

RAF trains in Turkey

Royal Air Force personnel and Typhoons have conducted a week of training in Turkey as part of a package of the NATO Alliance's assurance measures to one of its key allies. This was reported by the UK Ministry of Defence on 24 November

As part of the UK's contribution in delivering on its NATO commitment of Tailored Assurance Measures to Turkey, No IX(B) Squadron Typhoons based at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland, spent three days exercising alongside the Turkish Air Force F16s at the 3rd Main Jet base, Konya, in south central Turkey.

Operating away from the home base offers a range of training opportunities for the aircrew as well as those in support roles. Aircraft engineers formed the bulk of the detachment, but equally important were the logistics, operations, movements, security and media personnel all of whom had vital roles to play to ensure the success of the visit.

For the pilots, flying alongside other nations provides an invaluable insight to each other's tactics and procedures. During the week, each of the pilots got to fly against their Turkish counterparts in one to one air combat missions gaining a greater understanding of each other's capabilities.

The Typhoons arrived in Konya on the 16 November supported by a Voyager aircraft from RAF Brize Norton. This air tanker provided air-to air refuelling for the six-hour sortie across Europe from RAF Lossiemouth. They met with the advance party who had arrived a few days earlier, having brought in engineering equipment by A400M transport aircraft, a type which is also operated by the Turkish Air Force.

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Picture captions

RAF and Turkish Air Force pilots pose for a photograph in front of a Typhoon FGR4 and a Turkish F16.

A Typhoon FGR4 taking part in air to air refuelling en route to Konya.

A F16 (top) and Typhoon FGR4 flying over Konya.