



Air Vice Marshal Alan Gillespie
CBE, Air Officer Commanding No. 2 Group,
Royal Air Force

Panel B4

**Multinational Air Power – how to increase
operational readiness to counter international
threats?**

Wednesday, 27th November 2019, 11:45 – 13:15 h

Air Vice Marshal Al Gillespie joined the Royal Air Force in 1988. He spent 10 years flying as a Navigator on the Tornado F3, supporting Operations in the Balkans and Iraq. He completed staff tours in the Defence Intelligence Staff and MOD Directorate of Strategic Plans as well as a tour as the Chief of Combat Operations in the USAF Central Command Combined Air Operations Centre (Qatar).

Gillespie took command of 23 Squadron (E-3D AWACS) in 2008 and, on promotion to group captain in 2009, deployed to Bastion Airfield to command 903 Expeditionary Air Wing. Shortly after he assumed command of RAF Waddington, the RAF's ISTAR hub; where he oversaw the introduction of UK-based remotely-piloted air operations.

On promotion to air commodore, he returned to Al Udeid, Qatar as the UK Air Component Commander and Air Officer Commanding 83 Expeditionary Air Group. In 2015, Gillespie became the Battlespace Management Force Commander and in 2017 was appointed as the Head of the Air Transformation Programme.

A recent graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, Air Vice Marshal Gillespie assumed command of Number 2 Group in October 2019.