

More on Garuda VI



An illustrated account on ‘Exercise Garuda VI appeared in Vayu Issue IV/2019. This follow on article with equally superb images augments the record of that important exercise

The sixth edition of Exercise Garuda was held in July 2019 at Base Aérienne 118 Colonel Rozanoff, Mont-de-Marsan in southern France, with the objective of “improving the level of interoperability of French and Indian air

crew in air defence missions and ground attack”.

The scenarios had been jointly prepared by the two air forces, so as to bring the French and Indian crews “on the same page” to prepare for missions and operating

their respective aircraft in realistic complex tactical situations.

Garuda VI witnessed participation of a large mix of the French Air Force aircraft such as the Dassault Rafale, Alphajet, Mirage 2000 C/D, Boeing C-135F tanker, Boeing E-3F AWACS, Lockheed C130 Hercules and CASA-235 tactical transport aircraft. This French armada of aircraft was joined four Indian Air Force Sukhoi Su-30MKIs, one Ilyushin-II-78 and two Boeing C-17 heavy transport aircraft, the latter transporting personnel and supplies from India and then returned to home base.

The IAF Sukhoi Su-30MKIs were from No.24 Squadron ‘Hunting Hawks’, normally based at Air Force Station Bareilly, and the Il-78 tanker was from No.78 Squadron ‘Battle-Cry’ at AFS Agra. There were 110 IAF personnel involved, departing India on 26 June with intermediate stops at the UAE and Egypt; arriving in France on 28 June, with Base Commander Mont-de-Marsan Colonel Gaudillere formally receiving the Indian Air Force contingent on their arrival.



Dassault Rafale at Mont-de-Marsan (Alex van Noye)