RAF trains alongside Royal Navy over the Black Sea

ROYAL AIR FORCE TRAINS ALONGSIDE ROYAL NAVY OVER THE BLACK SEA

Typhoon□

destroyer which is leading the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 in the Black Sea.

The Four □

controlling air defence and anti-surface warfare. During the exercise the ship's crew had the□

and at the same time practice launching an air attack on other surface ships.

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HMS□

Duncan's Senior Warfare Officer Lt Cdr Michael Waters said: "Opportunities for⊓

in the execution of both Air-Air and Air-Surface missions was invaluable and proved our interoperability while both were tasked to NATO in the Black Sea."

Flight_□

Lieutenant Brett Fusco, from 3(F) Squadron, co-ordinated 135 EAW's participation $\hspace{-0.5cm}\square$

two elements, their fighter controllers on board practiced controlling us
against an air threat while one of us was acting as the threat and two of us
were on Combat Air Patrol protecting the ship.

"The other□

element was conducting Anti Surface Forces Air Operations (ASFAOs) using the fourth□

jet. For Duncan it was a chance for them to concurrently have different□ elements of their crew defending against an air threat whilst controlling an

anti-surface
operation."

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Following the□

conclusion of the exercise there was an opportunity for an exchange with 18 $\text{RAF} {\textstyle \sqcap}$

personnel visiting HMS Duncan for a tour of the ship and 15 RN personnel being⊓

hosted at MK Air base.

Flt Lt Gemma∏

Bean, the 135 EAW Detachment Administrative Officer said: "It was really interesting. It was the first time I've ever been on a RN ship. Just to see how □

their lifestyle compares to ours was eye-opening. We saw everything from their helicopter, the operations centre to the bridge and the weapons systems." □

She reflected on the similarities of□

operations, adding: "They are also on NATO ops. It was interesting to see $\mathsf{how} \sqcap$

they conduct theirs working with different nations, liaising with host nations□

and how everything fits together as a NATO package."

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Pettv□

fascinating insight into the way our RAF colleagues operate. I particularly ${\tt enjoyed} \square$

seeing the aircraft up close as well as the unique facilities at $MK\$ Airbase."

The RAF has deployed 135 Expeditionary□

Air Wing, from RAF Leeming with four Typhoon aircraft, from RAF Coningsby, $\mathsf{to} \sqcap$

enhance air policing. At the same time the Portsmouth-based Type 45 Destroyer, □

HMS Duncan has been tasked in the Black Sea leading the Standing NATO Maritime[]

Group 2, providing reassurance and deterrence in the Black Sea, as well as commanding NATO's counter migration activity in the Aegean.

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