

Fighter fever



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ALL THE military talk at the Bahrain International Airshow, held over January 16 to 18, was of the volatile fighter market, especially since the UAE's decision not to order the Eurofighter Typhoon. Fast jets were the meat in the flying display with several types vying for interest in the Middle Eastern market, now one of the strongest.



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1: A Typhoon from the Royal Saudi Air Force's 10 Squadron attended alongside the two RAF machines. It departed the airshow in style on January 19. Dietmar Fenners

2: The Royal Bahrain Air Force's (Bahrain Amiri Air Force) fast jet force of Lockheed Martin F-16s and Northrop F-5s was represented by a mass flypast each day. Aidan Curley

3: Two RAF Typhoons provided the display aircraft for Flt Lt Jamie Norris, who made his last official demonstrations before handing over to the 2014 pilot, Flt Lt Noel Rees. Aidan Curley

4: Capt Masoud Al Falahj in the UAEAF&AD Dassault Mirage 2000-9EAD, repeating his display from Dubai. Aidan Curley

5: Among the US presence in the static park was Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornet 166793 'AC-101', the commander's aircraft of VFA-32 based with the USS Harry S Truman in the Persian Gulf. Aidan Curley

6: Squeezing vapour from the dry desert air, Capt Khalid Al Jabria pushes the UAEAF&AD F-16 to its limits during his display. Dietmar Fenners



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