

# **On Christmas Day CIBUK.Org pays tribute to our servicemen and women, on duty**

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*This report has been co-published with our affiliated organisation, Brexit Facts4EU.Org. We are most grateful for their original research into the raw data which backs what follows.*

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**While we are enjoying festivities, UK  
service personnel are defending us – and  
the EU**

**Special focus: ISIS – The forgotten war that Brexit  
Britain is still fighting, without the EU**

CIBUK.Org salutes the country's servicemen and women

On duty 24/7, every day of the year including Christmas Day

It's Christmas Day and perhaps many of our large number of readers will have other things on their minds than reading the latest CIBUK.Org report. We therefore decided to turn our attention to those who serve our country while we are all enjoying ourselves.

During 2022 we have run many reports on the power of the newly independent United Kingdom. Several of these have revealed just how important the UK is in defending itself, in defending western values, and indeed in defending the EU, against those

who would destroy our way of life.

## **Lifting our eyes to the skies...**

Many of our military reports in 2022 have focused on the Royal Navy and the Army, protecting the EU's northern Baltic flank and the EU's eastern flank. In today's Christmas report we pay tribute to those who serve in the Royal Air Force, covering these areas and more.



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**The threat from the terrorist organisation ISIS, now known as 'Daesh' in the Middle East, has not gone away.** Readers will understand that details of many military operations cannot be revealed until long after the event but we can bring you one example from Tuesday this week (20 Dec 2022), when many of us were worrying about last-minute Christmas shopping.

On Tuesday the RAF struck against ISIS (Daesh) in Syria and Iraq. Royal Air Force aircraft have continued to conduct armed reconnaissance patrols against elements of the Daesh terrorist network there, as well as supporting the Iraqi and Syrian

authorities' efforts to keep Daesh out of their countries.

On Tuesday an RAF Reaper remotely-piloted aircraft was on a mission near Al Bab in northern Syria where at least one active Daesh terrorist was known to be present. The Reaper's crew fired a salvo of two Hellfire missiles which both struck the target accurately. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

Further down this report we list some further examples of Middle East operations from last year, but first we remind readers how the Royal Air Force has been continuing to defend the EU this year.

## **The Royal Air Force are also defending the EU**

In March we reported on the announcement that British Typhoon jets and Royal Air Force personnel were deploying to Romania. They operated as part of NATO's 'Air Policing mission' for the Black Sea region, on the EU's eastern flank.

The RAF Typhoon jets were from No.3 (Fighter) Squadron and are normally based at RAF Coningsby. They conducted the NATO Air Policing mission from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base on the Romanian Black Sea coast.



Photo courtesy of MoD, Typhoons in Romania, Sat 26 Mar 2022

**Air Vice-Marshal Philip Robinson, Air Officer Commanding 11 Group said:**



*“The arrival of our personnel and equipment in the region highlights the RAF’s continued commitment and contribution to the NATO Air Policing mission in Romania.*

*“During the deployment, we will be working alongside our Romanian and other NATO partners, enabling the delivery of the mission and protecting and reassuring our allies, whilst building confidence and maintaining deterrence.”*

– Air Vice-Marshal Phil Robinson, OBE, DFC, 26 Mar 2022

The above is just one example from many, where the United Kingdom’s forces have been defending the territory of the European Union – with no thanks forthcoming from Brussels of course.

## **A selection of RAF operations last year against ISIS (Daesh)**

Returning to the Middle East, below are just some of the RAF operations in Iraq and Syria we can tell you about from last

year.

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## Summary

### Selected RAF missions in the Middle East, 2021

[Source: Adapted from info from Ministry of Defence – Royal Air Force.]

#### Sunday 24 January 2021

A coalition surveillance aircraft located a number of Daesh terrorists based in a pair of caves some ten miles north of Bayji, and two Typhoon FGR4s were tasked to deal with them. These two fighter jets conducted simultaneous attacks using 2 Paveway IV guided bombs against each group. All four of the bombs struck their targets accurately. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### Thursday 11 February 2021

Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4s were tasked against a number of terrorists who had been spotted in two dispersed encampments on the banks of the Tharthar river, to the west of Bayji. The Typhoons struck using Paveway IV guided bombs against a series of different targets within the encampments. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### Wednesday 10 March 2021

Iraqi forces identified a significant number of Daesh terrorists using a cave complex south-west of Erbil. Two RAF Typhoon FGR4s were therefore tasked to conduct an attack in support of the Iraqi forces using Storm Shadow missiles, which struck their targets precisely. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### Thursday 11 March 2021

Further surveillance efforts confirmed an additional two locations south-west of Erbil which were being used by Daesh. Two Typhoons therefore conducted precision attacks on the extremists at both locations using six Paveway IV guided bombs. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Friday 12 March 2021**

RAF Typhoons struck another group of caves south-west of Erbil used by Daesh, with eight Paveway IV bombs. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Sunday 14 March 2021**

Six Paveway IVs were employed by Typhoons against Daesh-held caves in the same mountainous area south-west of Erbil. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Wednesday 17 March 2021**

Typhoons destroyed two more Daesh-held caves in the mountains south-west of Erbil with Paveway IV bombs. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Monday 22 March 2021**

Daesh extremists were confirmed to be based in a network of caves in the Makhmur mountains, south-west of Erbil. Three Typhoon FGR4s were tasked to conduct an attack using Storm Shadow missiles. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Sunday 4 April 2021**

An RAF Reaper, armed with Hellfire missiles, identified a small group of Daesh terrorists in northern Syria, some fifty miles west of Al Hasakah. The Reaper's crew attacked the terrorists, striking the target successfully. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Tuesday 11 May 2021**

Iraqi security forces encountered a group of Daesh terrorists in a strong defensive position some twenty five miles south west of Mosul. Coming under heavy small arms fire from the terrorists, the Iraqi troops requested air support from the

RAF. A pair of Typhoon FGR4s responded promptly, attacking with two Paveway IV precision guided bombs. These hit the target accurately and eliminated a number of the Daesh extremists. The Iraqi forces were then able to assault the position successfully and overwhelm the few remaining terrorists. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Monday 6 September 2021**

Ground forces conducting security operations some thirty miles south of Erbil came under fire from a Daesh position in an area of heavy vegetation. Two RAF Typhoon FGR4s responded to the call for assistance, and used a single Paveway IV guided bomb. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Monday 25 October 2021**

The crew of a remotely piloted Reaper armed with Hellfire missiles tracked a known terrorist in northern Syria, near the city of Ras al Ayn. When the individual was alone in a field they carried out a successful attack. **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

#### **Tuesday 14 December 2021**

Hostile drone activity was detected around the At Tanf coalition base in Syria. A pair of Typhoon FGR4s from Royal Air Force Akrotiri were conducting one of their regular patrols over Syria and Iraq as part of the global coalition against Daesh, and were tasked to investigate. On arrival in the At Tanf area, the pilots were able to identify a small hostile drone, and despite the diminutive size of the target, succeeded in conducting an air to air engagement with an ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air to Air Missile). **Mission completed, threat eliminated.**

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