

THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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No: 55 March-April 2018

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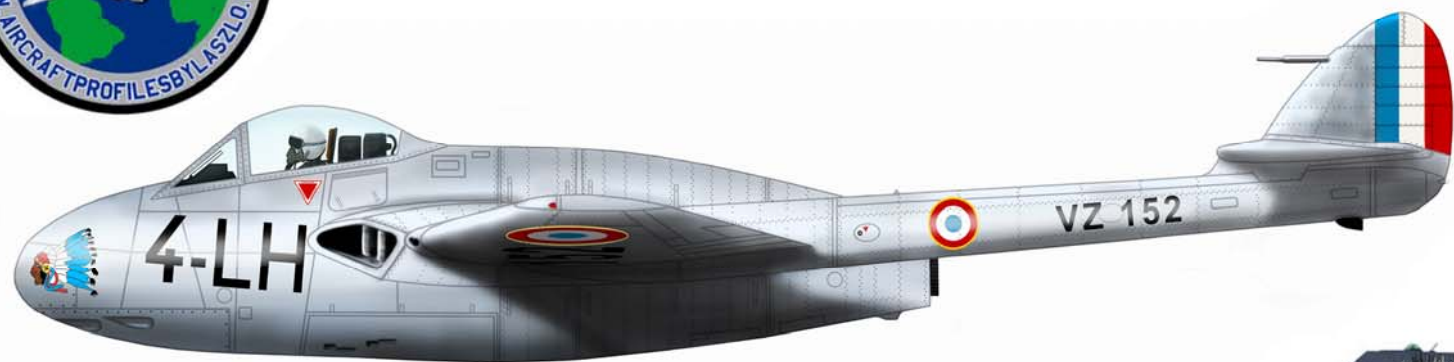


- ✈️ Aviation Nation, Nellis AFB Airshow, NV, USA
- ✈️ Collecting Squadron Patches
- ✈️ MiG 29 Fighters for Serbia
- ✈️ The BEST Air Show of 2017 Award goes to...
- ✈️ Heliport Davos Lago 2018
- ✈️ And so much more...





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THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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Cover: Mil Mi-24 Hind Gunship in Bulgarian ensignia at Aviation Nation by Geoffrey Arnwine
Index page: Tail fin of a F-15 at Nellis AFB, by Geoffrey Arnwine



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THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

by www.TheAviationMagazine.com

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THE AVIATION MAGAZINE is published six times a year, by a Team of Volunteers interested in aviation. We are devoted to cover a wide range of aviation events ranging from air shows, air base visits, military exercises, civilian spotting, pilot and veteran interviews all with exceptional photography. **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE** is a leader in the e-magazine format since 2009, bringing exclusive and fascinating reports to our global aviation enthusiasts digitally.

Please note: we do not accept any unsolicited articles or images for publication.

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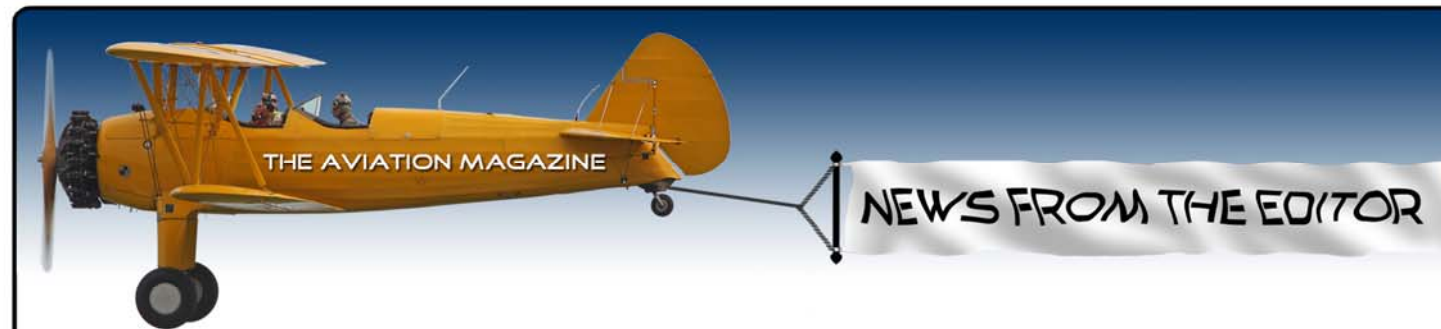
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Welcome to the 54th edition of **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE** which is also the first issue for 2018. "Time flies when you're having fun" so goes the saying and we are in our 9th year. Every new year brings changes and new challenges, and we are no different as we look forward to the new air show season.

However, in this issue we still concentrating bringing our readers from aviation events which happened in the 4th quarter of 2017. Once again we have a worldwide coverage that ranges from Canada to Israel, air shows, military exercises and other aviation events.

Our aviation profiles were moved to a new site, dedicated for aircraft profiles only, with expanded selection which is growing monthly. Now includes several NATO Tiger Meet aircraft from recent meetings. As well as several Canadian aircraft such as the CC-115 Buffalo. Buy the spectacular prints, all are reasonably priced, check them out <http://www.aircraftprofilesbylaszlo.com>

We are looking forward to 2018 with great anticipation for more coverage of aviation events. Stay tuned for our reports and join us by downloading **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE** the BEST and FREE e-based magazine since 2009, imitated by so many, but never surpassed.



Many who enjoy attending air shows, and aviation in general have a common hobby of collecting squadron and team patches (also known as badges or emblems). It is a very popular hobby, all one has to do is check on E-Bay and see vendors at air shows selling them. It is also a popular way for teams to raise some money for their social and public relations needs. For the enthusiasts it is a great way to support their favourite squadrons and teams and show others who they like.

The history of aviation badges go back to WWI, when many aviators who were considered to be "knights of the air" painted a symbol of their squadrons on the side of their aircraft to proudly show off to their identities to their enemies during dog fights. In many ways these symbols resembled heraldic emblems used in wars since men invented warfare, usually painted on their shields to show their colours or symbols to their foes. In a sense a tribe or group mentality reserved for those who belong to that selected group.



The American volunteers of the Lafayette Escadrille in France during WWI, had the now very famous Sioux chief emblem painted on their aircraft, here Robert Soubiran stands beside a Nieuport Type 17 fighter plane circa 1917. SDASM Archives

This tradition evolved over the years and shortly after or even during WWI these symbols were applied to their leather flight jackets and adopted to their uniforms in a form of embroidery over the years. As these symbols were limited to those who actually belong to these squadrons, wings, groups they became a sought after commodity by collectors and historians.



My own personal collection started with a US Air Force Heritage Flight patch given to me by the F-15 Strike Eagle Team, as a thanks for supplying a couple of images at one of the air shows. This patch was taken off from the uniform of the Executive Officer of the Team. Subsequently, I also received several more squadron patches representing the squadrons of whose aircraft they were flying during the demonstrations from the Team Pilot and WSO. Thus, my collection was commenced.

Over the years it grew to about 300 different ones, most as a thank you gift for my images and articles that were featured in this magazine from team members, or from private base visits and from friends who visited special events such as NATO Tiger Meet. The ones I cherish to most are displayed on a large corkboard, and many of the ones displayed on my HONOUR board were taken right off the uniforms of the pilots Wing and Base Commanders. My latest set came from 1 SQN Stingers of the Belgian Air Force won in a drawing competition for their F-16 AM in their 100th anniversary livery.

My collection includes patches from the following air forces: USAF, USN, RCAF, Armée de l'Air (French), Il-mavoimat (Finnish), Koninklijke Luchtmacht (Dutch), Luftwaffe (German), Magyar Légierő (Hungarian), Japanese Self Defence Forces, Armed Forces of Malta, Austrian, Brazilian, Turkish and even from the Royal Thai Air Force. With USAF being the largest and the Armée de l'Air closely behind when it comes to the numbers in the collection. Some of them are featured above and on the next pages.



From Major Dylan "HABU" Thorpe
Thorpe East Demo pilot



Another one from "HABU"



From Capt Joe "Rifle" Shetterly
A-10 West Demo pilot



From the uniform of the Commander
of 375th OG, Scott AFB



From the uniform of the pilot
Ohio ANG



From the uniform of Major "Tex"
Lesho, Davis-Monthan AFB



From the CP-140 pilots uniform



From the CF-18 Demo Team



From Major David "Booster"
Graham 2010 Viper West pilot



From the uniform of "Jonah" Team
Leader my visit at BA 125 France



Another one from "Jonah"



From my BA 118 visit, France



USN patch while at Malta Air Show



Armed Forces of Malta



From my air2air refuelling flight



From my BA 118 visit, France



From the uniform of LT Burani
USA Tour 2017



A gift from a friend who was at
the NATO Tiger Meet



Brazilian Demo Team from
Windsor Air Show



From the uniform of the Dyess AFB
Commander



B-1B bomber squadron Dyess
AFB visit



A gift from a friend who was at
The NATO Tiger Meet



A gift from a Finnair pilot friend



A gift from a friend



From the Royal Thai Air Force



From the Royal Thai Air Force



From a friend in Japan



From a friend in Japan



From my Air Base visit in Finland



From a friend in Malta



The next (6) patches are from Florennes AB Belgium, from 1st Squadron Stingers drawing competition of the F-16 Blackbird that I won



As noted above



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MiG 29 FIGHTERS FOR SERBIA

Article and photography by István Kelecsényi



During the 1999 war between Yugoslavia and the NATO coalition involved combat between the Yugoslav Air Force, which was the predecessor of today's Serbian Air Force, and the opposing air forces of NATO. United States Air Force F-15s and F-16s flying mainly from Italian air force bases attacked the defending Yugoslav fighters—usually MiG-29s, which were in bad shape, due to lack of spare parts and maintenance. A total of six Yugoslav MiG-29s were shot down in 1999, of which three were shot down by USAF F-15s, one by a USAF F-16, and one by a RNLAF F-16. One aircraft, according to a Serbian documentary, was hit by friendly fire from the ground. Another four were destroyed on the ground. During the course of the air war, Yugoslav anti-aircraft defences downed a USAF F-16C and an F-117 Nighthawk, the first stealth aircraft ever to be shot down in combat.

The NATO raids essentially decimated the Yugoslav Air Force, and after the war a few remaining fighter aircraft which were hidden during the war formed the backbone of the Serbian Air Force among them four MiG-29s, one MiG-29UB and three MiG-29B and a few ancient MiG-21BiSz but by 2017 only one remained operational.

In 2016, Prime Minister of Serbia Alesander Vucic, approached Vladimir Putin, as Russia is part Slav alliance, and Putin offered the Serbs a total of six used aircraft: one MiG-29A 9.12A and three MiG-29S single seat versions 9.13 and two MiG-29UB two-seater versions 9.51. Major repairs and upgrades are carried out by Serbian MOMA aircraft factory at Serbian expense. The Serbian Fulcrums to be repaired in 2018 will also be upgraded. Multi-variable combat aircraft have the same MiG-29SMT (9.17 version) capabilities, including the R-77 (NATO Code: AA-12 Adder), similar to the US AIM-120B/C BVR missile.

Additionally, Belarus offered and sold eight MiG-29 fighter jets, which will be upgraded at the Baranovicsi repair-maintenance factory to the MiG-29BM and UBM variants.

On October 3, 2017, an AN-124 landed at Batajnica Air Base carrying the first two MiG-29 and on October 20 at the Szloboda (Freedom) event, Prime Minister of Serbia and other state leaders and military attaches before Sergey Sojgu the Russian Defense Minister handed over the static aircraft. Russia also has donated 30 BRDM-2 self-propelled scout vehicles and 30 T-72 tanks. During the event only the BDRM-2 were on display



with some additional military hardware. During the hour-long event a battalion sized military performed to the spectators counter-terrorist activities in which various operations were carried out. The demonstration also include several aircraft such as the Mi-8, Mi-17 and Mi-171 Russian-made helicopters, six French Gazelle helicopters manufactured under a Serbian license under the name of GAMA. Five J-22 Orao subsonic ground-attack and reconnaissance aircraft (similar to the SEPECAT Jaguar in looks only) accompanied by three Super Galeb aircraft and six Lasta trainers.

To conclude the event the Russian Strizsi (Swifts) MiG-29 Aerobatic Team from Kubinka AB, performed for about 30 minutes.



- (3) Soko G-4 Super Galeb (Seagull), also referred to as N-62, is a Yugoslav designed single-engine, advanced jet trainer and light ground-attack aircraft, left top
- (5) Soko J-22 Orao (Eagle) is a Yugoslav twin-engined, subsonic ground-attack and reconnaissance aircraft. It was developed as a joint Yugoslav-Romanian project in the 1970s for the air forces of both nations. It was built by SOKO in Yugoslavia and by Avioane Craiova as the IAR-93 Vultur in Romania.
- J-22 Orao with a nice livery left bottom
- J-22 Orao parked on the tarmac, resembling the Sepecat Jaguar, right bottom.







NAS JACKSONVILLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE CILIBERTI



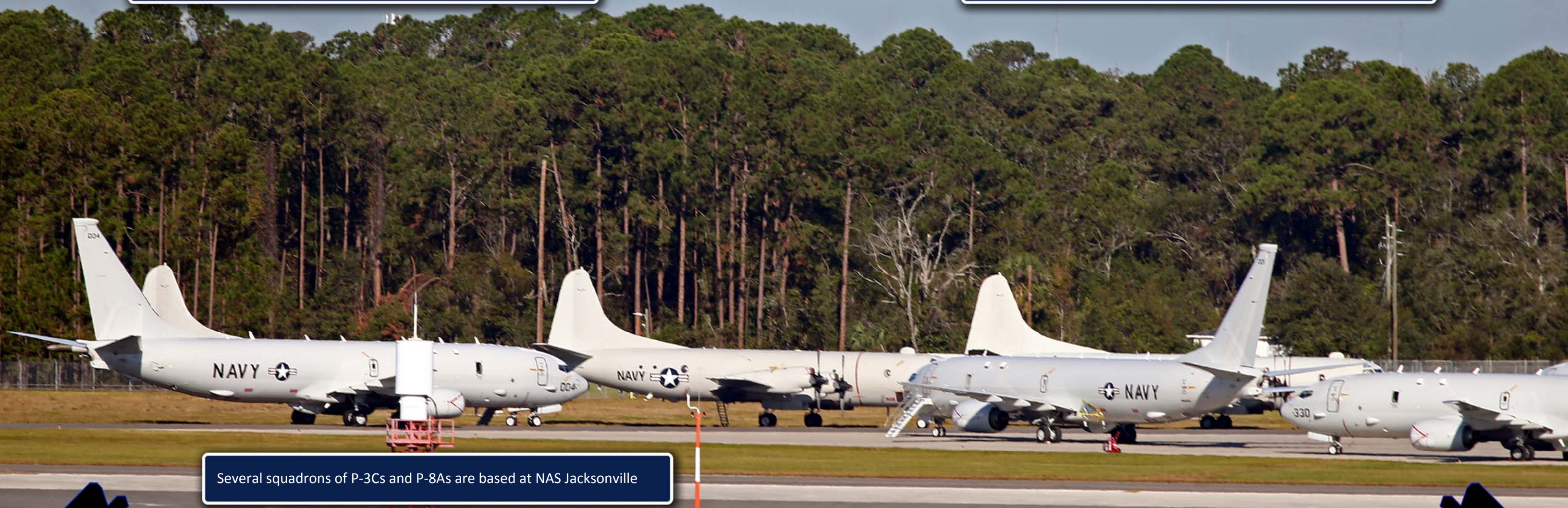
Submarine hunter/surveillance aircraft; the old P-3C Orion and the new P-8A Poseidon replacing it.



USAF F-35A above



USAF F-22 above



Several squadrons of P-3Cs and P-8As are based at NAS Jacksonville



P-51D Mustang , F-22 Raptor and the A-10 Warthog



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Expertly shot with high definition, ultra high definition and slow motion cameras, the official souvenir DVD/Blu-ray will be a superb way to re-live the action from The Royal International Air Tattoo 2017. All the very best of the flying display will be included in the 2 hour main feature, combined with pilot interviews and in-cockpit material for many of the displays. The standard edition also has a further 2 hours of special features including an extended look at the USAF 70th anniversary celebrations, arrivals, departures and in-cockpit features with running pilot commentary. This year we're especially excited to be featuring the USAF Thunderbirds in their only display in the UK in 2017.

A 2-disc Collector's Edition of this product is also being produced with an additional 2 hours of special features including extended in-cockpit action and full coverage of arrivals and departures.

Sold in support of the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust, the official Royal International Air Tattoo 2017 Official Souvenir DVD is priced £20 (Blu-ray, £25). The two-disc Collector's Edition DVD, featuring an additional two hours of special features including extended in-cockpit action, and full coverage of arrivals and departures, is priced £30 (Blu-ray, £35).

A must-buy for aviation fans of all ages, the official Air Tattoo 2017 official souvenir discs can be ordered from: <http://www.airtattoo.com/shop>



AVIATION NATION 2017

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEOFFREY ARNWINE

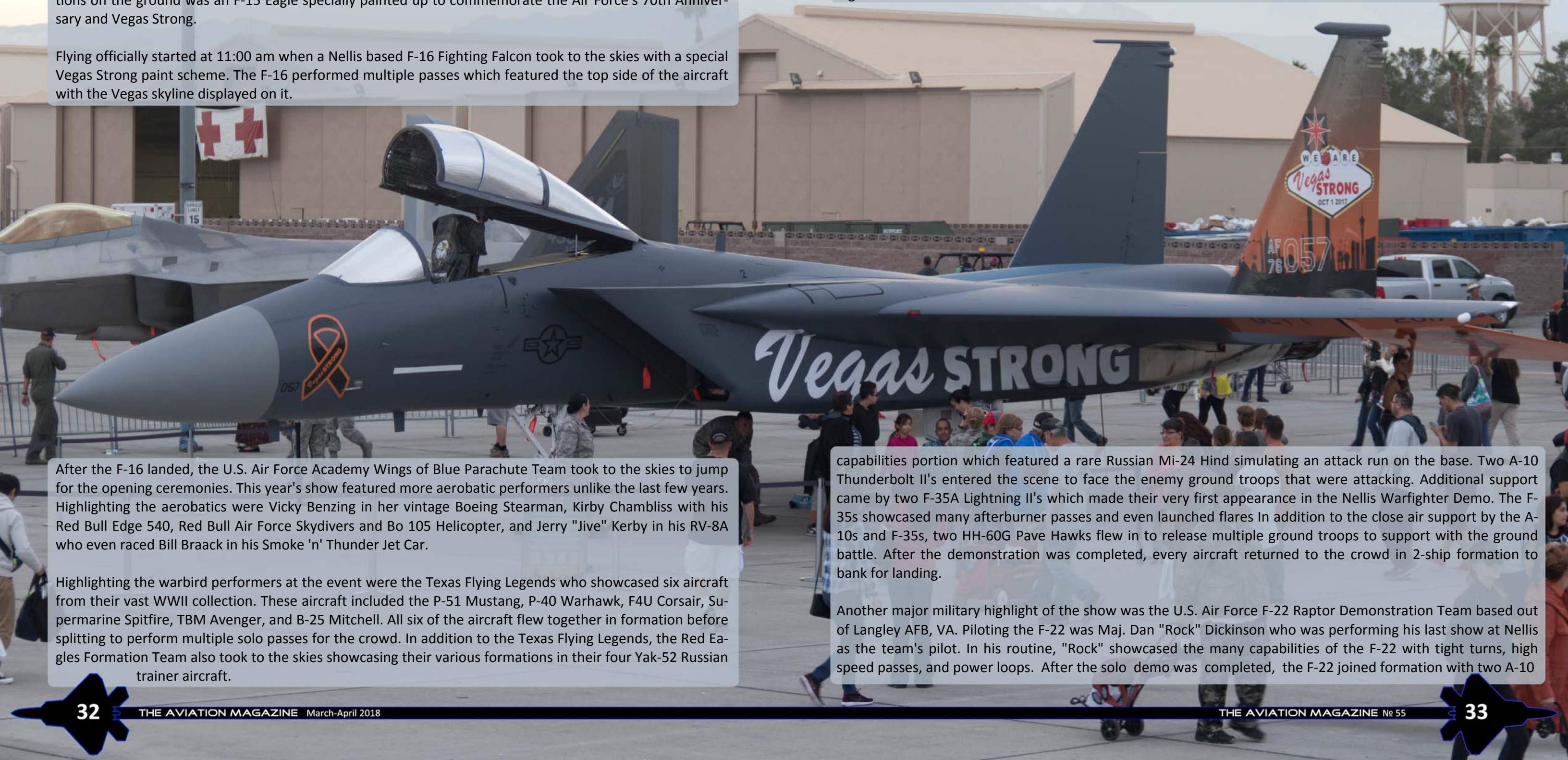
The 2017 Nellis Air Force Base Aviation Nation Air & Space Expo took place on November 11-12 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the United States Air Force. In addition to the special anniversary, Team Nellis also paid tribute to the people who were killed in the Las Vegas shooting on October 1st with the theme "Vegas Strong." Headlining the show was the hometown U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds along with the F-22 Raptor Demo Team, Nellis Warfighter Demo featuring many home based fighters including the new F-35, and much more!

Parking opened up at 8:00 am at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway and buses started transporting spectators to the base at 9:00 am when gates officially opened for the event. Prior to flying activities, people got to check out the many static display aircraft and tents that were available on base. One of the main attractions on the ground was an F-15 Eagle specially painted up to commemorate the Air Force's 70th Anniversary and Vegas Strong.

Flying officially started at 11:00 am when a Nellis based F-16 Fighting Falcon took to the skies with a special Vegas Strong paint scheme. The F-16 performed multiple passes which featured the top side of the aircraft with the Vegas skyline displayed on it.

In addition to WWII warbirds, there were a few classic jets showcased in the air. The T-33 Shooting Star known as "Ace Maker II" performed a solo flight demonstration. The main pilot Gregory "Wired" Colyer was unable to perform the demonstration due to an arm injury which led to Tim Tibo flying in his place. Former Thunderbirds Solo and current Patriots Jet Team pilot Paul "Sticky" Strickland also flew a solo flight in his Czech L-39 Albatross trainer jet. In his routine "Sticky" showcased multiple low passes in the L-39.

One of the biggest highlights of the flying activities was the U.S. Air Force Warfighter Demonstration which featured many home based Nellis aircraft. The first wave of the demonstration showcased Air-to-Air capabilities with two F-16 Fighting Falcon Aggressors who simulated an attack on the base. Two F-15C Eagles later took to the skies to demonstrate a dogfight against the F-16s. The simulated dogfights included many tight turns in addition to defence flares. The second wave of the demonstration was the Air-to-Ground



After the F-16 landed, the U.S. Air Force Academy Wings of Blue Parachute Team took to the skies to jump for the opening ceremonies. This year's show featured more aerobatic performers unlike the last few years. Highlighting the aerobatics were Vicky Benzing in her vintage Boeing Stearman, Kirby Chambliss with his Red Bull Edge 540, Red Bull Air Force Skydivers and Bo 105 Helicopter, and Jerry "Jive" Kerby in his RV-8A who even raced Bill Braack in his Smoke 'n' Thunder Jet Car.

Highlighting the warbird performers at the event were the Texas Flying Legends who showcased six aircraft from their vast WWII collection. These aircraft included the P-51 Mustang, P-40 Warhawk, F4U Corsair, Supermarine Spitfire, TBM Avenger, and B-25 Mitchell. All six of the aircraft flew together in formation before splitting to perform multiple solo passes for the crowd. In addition to the Texas Flying Legends, the Red Eagles Formation Team also took to the skies showcasing their various formations in their four Yak-52 Russian trainer aircraft.

capabilities portion which featured a rare Russian Mi-24 Hind simulating an attack run on the base. Two A-10 Thunderbolt II's entered the scene to face the enemy ground troops that were attacking. Additional support came by two F-35A Lightning II's which made their very first appearance in the Nellis Warfighter Demo. The F-35s showcased many afterburner passes and even launched flares. In addition to the close air support by the A-10s and F-35s, two HH-60G Pave Hawks flew in to release multiple ground troops to support with the ground battle. After the demonstration was completed, every aircraft returned to the crowd in 2-ship formation to bank for landing.

Another major military highlight of the show was the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team based out of Langley AFB, VA. Piloting the F-22 was Maj. Dan "Rock" Dickinson who was performing his last show at Nellis as the team's pilot. In his routine, "Rock" showcased the many capabilities of the F-22 with tight turns, high speed passes, and power loops. After the solo demo was completed, the F-22 joined formation with two A-10

The Heritage Flight is a rare opportunity for the public to witness Air Force fighters of the past and present in formation together. Piloting the A-10's were Maj. Dan Levy and Capt. Chad Rudolph, both of the A-10 West Heritage Flight Team. This marked the team's final air show performance before the team becomes the A-10 Demo Flight Team in 2018. After the Heritage Flight, "Rock" landed the F-22 one last time as the team's demonstration pilot before handing duties over to Maj. Paul "Loco" Lopez.

Headlining the air show was the United States Air Force Flight Demonstration Squadron the Thunderbirds who performed their last show of the year at their home base in Nellis. The Thunderbirds, lead by Lt. Col. Jason Heard, showcased many maneuvers including formation flights, solo passes, and formation breaks. To pay tribute to the people affected by the Las Vegas shooting, the team painted "Las Vegas Strong" on the lower left fins of their aircraft.

This show marked the final performances by Left Wingman Maj. Ryan Bodenheimer, Slot Pilot Maj. Nick Krajicek, and Lead Solo Maj. Alex Turner before giving their duties to new pilots in 2018.

After the Thunderbirds aerial performance was complete, the team walked over to the crowd line to meet fans and sign autographs. In addition, the pilots were also greeted by their family and loved ones after a long 2017 air show season officially came to an end.

After flying activities were completed, the crowd was able to continue visiting the various static displays and tents that were offered before departing the base on bus back to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Special thanks to the Nellis airmen, performers, volunteers, spectators, and sponsors for making Aviation Nation 2017 a success!





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*I am an American Airman.
I am a warrior.
I have answered my nation's call.*

*I am an American Airman.
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.
I am faithful to a proud heritage;
a tradition of honor,
and a legacy of valor.*

*I am an American Airman,
guardian of freedom and justice,
my nation's sword and shield,
its sentry and avenger.*

*I defend my country with my life.
I am an American Airman.
wingman, leader, warrior.
I will never leave an Airman behind,
I will never falter,
and I will not fail.*



Special 70th USAF Anniversary paint on this F-15C



HH-60G Pave Hawks during a troop demo



Russian made but with Bulgarian markings Mi-24 Hind



- The iconic F4U Corsair left top
- A pristine TBM Avenger right bottom



WWI Warbirds in a nice formation flight:

- P-51D by itself left top inset
- P-40 Warhawk, last on left
- F4U Corsair, top
- TBM Avenger
- B-25 Mitchell, in front
- P-51D Mustang
- Supermarine Spitfire, on the bottom



- P-40 Warhawk top inset
- B-25 Mitchell main image, with a great looking vampire nose art and the Indian chief on the tail
- Supermarine Spitfire bottom inset





(2) F-16s from the Aggressor's Squadron, top

(2) F-35As , bottom





F-16 from Nellis AFB 64th Aggressors Squadron



A-10 from Davis-Monthan 357th Fighter Squadron





P-51D Mustang (2) A-10 Warthogs and the F-22 Raptor a rare formation of 4 aircraft made a beautiful sight!







The BEST of 2017



When it comes to the Best of the best, the Royal International Air Tattoo aka RIAT at Fairford , UK, is hard to beat in the variety and non-stop flying when it comes to military aircraft! It is one of the top premier air shows that many enthusiasts from world wide attend. While it is an expensive air show, every air show enthusiast should attend at least once in their life time!

What is even more pleasant at RIAT is that the staff of the show are friendly and helpful and when it comes to media Richard Arquati BD PGCE MCIPR Head of Press and PR, and his staff are the best.

Best air show for 2017 world wide was RIAT 2017! Congratulation!

The best American air show was Aviation Nation Nellis AFB 2017.

This one in many ways is similar to RIAT held at a military air base but it is a FREE event!

The best Canadian air show for 2017 was the London International Air Show.

It was the largest military themed air show in Canada,

Congratulation to all the winners!

Air-to-ground image courtesy of RIAT Press Office.



Heliport Davos 2018

Report and photography by Ralf Peter Walter



The 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, January 23rd to the 26th, aimed to rededicate leaders from all walks of life to develop a shared narrative to improve the state of the world. The program, initiatives and projects of the meeting focus on Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World, theme of the WEF 2018 in Davos, Switzerland.

More than 3,000 participants from over 110 countries visited Davos to attend the WEF. Among these were over 70 heads of state and government and over 1,900 business leaders from all industries. Some of them traveled to Davos by helicopter. For high-ranking officials, the Swiss Air Force provided transportation by its Cougar helicopters from Zurich International Airport to the "Davos Lago" heliport, temporarily established for the WEF.

However, German Chancellor Angela Merkel flew in with an AS.332 L1 Super Puma of the German Federal Police and US President Donald Trump flew to Davos with two VH-70N White Hawks and two UH-60A+ Black Hawks, escorted by three Swiss Air Force AS.532UL Cougars.

During the WEF, the air space over Davos was closed to all traffic except Swiss military aircraft and those civil helicopters that transported WEF participants to and from Davos. Swiss Air Force EC 635P2+ took over police tasks and was permanently patrolling the surroundings of Davos. Another EC635P2+ was configured as SAR helicopter, taking over MEDEVAC duties for the Davos skiing region from the civil operated REGA (Emergency medical assistance by air).



US President Donald Trump leaving Davos and one of his escort UH-60A+ Black Hawks



German Chancellor Angela Merkel aboard of this AS.332 L1 Super Puma of the German Federal Police.



- Swiss AS332M-1 Super Puma above
- AS350B3 Ecureuil - Swiss - civilian below



- AW139 - Swiss - civil above
- Bell 407 - Swiss - civilian below



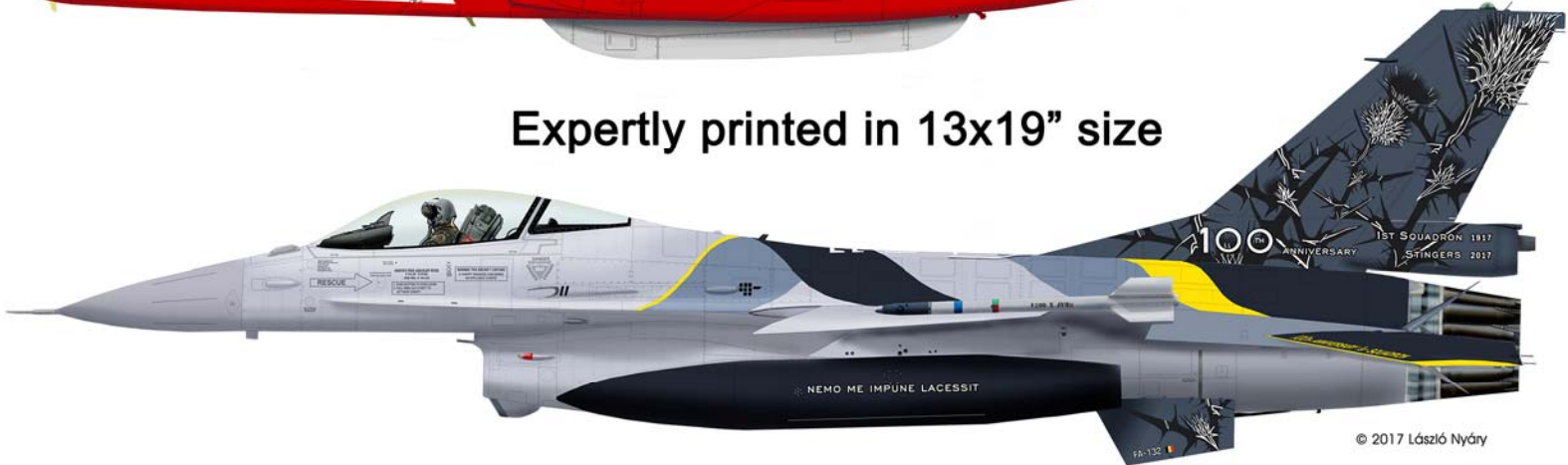


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Winner of contest and chosen by Stingers 1st Sqn of the Belgian Air Force for their F-16 MLU "Blackbird" Commemorative print!



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