

ACHIEVING IM COMPLIANCE IN THE PROCUREMENT OF THE UK “STORM SHADOW” MISSILE

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The procurement route for modern weapons is long and often difficult. Achieving IM compliance for a new system is also a lengthy and involved process, in particular whilst set in the timeframe of evolving policies on IM and need for increased performance requirements. For the Storm Shadow weapon system, procured to meet the UK need for a conventionally-armed, stand-off missile (CASOM) the achievement of the required high performance was primary and the achievement of the IM requirements was throughout considered to be of secondary importance.

Storm Shadow comprises a twin bomb arrangement, termed BROACH, in a powered airframe. It is air-launched at a distance from the intended target and then autonomously guided to engage with precision and comprehensively destroy a wide variety of high-value static & stationary targets. It is over 5m long and weighs 1300kg.

It has recently entered UK Service after having been fully Qualified to a demanding environment and cleared for use on the Tornado aircraft. The missile was most successfully used in anger in Iraq, even before the end of its lengthy testing programme. Despite achieving the required high level of performance, and meeting its necessary In-Service Date, Storm Shadow has achieved the distinction of being the first munitions system to be declared fully-compliant with the UK IM Policies.

This paper will outline the route adopted to achieving satisfactory completion of the test and assessment exercises on Storm Shadow for IM aspects. It will describe some of the technical problems encountered and discuss how they were overcome. The need for interactions with the relevant experts and a flexible approach to ensure the success of the many different strands of work is emphasised. The paper will also discuss the importance of all parties working together to enable the best compromises are reached in timeline, cost and performance issues in such a system, which may be useful for others engaged in specification, procurement and delivery of complex munitions programmes.