



Exercises and visits

IAF and EAF joint participation

The Indian Air Force contingent deployed to Egypt successfully completed the Tactical Leadership Programme (TLP) at Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Weapon School in Egypt (Cairo West Airbase) from 23 June-23 July 2022.



IAF participated with three Su-30MKIs and two C-17s aircraft were used for induction of the contingent. IAF Su-30 MKI aircraft undertook a non-stop ferry of six hours from Jamnagar airbase (India) to Cairo overflying four countries enroute. "The IAF deeply appreciates the in-flight refuelling provided by UAE Air Force MRTT aircraft which assisted the IAF Su-30MKI formation to seamlessly undertake nearly 6 hours non-stop ferry while proceeding to Egypt for the Tactical Leadership Programme" stated the IAF.

During the first two weeks of the exercise, IAF aircraft participated in missions by day and night, involving air to ground and air to air combat scenarios and Combat Search And Rescue (CSAR) activity alongside Egyptian F-16, Rafale and Mig 29 aircraft. The unique programme saw the participants from both nations sharing their knowledge of operational tactics and best practices.

This programme, involving synergistic air operations, has illustrated a high degree of professional trust that has developed between the two Air Forces. The bond between the two Air Forces dates back to the 1960s when Gp Capt Kapil Bhargava, an IAF Test Pilot, test flew the Egyptian prototype of the Helwan HA-300 with Test Pilots from the EAF. This was followed by Indian Qualified Flying Instructors training young Egyptian pilots - a programme that continued into the 1980s.

