The Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA) was established in 2016, incorporating the three existing Defence Aviation Safety agencies into a new body that more closely conforms to internationally recognised organisational structures.

This integrated military aviation safety organisation consists of seven directorates — the Airworthiness Coordination and Policy Agency; the Defence Flight Safety Bureau; Chief of Staff Directorate; Directorate of Aviation Engineering; Directorate of Promotion, Safety and Engagement; Directorate of Initial Airworthiness and Directorate of Continuing Airworthiness.

In conjunction with this, the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) and the Secretary of Defence established the Defence Aviation Safety Framework (DASF). The DASF is aligned, where appropriate, with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) principles and the European Military Airworthiness Requirements (EMARs) and provides significant benefits and efficiencies for Defence by adopting global aviation safety conventions and practices.

For the Australian Defence Force, aviation safety includes both the manner in which aircraft are operated and the tasks, activities and management systems to enable safe flight. In Defence, this includes the following aircraft and aviation systems:

- Defence-registered aircraft
- Civil-registered aircraft, operated exclusively for, or on behalf of, Defence
- Aircraft that are the subject of statutory airworthiness responsibilities placed on Defence by CASA
- Other aircraft/aviation systems as determined by the Defence Aviation Authority (DAA).

The Chief of Air Force as the Defence Aviation Authority is accountable to the CDF and Secretary for the regulation and oversight of all aspects of Defence aviation.

The DASA is responsible for enhancing and promoting the safety of military aviation. This is achieved through a Defence Aviation Safety Program (DASP), which supports compliance with statutory safety obligations and assures the effective management of aviation-safety risks.

This program recognises and supports compliance with statutory safety requirements while providing the flexibility for military commanders to undertake aviation operations in defence of Australia’s national interests.

The program is implemented through the issue of the Defence Aviation Safety Regulations (DASRs) which are based on the EMARs. The DASRs provide many benefits to Defence including:

- The promotion of continuous improvement and world-best-practice in aviation safety
- Outcome-based regulations
- A move away from an Australian Defence-specific aviation regulatory set
- Increased efficiency and contracting flexibility due to a broadened scope of eligible companies
- Improved ability to amend DASR as required
- Hazard-based regulation
- Mutual recognition and interoperability with national and international civilian and military aviation design and maintenance organisations.

Further information on the DASA and its responsibilities can be obtained at http://www.defence.gov.au/DASP or by emailing dasa.registry@defence.gov.au