

## ADMINISTRATION POSTS FILLED BY SAUDIS AT BAE SYSTEMS

## SAUDI AIR FORCE TECHNICIANS TRAIN IN UK



Forty-eight technicians from the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) have traveled to the United Kingdom to embark on a two-year training programme designed to help them emerge as engineering specialists on Tornado aircraft.

The training, which began in early 2006, will include experience with Britain's Royal Air Force and with the industrial operation at BAE Systems plant in Warton, Lancashire.

Those successfully completing the programme and passing the final exams will return to Saudi Arabia with the RSAF's skill level five qualification, enabling them to start work on Tornado aircraft.

The technicians are all graduates of the Technical Studies Institute in Dhahran, the RSAF's primary training establishment for aircraft technicians set up in the 1970s. BAE Systems has assisted in the provision of training at the Institute for over two decades.

The young men specially selected to travel to the UK were picked through assessment conducted by the BAE Systems' manpower development joint venture, Saudi Development and Training. A reserve cadre was also picked to provide cover should any individual have to drop out in the early phase of the programme.

The training will give the technicians the chance to get to know different parts of Britain. They start off in the Southwest at Plymouth with Flagship Training, studying English-language, maths and science,

Twenty-six Saudi nationals have been appointed to administrative positions within BAE Systems in Saudi Arabia, filling posts previously occupied by expatriates, the company has reported. Each of the Saudis has either taken up his new position or is in the latter stages of training prior to taking up the new roles.

Since being recruited for the positions last year, the individuals have undergone training and familiarisation at the BAE Systems' joint venture Saudi Development and Training. This ensured that English language, computing skills and knowledge of BAE Systems' processes will enable the recruits to step into their new posts.

BAE Systems' head of HR, Abdulhadi Al Abdullah, welcomed new recruits to the company at Saudi Development and Training's offices. "Over half of our 4,600-strong workforce in the Kingdom is comprised by Saudi

nationals. Both in terms of growth in proportion and in overall numbers this is something to which we are committed.

"The range of development extends from aircraft technicians, in which we have 350 Saudis either qualified or in training, to other areas, such as administration. We expect this to gather momentum in years to come."

BAE Systems has been present in Saudi Arabia since 1973 and is one of the largest employers in the private sector. Internationally, the company is engaged in the development, delivery and support of advanced defence and aerospace systems in the air, on land, at sea and in space. The company is a pioneer in technology with a heritage stretching back hundreds of years. It is at the forefront of innovation, working to develop the next generation of intelligent defence systems.