



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Aircraft Accident Summaries

MAAS 12/84

4 April 1984

ACCIDENT TO ROYAL AIR FORCE JAGUAR GR1s XZ105 AND XZ110

Date: 16 June 1983
Parent Airfield: RAF Laarbruch, Germany
Place of Accident: Goose Bay, Canada
Crews: One pilot in each aircraft
Casualties: Two Major Injuries

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CIRCUMSTANCES

1. A Jaguar squadron had deployed to Canada for the purpose of tactical training, and on the afternoon of 16 June 1983, a 3 aircraft formation was recovering to Goose Bay Airfield for a visual join into the circuit. The circuit direction for the runway in use was specified as left hand, and the formation leader had pre-briefed that the join would be accomplished by the aircraft moving from tactical formation into close echelon starboard for a left hand break. However, on contacting Air Traffic Control, the formation was instructed to fly a right hand circuit, so the leader ordered his section to move from tactical formation into close echelon port. During this formation change the No 2 and No 3 aircraft collided. There was a loud explosion, both aircraft caught fire, and their pilots ejected. The aircraft crashed into water surrounding the airfield, and were destroyed; the pilots were rescued safely.

CAUSE

2. While the aircraft were moving from tactical formation into close echelon port, the pilot of the No 3 aircraft lost sight of the No 2. When this occurred, he should have discontinued his movements and pulled up and out of the formation in order to re-establish visual contact with the No 2, whom it was his responsibility to avoid. He did not do so, and a collision resulted.

SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

3. Pilots are now briefed to expect circuits to be flown in either direction at this airfield, as instructed by Air Traffic Control.
4. Instructions which specify the procedures to be adopted by pilots of fastjet aircraft joining in close formation have also been clarified.