

# Cold Response 22 and Media Flight in A330-MRTT



## Cold Response 2022

Cold Response 2022 (CR 22) is a Norwegian military exercise in which invites NATO allies and partner nations to participate. The most visible part of exercise CR 22 took place between 10 March and 10 April 2022.

In early January, Allied forces came to Norway to train on how to operate under harsh winter conditions. Cold Response concluded most of this allied training, but there were some allied training in Norway even after Cold Response. The NATO alliance is the backbone of Norway's defence. Should anyone attack the country, Norway will invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty and Norway's allies will assist militarily. A credible defence of Norway is based on Allied training and exercises in peacetime and Norway's ability to receive and host Allied support. "We depend on our allies' ability to master demanding Norwegian weather and winter conditions. To ensure this, our allies must train and exercise in Norway regularly" says the author of this article.

As of 4 March 2022, a total of 27 nations and some 30,000 soldiers had signed up for Cold Response. The 30,000

participants consisted of 14,000 land forces, 8,000 naval forces and 8,000 air forces and staff. About 220 aircraft and more than 50 vessels took part in the exercise.

In addition to military units from NATO, partner nations and the Norwegian Armed Forces, a number of Norwegian civilian agencies and organisations also took part.

## Media Flight

On 22 March 2022, a media flight took place in an Airbus A330 MRTT (registration T-058), flying from Cologne-Bonn airport (ICAO: EDDK) or the military name of this airbase: Flugplatz Wahn. The flight was organised by both the Multinational

Multirole Tanker Transport Unit (MMU) and NATO Allied Air Command. The air refuelling flight delivered fuel to aircraft flying in the Cold Response exercise in Norway. After take-off, the A330 MRTT flew some 2 hours to mid Norway where several aircraft were refuelled. Six Norwegian Air Force Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II fighters were refuelled with the tank boom. One Swedish Air Force Saab Gripen fighter, simulated the air refuelling with the hose and drogue system, as this aircraft type was not yet certified for refuelling. Some US Marines Boeing F/A-18s were mentioned as possible receivers, but these aircraft did not show up. After the refuelling, a 2 hour flight back took the A330 back to Cologne-Bonn airport.

