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rafconingsby Group Captain Matt Peterson has handed over command of RAF Coningsby to Group Captain Billy Cooper.

Group Captain Cooper was brought up in Cornwall and joined the RAF in 1996. He completed flying training in 2000 with his first two tours on the Tornado F3 including operations over Iraq. In 2006, he was an inaugural member of 3 (Fighter) Squadron and was heavily involved in the start-up of Typhoon QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) operations. Subsequently, he was part of a team designing and instructing on the first Typhoon Qualified Weapons Instructor Course in 2009.

In 2012, Gp Capt Cooper found himself back at Coningsby, when he was posted again to 3 (Fighter) Squadron. He commanded the first Typhoon Baltic Air Policing deployment and subsequently became the Officer Commanding 1435 Flight in the Falkland Islands.

Gp Capt Cooper has also had command of 6 Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth and conducted operations over Iraq and Syria during this tenure.

In his spare time, he enjoys cycling, fishing, cricket, and long-range target rifle shooting as Chairman of the UK Armed Forces Shooting Committee.

"I want to thank Gp Capt Peterson for handing over the Station in such fantastic health and I wish him and his family all the best for the future as he leaves

