

## **The Royal Air Force at this year's Qatar National Day display**

Shortly before the Festive Break it was reported by the (UK) Ministry of Defence that three RAF Typhoons took part in this year's Qatar National Day flypast in the nation's capital, Doha.

The aircraft, flown and maintained by 29 Squadron, based at RAF Coningsby, (Lincolnshire, E. England) flew as guests of the Qatar Amiri Air Force (QAAF) alongside French and American aircraft in the multinational display. In the preceding days, 29 Squadron operated alongside their QAAF colleagues, who fly the Dassault Mirage 2000.

One of the pilots of the Typhoon said: *'It is awesome when you get to do things like this. It has been really good to work alongside the QAAF and show them what the Typhoon can do.'*

Taking part in the flypast was an opportunity to strengthen UK relations with the nation ahead of the creation of a joint Typhoon training squadron in 2019. Integration required all participants to take part in a multinational, multi-aircraft flypast with four countries' aircraft. This shows a continuing effort to improve relations with other nations and enhance regional security in the Gulf.

Earlier this year, it was announced that the QAAF would buy both Typhoon fighters and Hawk T2 trainers, built in the UK by BAE Systems, and that 12 Squadron as a joint RAF/QAAF training squadron would operate from RAF Coningsby to train the first QAAF Typhoon air and ground crews. This marks the first time the UK has formed a squadron with another nation since the Second World War, and the UK's commitment to improving security in the Gulf region.

Broadening the user base for the Typhoon also assists in the continuous improvement programme for the aircraft, making sure that it remains a world class platform, it has been said.

## Picture captions

### RAF Qatar 1

*Qatar's Display Team in front of the Doha Corniche.*

### RAF Qatar 2

*Image shows RAF Typhoons, as they transit Doha Bay participating in this year's Qatar National Day Airshow.*

*Three Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4s from N° 29 Squadron, RAF Coningsby, flew to Doha for this year's Qatari National Day flypast.*

### RAF Qatar 3

*Two Qatar Amiri Air Force (QAAF) C130 Hercules popping flares over the Corniche during their flypast for Qatar National Day.*

### RAF Qatar 4

*A 29 Squadron Typhoon takes off for a flypast rehearsal in Doha.*

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