

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

**ACCIDENT TO P-51D MUSTANG (COMMONWEALTH CA-18 MK22 NA), D-FBBD & DOUGLAS
AD-4N SKYRAIDER, F-AZDP, NEAR DUXFORD AERODROME, CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
ON 10 JULY 2011**

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F1/2012
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 28 February 2012
TYPE OF FLIGHT : Aerial Work
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2011/07822
AAIB REPORT : 2/2011

SYNOPSIS

From AAIB Report

The pilot of a P-51D Mustang (Commonwealth CA-18 MK22 NA) was leading a 'Vee' formation of three aircraft participating in an airshow at Duxford. On his left was a Douglas Skyraider and on his right was another P-51 Mustang. On a signal from the leader, the formation carried out a 'break' manoeuvre to the left. During the left turn the Skyraider impacted the leading Mustang, and although initially uncontrollable, the Mustang pilot was forced to abandon his aircraft and descended by parachute. The Skyraider pilot was able to land his aircraft at Duxford. The accident occurred after the Skyraider pilot had lost sight of his leader and continued to make a tighter turn than his leader's aircraft, which had slowed down. This caused their respective flight paths to converge, resulting in the collision.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

Recommendation 2011-083

It is recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority considers, where a parachute is worn as safety equipment, whether provision of an automatic means of operating the parachute would provide a safety benefit.

CAA Response

The CAA accepts this recommendation and will take further advice and enter discussions with those operators involved in flying displays before deciding on any appropriate actions. The first opportunity to do so will be the Display Authorisation Examiner's seminar which will take place on 7th March at RNAS Yeovilton and on the following day at the industry organised Warbirds Display seminar. We understand that the pilot involved in the accident from which this recommendation arose, who successfully bailed out, will be attending the Warbird seminar to present on his experience. We will also need to discuss this recommendation with the British Gliding Association, whose members routinely use parachutes, to ensure any safety improvement actions or advice is consistent. The CAA expects to complete these discussions and deliberations before the end of May 2012.

CAA Status - Open