

News from Saab 27 October 2025

Saab supports British Army's Falklands air defence exercise

BlueBear – a Saab company, played a crucial role in Ex KOP SHIELD, conducted by the British Army's 7 Air Defence Group in the Falklands. The exercise aimed to test the reaction and command-and-control of Ground Based Air Defence systems in a challenging operational environment.

Over two days and five sorties, drone operators from 7 Air Defence Group's Counter-Uncrewed Aerial System Training Team (7 AD Gp CTT) worked alongside the Resident Sky Sabre Battery. Together they used BlueBear's target system to act as a training threat for the British Forces South Atlantic Islands' Sky Sabre system. Sky Sabre includes Saab's Giraffe AMB radar and as part of the same exercise was training alongside the Royal Air Force's Typhoons stationed on the Falklands.

BlueBear supplied a target system and a dedicated support team to the exercise. With their expert guidance, the team enhanced the capabilities of the 7 AD Gp CTT's operators – successfully extending the range of the target system out over the South Atlantic, nearly doubling its usual operational range and covering over 500km during the trial.

Andy Fraser, Group Managing Director at Saab UK, said:

"Ex KOP SHIELD was a remarkable demonstration of the capabilities of BlueBear's target system and the expertise of our support team. Working alongside the British Army's 7th Air Defence Group, we were able to simulate real-world scenarios to provide accurate training. This exercise underscores our commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions that enhance the operational readiness of our customers."

FLt Dan Anderson, 7 AD Gp CTT, said:

"Ex KOP SHIELD showcased the capabilities of Sky Sabre, CTT and the professionalism of our personnel. We appreciate the support provided by Saab UK and the BlueBear target system, whose expertise helped us extend the distances against which we train and gain valuable insights into our systems' capabilities."

The exercise provided valuable assurance of training in operational environments, demonstrating the effectiveness of BlueBear's target system in various global settings; now proven across the Arctic, Europe, Middle East and the South Atlantic.

Saab UK Ltd, a legal entity of Saab AB, is a leading defence and security company. With around 600 employees and a presence in the UK for more than 30 years, Saab operates 8 major facilities across the country, including training and simulation in Wiltshire, Seaeye underwater robotics and sensor systems in Fareham, Public Safety Solutions in Hull, the Software Technology Centre in Farnborough, and its headquarters in London.

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The UK is a key country of operations for Saab. Over 60% of the Next-generation Light Anti-tank Weapon comes from UK supply chain and 35% of the Gripen fighter jet is sourced from UK companies, creating thousands of jobs.