



# RAAF F/A-18F A44-223 - Dual Ejection - Return to Service

Kevin Giles

MQ-28A - Program Integrator – US Programs

Former F/A-18F/EA-18G Complex Task & Installed EO Lead - Air Combat Electronic Attack (ACEA) Sustainment Program

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# Topics

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- Post Incident – Immediate Actions and Investigation Support to Defence Flight Safety Bureau (DFSB)
- Relocation of Aircraft and Quarantine
- Repair Assessment and Decision Process
- S82 Off Runway Excursion
- Remediation of Aircraft Egress System
- Lessons Learnt
- Acknowledgements





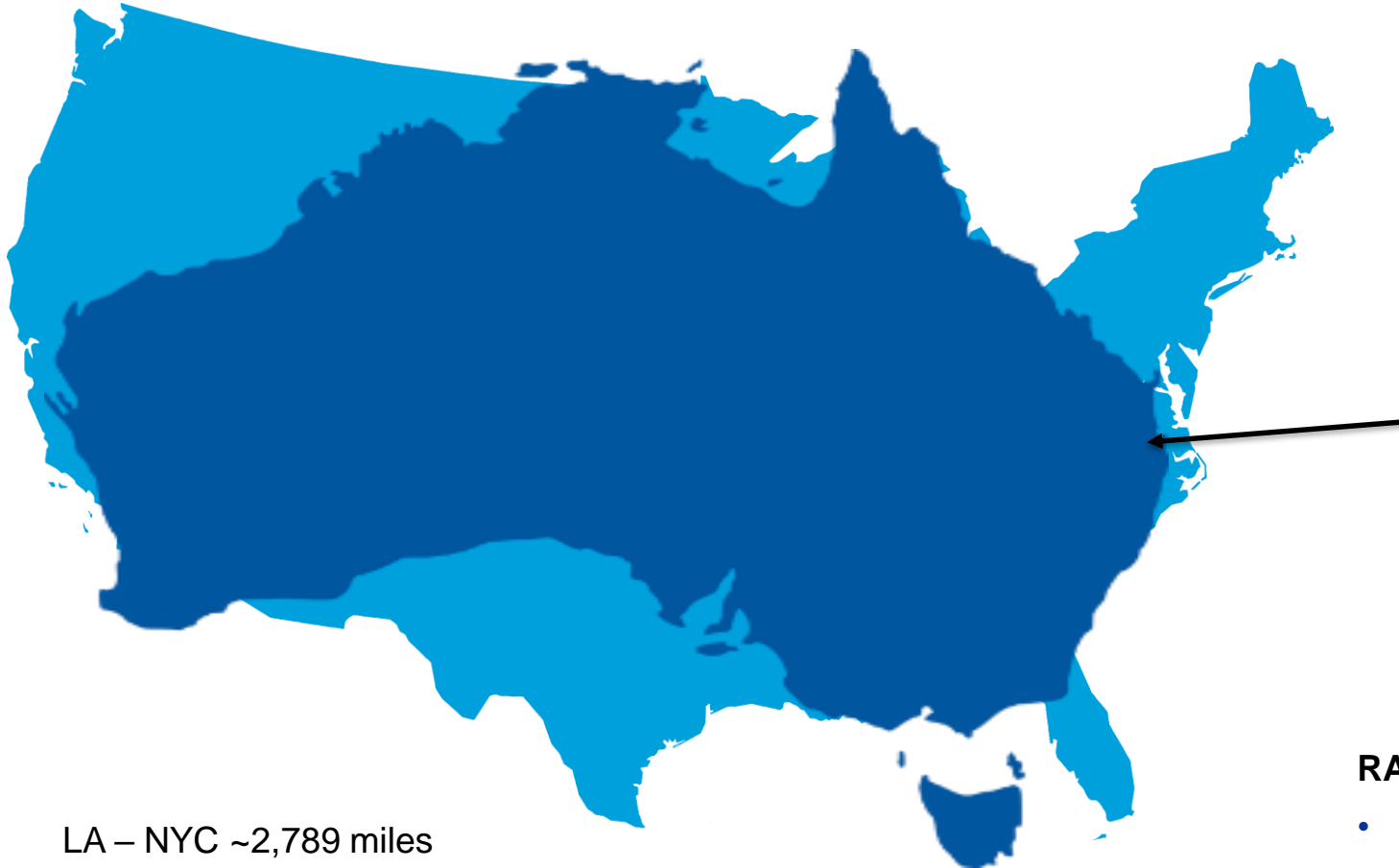
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# Who am I?



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# RAAF F/A-18F & EA-18G Fleet Base



LA – NYC ~2,789 miles  
Sydney – Perth ~2,456 miles



## RAAF Base Amberley – Queensland, Australia

- 82 Wing - Headquarters
- 1 Squadron – F/A-18F x 24
- 6 Squadron – EA-18G x 11\*

\* Loss of A46-311 @ Nellis AFB 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018

# A44-223 Post Incident – Immediate Actions & DFSB

**Aircraft Made Safe and Site Secured**

**Aircraft Quarantine**

**Crypto/Secure Assets Removed**

**Defence Flight Safety Bureau (DFSB) Investigation**





# Relocation of Aircraft and Quarantine

USN (via RAAF TLO) & Boeing US Primed

USN Mishap Investigation Support Team (MIST)

Aircraft moved to Hangar

Aircraft Swab

Controlled Access to Aircraft

Aircraft Data / Photos / Videos - Analysis

USN & Boeing US Liaison – Various Support

Deployable Flight Incident Recorder Set (DFIRS)

- Shipped to US





# Repair Assessment and Decision Process

No Precedent

S82 Off Runway Excursion

High Levels of Cadmium

Aircraft Wash – De-contamination and general clean

Cockpit De-Contamination

3 x major engineering areas:

- Avionics / Airframes & Engines / Armament

Drafted Assessment Inspection Procedures

Decision – Technical and Cost Viability



Aft Seat



Aft Seat



Fwd Seat



Fwd Seat



# S82 Off Runway Excursion

## IETM (AT) A1-FA18EA-IETM

- **Scheduled Conditional Maintenance / Conditional Inspection / Off Runway Excursion**

## USN F/A-18 Fleet Support Team (FST) Liaison

- **Analysis of Incident**

## Main Landing Gear

- **Initial Recommendation**
- **RAAF Follow Up**
- **Final Recommendation**
- **Comprehensive Engineering Artefact – S82**



MDART - Aircraft: A44-201

File Maintenance Jobs Utilities Help

**OFF RUNWAY EXCURSION** X

Begin OFF RUNWAY EXCURSION

1. (S381713379)  
Request review of the incident and determination of the applicable inspection criteria from landing gear engineering, F/A-18 Fleet Support Team.

End browsing.





# Remediation of Aircraft Egress System

## Drafted Aircraft Remediation Plan

### Key Egress System Areas:

- Canopy
- Seats
- SMDC / TLX
- Other CAD/PADs
- DFIRS
- Non- Explosive Components



# Lessons Learnt

RAAF and Boeing Defence Australia – Integrated Working Relationship

Swab Testing – Contaminated Aircraft and Egress Components

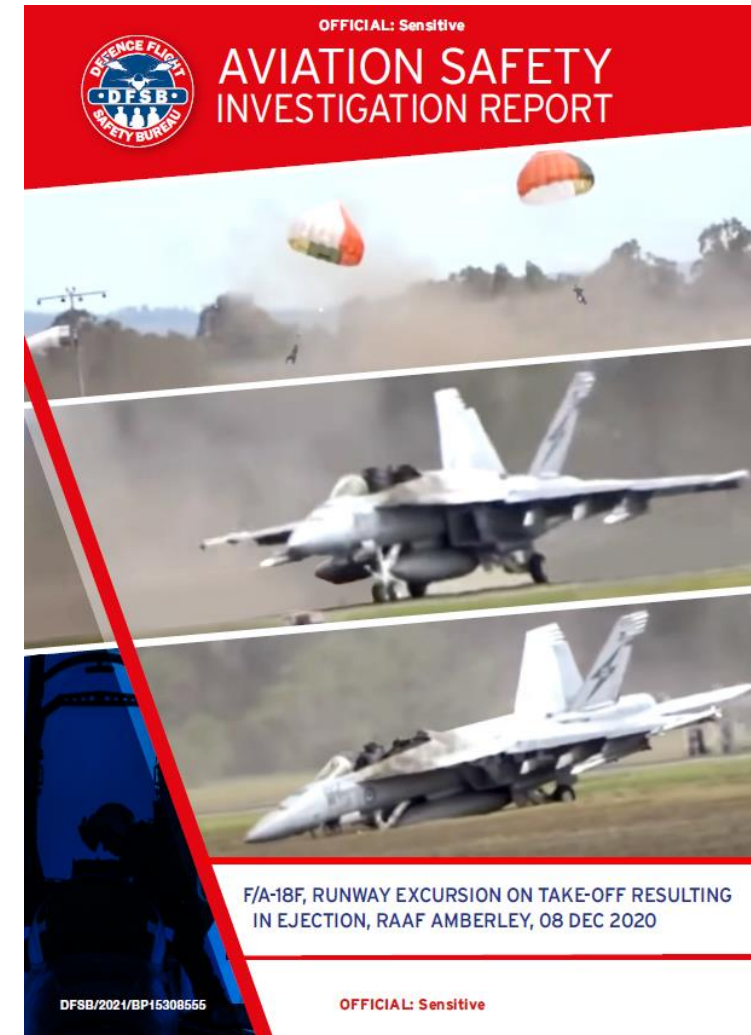
Repair Assessment – ASAP

MIST Engagement

DFSB Support - Intensive

USN and Boeing US Engagement – Early as possible

DFIRS Heat Insulation – Long Lead Time Items





# Acknowledgements

## Air Combat Electronic Attack Enterprise

- RAAF – Air Combat Group, 82WG, TLO, 1 & 6 Squadron
- Air Combat Electronic Attack Systems Program Office
- Boeing Defence Australia

## Defence Flight Safety Bureau

## USN – PMA-265 & PMA-201

## Boeing US

## Aerospace Explosive Ordnance System Program Office

## Northrop Grumman Australia and US



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