



EUROPEAN AIR REFUELLING TRAINING



EART 2021



EART 2021 AT A GLANCE

The 7th European Air Refuelling Training - EART 2021 - is conducted from 15 to 29 October 2021. It is led by EATC and hosted by Spain at Lanzarote Air Base. The training is run in combination with the multinational fighter exercise "Ocean Sky" that operates from Gando Air Base in Gran Canaria (Spain).

France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the Multinational MRTT Unit* (MMU) participate in EART 2021 with tankers, crews and mentors. Australia, and the Movement Coordination Center Europe (MCCE) participate with mentors.

The exercise director is one of EATC's highly professional air-to-air refuelling (AAR) experts, Italian Air Force Colonel Salvatore Melillo.

EART 2021 focus is on similar and dissimilar "multi-tanker formation" and "tanker-to-tanker" rendezvous procedures. The 2021 edition also emphasizes on "threat reactions and retrograde" procedures.

**MMU: Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Norway.*

				
France	Germany	Italy	Spain	MMU
A330 MRTT	A400M	KC-767	A400M	A330 MRTT

EATC & AIR-TO-AIR REFUELLING

Today EATC commands a wide range of air-to-air refuelling assets covering the entire spectrum of AAR from helicopters to heavy receivers. With the introduction of the new generation tanker fleet, all EATC member nations either own national AAR capabilities or are multinational partners of AAR capabilities. EATC is the major force provider in Europe, with large operational options and reinforced operational effectiveness for EATC's member nations.

The future is not missing out on challenges: standardisation and consolidation of the processes for daily air-to-air refuelling missions, development of studies such as the "EATC trail handbook", integration of multinational units or fostering synergies within the AAR community.





WHAT IS EART?

In 2012, AAR was identified as a capability shortfall in Europe and a plan to further develop this capability was set up by the European Defence Agency (EDA). Lessons learnt from operations asked for more training dedicated to tanker crews. Thus EATC, supported by EDA, developed the European Air Refuelling Training (EART).

EART is the sole European training event for tanker aircraft organised yearly in conjunction with a large fighter exercise like the Dutch Frisian Flag or the Spanish Ocean Sky. It offers tanker air and ground crews the possibility to become familiar with scenarios they are not regularly exposed to and to maintain proficiency.

The event is also a unique opportunity for exchanging information and procedures and building interoperability within the European AAR community. EART is moreover used as a test-bed by EATC experts to develop, refine and validate common procedures and receive immediate feedback from all actors.

EART was initially designed for strategic tankers like the A310, A330 MRTT, KC767 or KDC10. Today we manage additional non-strategic tankers like the A400M or the KC130J, able to perform AAR missions in support of fixed or rotary wings. In order to also foster interoperability in this area, EATC just recently started to investigate new training opportunities.



EART is a unique opportunity to build interoperability within the AAR community. It is an embedded rendez-vous for EATC member nations and their partners.



THE EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND

EATC is a multinational command of seven nations and a centre of expertise for air mobility, including military air transport, air-to-air refuelling and aeromedical evacuation.



- 7 nations
200 experts
1 command
- worldwide missions
- 24/7/365 operations
- on average:
60 missions/day
- 15 bases
- 20 types
170+ aircraft

(*) on ad hoc basis

(**) Binational A400M unit

(***) Multinational A330 MRTT unit



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Aeródromo Militar de Lanzarote

Lanzarote Military Airfield has its own permanent Air Force troops as well as an air defence radar (the EVA 22, which covers the Eastern Canary Islands and the maritime area up to the Sahara).



It has no permanently based military planes, that are stationed in Gando Air Base (Gran Canaria).

OCEAN SKY 21

From 15 to 29 October 2021, Gando Air Base hosts the main Spanish "air to air" exercise, called Ocean Sky 21.



The aim of the exercise is to train and evaluate the counter air core air power role together with allied air forces, thus to increase the interoperability with partners.

This is the first time that Ocean Sky is organised in conjunction with EART.



Air Mobility
Together we go beyond