

# Grob G103C Twin III Acro, G-CFWC: Anniversary Statement

News story

Grob G103C Twin III Acro, G-CFWC, Usk Airfield, Monmouthshire, on 13 June 2021.



This statement provides an update on the AAIB investigation into an accident involving a Grob G103C Twin III Acro glider, G-CFWC, at Usk Airfield, Monmouthshire, on 13 June 2021.

A qualified pilot was undergoing a winch launch check with an instructor. During the first planned launch, at a height of approximately 150 feet, the instructor simulated a failed launch. In the resulting manoeuvre, the glider was unable to land back at the airfield. It entered a spin close to the ground and then struck a tree on the airfield boundary. Both pilots were seriously injured.

The AAIB investigation has focused on the actions of both the pilot and instructor, as well as wider safety management issues. The report is nearing completion at which time it will be published.

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## PM meeting with Prime Minister of Portugal: 13 June 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with Prime Minister António Costa of Portugal today.



The Prime Minister welcomed Prime Minister António Costa of Portugal to Downing Street today ahead of the NATO leaders summit later this month.

The Prime Minister thanked the Portuguese leader for his decisive action in support of Ukraine in the face of Russia's barbaric invasion.

Putin's actions had fundamentally changed the world, the leaders agreed, and both underlined that NATO allies needed to further build on their strong bonds as like-minded democracies.

The Prime Minister noted that the UK and Portugal shared a common perspective towards NATO and said that it was crucial the alliance remained in lockstep on Ukraine.

Both agreed on the need to increase military spending across the alliance, and said more collaboration was needed on defence equipment development to ensure greater integration in NATO.

The pair welcomed the applications by Finland and Sweden to join NATO, and the Prime Minister shared Prime Minister Costa's view that their presence in the alliance would make it stronger.

Discussing the energy crisis sparked by Russia's barbaric invasion, both leaders agreed that a drive towards alternative energy sources needed to be intensified.

The leaders noted that the UK and Portugal were already working together on renewable energy, which the Prime Minister said was a great example of the countries' close collaboration.

Building on the strong ties between the two countries, including through the large diaspora communities and close tourism links, the two leaders also agreed to further deepen bilateral cooperation through a [Joint Declaration](#).

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# Reiterating our deep concern over the continued illegal Russian presence in Georgia

Thank you Mr President.

Colleagues, thirteen years since the Russian military invasion of Georgia, the UK remains deeply concerned over the continued illegal Russian presence in parts of the country. We fully support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and underline the need for a peaceful resolution of the conflict based on full respect for the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and international law.

Georgia has been under continuous hybrid attack from Russia since the 2008 war that saw 20% of Georgian territory effectively annexed. There are thousands of Russian troops and border guards stationed in the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, some as close as 35 minutes from the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. And the human rights situation in these breakaway regions is of serious and growing concern.

We welcome Georgia's ongoing compliance with the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement. We call upon the Russian Federation to fulfil immediately its clear obligation under the ceasefire agreement to withdraw its forces to pre-conflict positions, as well as its commitments to allow unfettered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and not to impede creation of international security arrangements on the ground.

We also call upon Russia to reverse its recognition of the so-called independence of Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and end all practices aimed at creeping annexation of these territories into the Russian Federation. We welcome initiatives by the government of Georgia to promote reconciliation among the populations separated by the Administrative Boundary lines and urge Russia not to obstruct these valuable peace building and people to people contacts.

The United Kingdom has been a long standing supporter of this annual resolution in solidarity with the Georgian people and all internally displaced people worldwide. As others have said, this year it is even more pertinent following Russia's illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine.

The resolution highlights the inalienable right of the forcefully displaced population to safe and dignified return to their homes, acknowledges their property rights, reaffirms the unacceptability of forced demographic changes, and creates a vital mechanism of reporting by the UN Secretary-General about developments on this issue. These are all matters vital to our universally shared interest in human rights, reconciliation, and peace.

We therefore urge all member states to vote in favour of this resolution that aims to protect the most vulnerable in society and to underline the unacceptability of using internally displaced persons as political pawns in conflicts.

Thank you colleagues. Thank you, Mr President.

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## [UK Government supports top Scottish global affairs experts at London networking event](#)

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has hailed the launch of new think tank, the Scottish Council for Global Affairs (SCGA), at an event in London today [13 June 2022]

The Secretary of State spoke at an event hosted by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) at its historic Lancaster House venue – giving top global affairs experts from Scotland an opportunity to meet with representatives of governments from all over the world.

The Secretary of State is proud the UK Government is supporting the newly-formed SCGA, which was launched in April by the University of Glasgow, University of St Andrews, and the University of Edinburgh.

Its aim is to provide and develop expertise on international issues, and forge new partnerships with civil society and the business community across the UK.

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

I was delighted to speak at the London launch of the new Scottish Council on Global Affairs at the Foreign Office's Lancaster House.

The creation of a new Scottish international affairs think tank is hugely significant. Led by three of Scotland's world-renowned universities, the SCGA will harness the very significant expertise of Scotland's higher education sector, and provide independent analysis and a trusted space for debate and dialogue.

The UK Government is proud to help the SCGA get off to a flying start by hosting this networking event with key international affairs experts from across the UK and the world. I wish it the very best and look forward to seeing its contribution to the public policy debate on global issues.

The FCDO has announced £10,000 of funding for the organisation, which also receives funding support from the Scottish Government.

Diplomats from countries including Australia, Germany, Italy and Spain were amongst those meeting with the Scottish academics at the event held at Lancaster House.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Minister Vicky Ford said:

The UK Government's funding for the Scottish Council for Global Affairs and hosting of this event at Lancaster House reaffirms our commitment to the successful launch of this important new non-partisan think tank. The FCDO looks forward to engaging closely with the Scottish Council for Global Affairs, which will harness Scottish universities' significant global affairs expertise to help the UK to make its mark on shaping a better world.

The SCGA will provide a non-partisan hub for expertise on international issues. It will place this expertise at the disposal of public policy and promote independent, expert-informed debate and discussion of the most pressing international questions.

The SCGA has been set up by a group of Scotland's leading universities, but it will look from the beginning to form new partnerships with civil society and the business community in Scotland and across the United Kingdom. Its creation as a fully independent institute of international affairs has been supported by all major political parties and strong relationships have already been established with the Scottish Government and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

The present war in Ukraine, the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis have all underlined the need for international co-operation and multi-disciplinary expertise to address the political, economic and public health challenges of the 21st century. The SCGA will contribute to this enterprise by providing an institutional setting for discussion and debate of international questions.

A core mission of the new think tank is to support ambitious research projects aimed at informing public policy and promoting public discussion. In pursuit of these goals, it will forge partnerships in the UK, Europe and beyond to amplify the global reach of Scottish expertise.

Professor Juliet Kaarbo, Chair in Foreign Policy at the University of Edinburgh and founding Co-Director of SCGA said:

We are delighted at the support from FCDO and The Secretary of State for Scotland and thankful for this event recognising the launch of the Scottish Council on Global Affairs. As an agreement between the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St Andrews, we are an academically-based, policy-oriented, and global-

thinking institute that serves as a hub for a distinct constellation or research on global affairs. We aim to link this research to governments, civil society, and business to address big problems concerning, for example, human rights, military conflicts, climate change, international development and trade, and global health.

Professor Phillips O'Brien, Chair in Strategic Studies at the University of St Andrews and founding Co-Director of SCGA said:

One of the great aims of SCGA is to bring the fabulous, high impact, policy-focussed research done across Scotland to the centres of government in the UK and around the world.

We are therefore delighted to have established an excellent relationship with the FCD0, the Scotland Office and the whole UK Government and believe this link is central to our mission.

Professor Peter Jackson, Chair in Global Security at the University of Glasgow and the first Executive Director of the SCGA, said:

The Scottish Council on Global Affairs is an exciting new initiative to harness the extensive expertise that exists in Scotland on international affairs very broadly conceived.

Forging relationships with government departments and other think tanks in London will enable us to amplify both the scope of our research activities and the breadth of our engagement with policy stakeholders in the United Kingdom and beyond.

We are therefore hugely grateful to the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office for the reception to celebrate our creation at Lancaster House.

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## [Inspirational Dstl leader recognised as tech trailblazer](#)

Linda said:

I am humbled and delighted to be included in the top fifty

inspirational women and honoured to work alongside so many other trailblazers in Dstl who will undoubtedly be contending for a place on this list in the future.

Dstl has undertaken talent management for some time, and rather like a football scout spotting talent of the future, I was one of those people who was spotted 10 years ago as a future leader.

I think it is important for women to have a role model within their senior leadership, and I take my responsibility of being that role model for our female staff in Dstl very seriously.

Senior roles in any organisation should represent society at large. I like to think I can be my true self at work at a senior level, and I hope that it inspires women to have confidence in being themselves too.

Linda has been working in defence, science and technology for 28 years.

After gaining a MSc in analytic chemistry she started her career at the Royal Navy Scientific Service as a forensic chemist in the organisation's aircraft material lab.

Linda then went on to work for the Defence Research Agency which later became the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency – a predecessor to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

More recently she was capability leader in Dstl's Platform Systems Division – a role in which she led about 1,000 scientists and engineers.

She was also responsible for developing key strategic relationships and providing thought leadership in science and technology.

Since her senior leadership potential was identified she has undertaken Dstl leadership development courses and been involved in mentoring and coaching.

Last year Linda was promoted to her current role in which she oversees innovation in 'over the horizon' ideas and generation after next technology.

This latest award comes after she was, last year, recognised in the top 50 female tech leaders in the UK for her work in transforming the industry.

Former US Secretary of State – one-time First Lady and later presidential candidate – Hillary Clinton was among the speakers at this event.

Dstl Chief Executive Paul Hollinshead said:

We are all extremely proud of Linda and delighted that her talents and achievements are being recognised at an international level.

She is an inspirational leader who has made a huge contribution to the world of science and technology and continues to do so.

Our people are world class and with Linda as a role model I hope more women will look at STEM and Dstl as a promising and rewarding career option.

Linda receives the award this evening (13 June 2022) at a ceremony in Westminster Abbey to mark the start of London Tech Week.