



Hunter Mk 5s replaced the Meteors. This formation was flying from Tangmere on April 26, 1956. RAF (AHB)/© UK MoD Crown Copyright 2015


against challenging targets, and integrating with USAF stealth platforms. This involved the co-ordination of more than 80 combat aircraft, by day and night and in all weathers, fighting against very realistic surface and air threats, and provided us with exceptional training. The Squadron put in a superb performance and I am extremely proud of what everyone achieved."

Looking forward to the remainder of 2015 and beyond, he says: "We're currently training a number of new pilots and engineers, and conducting large exercises based in the UK,

including Joint Warrior, which saw us integrate with a host of other units, including Turkish F-16s, and Royal Navy destroyers. We're also enhancing our tactical reconnaissance capability and planning is well underway for a deployment to Spain for a NATO training exercise later in the year. The Squadron continues to conduct QRA on a daily basis, and we retain our core swing-role skill sets so that we can deploy around the globe at a moment's notice should we need to.

"We talk a lot about technology and capability in the RAF, and the Typhoon is a superb fast jet to operate. We deploy across

the world on operations and for training, and every day the pilots put an exceptional fighter through its paces, striving to improve and hone our tactics, which is both a challenge and extremely rewarding. But unquestionably, our true capability lies in the efforts, vision and dedication of our people.

"I value the culture as the most important aspect of what we do on 1(F) Squadron. Ethos, teamwork, understanding and the right mindset are critical to success, and if you get this right, then you truly have a battle-winning capability." 

The squadron regularly flew its Harrier GR7s off carrier decks, here operating alongside Sea Harriers aboard HMS *Illustrious*. LA (Phot) Billy Bunting/© UK MoD Crown Copyright 2015

