

# Cobra Warrior 23-1 at RAF Waddington and RAF Coningsby



## IAF participates for the first time

*Indian Air Force Mirage 2000 at RAF Waddington*

**C**obra Warrior (CW) is a Royal Air Force exercise that takes place twice a year. CW 23-1 took place from 6–24 March 2023. The exercise focussed on training international allies in developing operational tactics in the air. Contrary to other exercises the flying windows were limited to two or three days a week with only one mission flown on these days. Fighter aircraft were supported by refueling aircraft which included the Voyager KC.2/KC.3 assigned to 10 and 101 squadrons based at RAF Brize Norton. Other refueling aircraft were provided by the 351 ARS, 100 ARW based at RAF



Mildenhall. During the CW 23-1 missions, the fighter aircraft departed to the North Sea. Here several Air-to-Air refueling tracks were established. This included ARA8 from RAF Waddington located directly east off the coast of Lincolnshire. During the non-CW days the participating crews flew other missions which saw them using the low flying areas “Lake District” in Cumbria and “Mach Loop” in west-central Wales.

### First time participants

CW 23-1 saw three air forces participate for the first time. From Europe, the Finnish Air Force took part with their F/A-18C Hornets. Finland has been a long-time partner of NATO and joined the alliance