONS

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