

THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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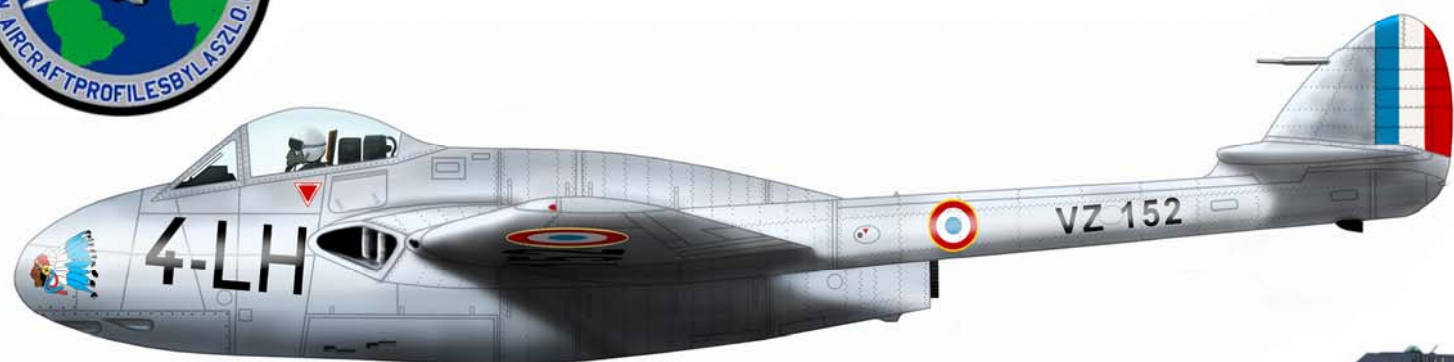


- ✈ Rainbow Canyon, CA, USA
- ✈ Red Flag 18-1, NV, USA
- ✈ Readiness exercise at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany
- ✈ Luke Days 2018, AZ, USA
- ✈ And so much more...





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Cover: Morane Saulnier MS.30.E1 profile by Laszlo Nyary

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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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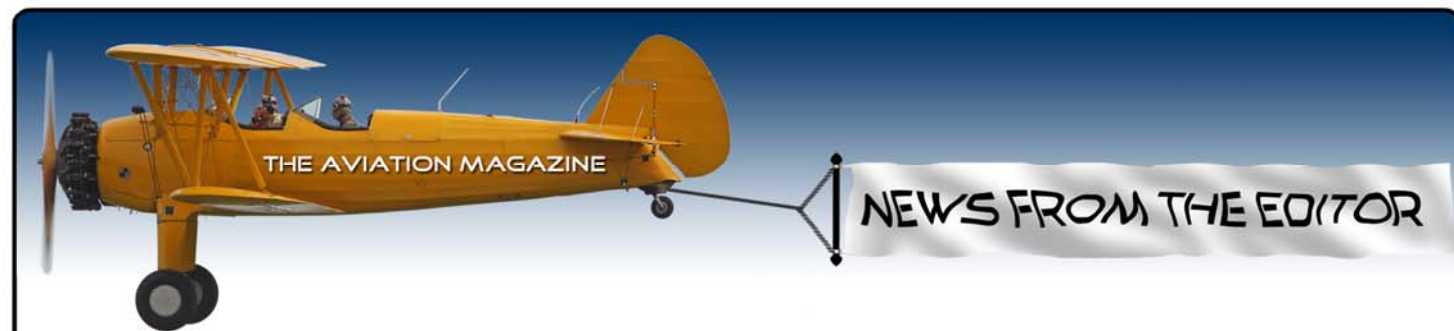
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Welcome to the 56th edition of **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE** in which we features our first 2018 air show review! As the air show season is unfolding here in North America and in Europe too, we will be bringing you, our enthusiast readers, more reviews in our upcoming issues.

We are also changing, we will be having a new Editor, Ralf Peter Walter, one of our current contributing members, who will be in charge of issues starting in September, 2018. In addition, we will be changing our magazine reader platform at the same time from Joomag to Issuu, to keep the ever increasing cost manageable and to continue with our slogan **"The BEST and FREE e-based magazine since 2009"**. Our new Editor can be contacted editor@theaviationmagazine.com

In this issue we cover events in the USA, Germany and Greece and I am looking forward to an upcoming Air Base visit in Belgium with the famous "Thistle Squadron", one of the oldest continuously operating squadrons in the world. Hopefully, there will be enough material from this base visit for a special issue.

As the 2018 air show season progresses we will have more coverage and stay tuned for our reports and any additional changes. Join us by downloading **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE** the BEST and FREE e-based magazine since 2009, imitated by so many, but never surpassed.



RAINBOW CANYON

Photo-report by Geoffery Arnwine



Rainbow Canyon, located in Panamint Springs, California, has been a popular aircraft spotting location for many years. Since the 1940s, Rainbow Canyon has been used by the military for training flights and exercises where aircraft fly low into the canyon from either entry side. Photographers have also given it nicknames such as “Star Wars Canyon” and “The Jedi Transition.” The images showcased were taken on February 14, 2018.

Activity:

- F-16D Fighting Falcon - Edwards AFB, CA
- AV-8B Harrier II (2 Passes) - VX-31 “Dust Devils,” NAWC China Lake, CA
- F/A-18D Hornet - VX-9 “Vampires,” NAWC China Lake, CA
- 2x EA-18G Growlers - VX-9 “Vampires,” NAWC China Lake, CA



EA-18G Growlers - VX-9 “Vampires”, NAWC China Lake, CA



F-16D Fighting Falcon - Edwards AFB, CA



F/A-18D Hornet - VX-9 "Vampires", NAWC China Lake, CA



AV-8B Harrier II - VX-31 "Dust Devils", NAWC China Lake, CA



18-1

Photo-report by Geoffery Arnwine

On January 26 to February 16, 2018, Red Flag 18-1 took place at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Red Flag is the largest aerial military exercise in North America and consists of many aircraft units from around the world who train in air-to-air activities to increase the proficiency of combat pilots. This year's participants included multiple squadrons from the United States Air Force along with foreigners including the United Kingdom and Australia. While not open to the public, many photographers enjoy spotting outside of Nellis during Red Flag with the Las Vegas Motor Speedway and Cheyenne Ave as the most popular locations.

Participants:

64th Aggressor Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV - F-16C Fighting Falcon
 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, VA - F-22A Raptor
 123d Fighter Squadron, Portland ANGB, OR - F-15C Eagle
 335th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC - F-15E Strike Eagle
 55th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC - F-16CM Fighting Falcon
 134th Fighter Squadron, Vermont ANG, VT - F-16C Fighting Falcon
 510th Fighter Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy - F-16CG Fighting Falcon
 422nd Test Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV - A-10C Thunderbolt II
 No. 11 Squadron, RAF Coningsby, UK - FGR4 Typhoon
 VAQ-135 "Black Ravens," NAS Whidbey Island, WA - EA-18G Growler
 No. 6 Squadron, RAAF Base Amberley, Australia - EA-18G Growler
 560th Flying Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, TX - T-38C Talon
 Draken International - A-4G Skyhawk & L-159 Alca
 9th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, TX - B-1B Lancer
 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron - E-3G Sentry
 No. 2 Squadron, RAAF Williamtown, Australia - E-7A Wedgetail
 92nd Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild AFB, WA - KC-135 Stratotanker
 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall, UK - KC-135 Stratotanker
 RAF Brize Norton, UK - A330 Voyager
 No. 5 Squadron, RAF Waddington, UK - Sentinel R1
 No. 11 Squadron, RAAF Edinburgh, Australia - AP-3C Orion
 55th Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, GA - HC-130J Hercules
 55th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ - HH-60G Pave Hawk



F-35 above and the A-4G Skyhawk (ex-New Zealand AF) of Draken International





B-1B Lancer above and below on the left side and F-16C Fighting Falcon right top and the T-38C Talon, right below.





- RA330 Voyager, AF Brize Norton, UK, above
- EA-18G Growler, No. 6 Squadron, RAAF Base Amberley, Australia, below





- E-3G Sentry, 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron , above
- KC-135 Stratotanker, 100th Air Refuelling Wing, USAFE, RAF Mildenhall, UK , below





- Two F-22 Raptors and F-15C , above
- No. 11 Squadron, RAF Coningsby, UK - FGR4 Typhoon, below



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BASE-WIDE READINESS EXERCISE AT SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, GERMANY

Report and images by Mathias Leischner and Ralf Peter Walter



The Aviation Magazine was invited to the media day on March 13, 2018 at Spangdahlem air base to cover the flying operations that are part of a two-week base-wide readiness exercise.

MSgt Currier, public affairs 52nd Fighter Wing, explained: "The readiness exercise is designed to test the ability to respond quickly to any threat or emergency, to receive additional forces and to rapidly generate aircraft to respond to any regional adversary aggression. The training is also geared to test the airbase's overall readiness. It tests our ability to respond to attacks, and it approves our general knowledge of self-aid medicare, which is a raw medical training that we get to help ourselves and to help our partners if they get injured during an attack. Readiness has always been a priority for us but exercises like this would help us to maintain our combat readiness."

In order to cover the flying operations we had the opportunity to view pre-flight operations, take-offs and landings along with interviews of pilots from the 480th Fighter Squadron, the 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (EFS) and aircraft maintainers from the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The 112 EFS deployed to Europe as part of the Theater Security Package (TSP) and are conducting exercise related flying operations together with the Spangdahlem based 480th FS and 726th Air Mobility Squadron. MSgt Currier: "The 112th EFS are here to participate in our exercise. Their participation showcases how an active duty unit and an Air National Guard unit can come together to accomplish a unified mission. We call this our total force capability where we have active duty and Guard staff work together".

Lt. Col. Barasch, 112th EFS-commander, who is one of only four fulltime pilots in the 580th FW/112th FS and has flown some 2.800 hours on the F-16, explained: "We got here on March 6th and we immediately started flying the next day integrated in this exercise. Basically, to work the interoperability and increase our readiness working alongside the ones who are here [...]. In this particular exercise we integrate in both the air-to-air and air-to-ground role. Capt. Watts, Executive Officer of the 480th FS, adds: "It's impressive to see how easily transferable it is in between unit to unit based on the mission sets we do. [...] Our primary mission when these pilots come out and fly with us is SEAD. We work them into or they work us into their mission sets. That's how we get that kind of interoperabilities." The 480th FS is flying the F-16 block 50 and is the only Wild Weasel unit of the U.S. Air Force in Europe.

The readiness exercise also validates the interoperability on the aircraft maintenance side. Capt. Watts, aircraft maintenance squadron officer in charge, states: "The Ohio ANG brought their own set of maintainers. They have integrated with us. Their maintainers are primarily touching their aircraft but they are working in our buildings. They are leaning on us for parts and equipment support if they need it. Their leadership and our leadership have meetings every day and talk about the status of aircraft. [...] If they were short on people we would help them out with maintainers." Exercises like these help to review processes and find better and quicker ways to get the maintenance jobs done.

Theater Security Package

The term Theater Security Package refers to the routine deployment of U.S. fighter squadrons, support personnel and equipment to bolster allied forces in Europe on a rotating basis. These TSP units participate in flying training with joined and allied forces to enhance NATO's interoperability. Mid of January, twelve F-16 block 42 from the Ohio Air National Guard deployed as part of the TSP in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve to Estonia. The jets from the 180th FW/112th FS with just over 300 people and about 50 people from 52nd FW formed the 112th EFS. Thanks to a strong jet stream, it took the F-16s eight hours non-stop from their home base in Toledo, Ohio to Estonia. Each jet was air refueling about ten times.

Lt. Col. Barasch, noted: "We don't let the tanks run down. We keep topping them off because over the North Atlantic, there is not a lot of options and you always got to plan for the tanker breaking and/or your jet breaking in or can't get gas so you top it off. If you can't get gas then you have a place you can divert to." Back home in Ohio, the 112th FS does the airspace control alert mission and has jets on 24x7 alert. However, the 112th did not do any air policing missions in Estonia. They were "basically there to show the commitment [of the US] to NATO and to enhance the security of the region.[...] Getting away from the home unit and going to a different place and fly with different countries and different squadrons helps to work that interoperability with other units, train alongside and increase our readiness. That's really the point why we do this. Get out of our comfort zone and go places where we don't normally go and immediately execute the mission that we are trained to do and do that alongside with our own country and with our regional partners and allies".

TSP is between three and six months. For ANG units that do alert missions back home it's usually about three months.

The Aviation Magazine thanks Ms Reiff, MSgt Currier and Lt Rodriguez from 52nd FW public affairs, Capt. Watts from the 480th FS, Lt. Col. Barasch from the 112th FS/112th EFS and Capt. Watts from the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for making this report possible.



Meeting before the exercise above and pilots ready to go, below



The 480th FS is flying the F-16 block 50 and is the only Wild Weasel unit of the U.S. Air Force in Europe, above and the F-16 block 42 of the 112th FS/112th EFS below.





© Ralf Peter Walter



© Mathias Leischner

F-16 block 50, above and the C-17 Globemaster III below.



© Ralf Peter Walter



The 2018 Luke Air Force Base Open House “The Future of Airpower” officially kicked off on March 17-18 featuring the United States Navy Blue Angels for the first time since 1992. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds were originally supposed to be the headliner but couldn’t make it due to certification flights. Along with the Blue Angels, the show featured a wide variety of performers including the A-10C Thunderbolt II Demo Team, Luke based F-35 Heritage Flight Team, and much more.

Gates opened at 9:00 am and spectators were able to visit the many static displays and exhibits the show offered. Many of the statics consisted of F-16s and F-35s that were based out of Luke and other U.S. Air Force aircraft.

The show officially started at 11:30 am with the singing of the national anthem. Earlier performers mainly included aerobatic performers such as Bill Stein in his Edge 540, Gary Rowen in his Boeing Stearman, Brad Wursten in his MXS, Bill Roetman in his Pitts biplane, and the Desert Rats Nanchang CJ-6 4-ship formation team.

There were a lot of great warbird performances including Tora Tora Tora which is a reenactment of the events of Pearl Harbor where many Japanese fighters and dive bombers simulate attack runs on the ground as if they were attacking enemy ships in the sea. The demonstration featured a lot of pyro and even included the B-17 Flying Fortress known as “Sentimental Journey.” Along with Tora Tora Tora was the specially painted P-51C Mustang from the Commemorate Air Force in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen. The P-51C performed multiple passes towards the crowd in dedication to the Tuskegee Institute. Gregory “Wired” Colyer also performed in his Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star jet trainer known as “Ace Maker II.” During his flight, Colyer showcased many maneuvers by the Korean War aircraft.



One of the major highlights from the show was the Joint Field Assault Demo which featured 2 F-16 Fighting Falcons and 2 F-35 Lightning II's all stationed out of Luke. The fighters conducted many high speed passes and simulated ground attack runs in a demonstration that featured many flares. Along with the Luke jets included an HC-130 Hercules and HH-60 Pave Hawk whose roles were to support their ground forces from enemy attack and deploy additional troops and support equipment to the surface.

Making it's official air show debut at Luke AFB was the A-10C Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team. Piloted by Capt. Cody "SHiV" Wilton, the A-10 performed many combat maneuvers including tight turns and simulated close air support attacks with pyro. This was the first full public A-10 demonstration since 2011. After the solo demo routine, Capt. Wilton joined with an F-35 Lightning II piloted by Capt. Andrew "Dojo" Olson and a P-51 Mustang for the U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight. This show was also the first show of the year for the F-35 Heritage Flight Team. The Heritage Flight is a rare formation of Air Force fighters of past and present who commemorate those who fought in wars over the years. On Sunday, the crowd was pleased by a special appearance of the F-22 Raptor in the formation flown by Demo Team pilot Maj Paul "Loco" Lopez. The F-22 Demo Team joined for a 4-ship flight after their performance from MCAS Yuma, Arizona during the same weekend.

Towards the end of the show more aerobatics were featured. Those performers included the Red Bull Air Force featuring Kirby Chambliss piloting his Edge 540, Aaron Fitzgerald in the BO-105 Helicopter, and the Red Bull skydivers. Along with the Red Bull Air Force was John Klatt in the Jack Link's Screamin' Sasquatch Jet Waco. The Screamin' Sasquatch is a heavily modified Waco biplane with a jet engine.

Concluding the show was the United States Navy Blue Angels for only their second show of the 2018 air show season. The team, lead by their new leader Cdr. Eric Doyle, rocked the skies of Luke for the first time in over 25 years with incredible maneuvers including multiple formation flights, formation breaks, and many astounding solo routines. After their aerial demonstration, the Blue Angels walked over to the crowd line to meet fans and sign autographs.

After flying activities concluded, spectators were able to continue viewing the static displays and vendors at the show before the gates closed at 5:00 pm. Special thanks to the airmen of Luke, volunteers, performers, sponsors, and spectators for making Luke Days 2018 a success!

Static Displays included:

(3) F-35A Lightning II - 56th Fighter Wing AETC, Luke AFB, AZ

F-35A Lightning II Japan Air Self Defense Force

F-35A Lightning II - Royal Norwegian Air Force

F-35A Lightning II - Italian Air Force

F-22A Raptor - 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, VA

(2) F-16C Fighting Falcon - 56th Fighter Wing AETC, Luke AFB, AZ

F-16C Fighting Falcon - 162d Fighter Wing, Tucson ANGB, AZ

F-16A Fighting Falcon - 21st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ

F-16D Fighting Falcon - 425th Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ

(2) F-15E Strike Eagle - 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain-Home AFB, ID

A-10C Thunderbolt II - AFRC, Davis-Monthan AFB, CA

C-5M Super Galaxy - 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, CA

C-17A Globemaster III - 452d Air Mobility Wing, March ARB, CA

KC-135 Stratotanker - 161st Air Refueling Wing, Phoenix ANGB, AZ

P-8 Poseidon and a T-50A Golden Eagle



A-10C Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team. Piloted by Capt. Cody "SHiV" Wilton, above. And one of f-16 on static display, below.





F-16 Fighting Falcon, from Luke AFB.



F-35A Lightning II - Royal Norwegian Air Force on static display, above.



HC-130 Hercules above and HH-60 Pave Hawk below from, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.



B-17G from Arizona, above and Tora Tora Tora, Kate torpedo bomber, below.





USAF Heritage Flight from Saturday, above
and of course the USN Blue Angels below and on right.



RAINBOW CANYON PART 2

Photo-report by
Wolfgang Jarisch and Peter Thivessen
Images taken on March 13th and 14th, 2018



F/A-18E, USN, above.



Typhoon FGR4, from 41 Sqn Coningsby, UK, above
T-38A from AFB Edwards, CA, below



All images on this page © Wolfgang Jarisch



F-35A from Nellis AFB above and right, F-35A from the RNLAf right top.

All images on this page © Peter Thivessen



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F/A-18F from VFA 154 Black Knights, NAS Lemoore, CA.

© Peter Thivessen



F-35A RNLAf left top and right bottom and a F-16C.





18-2

Photo-report by Peter Thivessen and
Wolfgang Jarisch

Red Flag 18-2 was a disappointment for many enthusiasts as the Columbian AF's KFirs and the UAE Mirage 2000-9's cancelled, therefore, it was an all American exercise. There was no Media Day nor a proper participant list made available or published. The list shown here is far from accurate, and it looks like many units that participated in 18-1 also did in 18-2!

Role	Aircraft	Home Base
Red Team Air	F-15C F-16C	64 Aggressor Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV
Escort	F-15C F-16C/D F-16C F-16C F-16C/D	144th FW, California ANG, Fresno, CA 169th FW, McEntire Joint NGB, SC 482nd FW, 93rd FS, Homestead ARB, FL 176th FS, Wisconsin ANG, Madison, WI 175th FS, South Dakota ANG, Sioux Falls, SD
Interdiction	F-35A B-1B F-15E F/A-18D A-10C	56th OG, Luke AFB, AZ 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, TX 366th OG, 391st FS, Mountain Home AFB, UT VFMA (AW)-225, MCAS Miramar, CA 355th AW, 354th FS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
SEAD	F-16CM EA-18G	20th FW, 79th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC VAQ-138, NAS Whidbey Island, WA
Command & Control	E-3 C/G E-8C JStars U-28A	960 AACS, Tinker AFB, OK 461st Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, GA 319th Special Operations Sq, Hurlburt Field, FL
Refueling	KC-135 KC-135	92nd ARW, RFTTF, Fairchild AFB, WA RFTTF, MacDill AFB, FL
Search & Rescue	HC-130J	79th RQS, Davis Monthan AFB, AZ

Red Flag 18-3 is scheduled for July 13 to Aug. 3, 2018.



F-16C of the 64 Aggressor Squadron above and the HC-130J 79th RQS from D-M AFB, below.





HH-60G Pave Hawk, main image and (2) Draken International L-159 Alca with different camo below.

All images on these pages © Wolfgang Jorisch





KC-135R, from 927 ARW
main image and (2) F-16s
(1) from South Dakota ANG and
(1) from South Carolina ANG below.

© Wolfgang Jarsch





Israeli Air Force F-16C Block 30CF Barak

Iniochos 2018, Andravida Air Force Base - Greece

More than 70 aircraft, 1000 participants and 7 Nations participated in the exercise INIOCHOS 2018. The exercise took place from March 12-23, 2018 at Andravida Air Force Base, located in the northwest Peloponnese, Greece. The air base is home to the 117 Combat Wing and Air Tactics Center (ATC).

The exercise INIOCHOS was first held in the late 80's as a small tactical level exercise. Initially, the exercise was to train planning and conducting Combined Air Operations (COMAO) in accordance with Hellenic Air Force Doctrines and Plans. Over the years, the focus of the exercise changed. With today's political and security situation, the HAF has to integrate into multinational air operations more than ever. This requires rapid and precise responses to complex and sensitive scenarios. The objective of INIOCHOS is to maximize the operational readiness of the Hellenic Air Force by providing realistic operational training in conditions that resemble a complex multi-threat combat environment.

Col Antonios Panidis, Commander of the Hellenic Air Tactics Center, explained: "In 2014 a new concept was implemented with a medium scale INVITEX type single base concept exercise. The single base concept brings together hundreds of participants in face to face planning, briefing and debriefing thus maximizing training benefits and promoting cooperation and exchange of ideas on tactics between participants with different experience. The exercise is characterized by an intense battle rhythm that is designed to test all aspects of operational capability of supporting a high tempo of operations and maximizing the operational use of limited air assets. Participants are exposed to multiple threat environments such as anti-access area denial where long range surface based air defense systems, 3rd generation Red aircraft and TBM form a multi-layer challenge for Allied forces. INIOCHOS also leverages the exceptional flying environment of Greece, which displays a large volume of airspace and a variety of terrain to present four distinct theaters of operations. [...] The exercise scenario begins with a crisis situation that escalates to a full war giving the opportunity to the participants to be trained in full scale day and night operations as shown on the screen. While the participants are exposed to non-stop fighting, information flow affects every aspect of the mission thus creates a realistic and immerse environment where the air-crews' tactical flexibility in decision making is challenged. To ensure the quality, tactical relevance and valid results, the Fighter Weapons School has the oversight of all tactical aspects of the exercise."



Hellenic Air Force F-16 Block 30

© Wolfgang Järisch

With INIOCHOS, the Hellenic Air Force has created one of the most important exercises in Europe with a growing potential. The geographical conditions on the outskirts of Europe combined with the Aegean Sea provide many possibilities for realistic threat scenarios.

A total of 76 fighter aircraft have deployed to Andravida AB and more than 1.000 sorties were flown during nine operational days.

Missions

In order to achieve the objectives of the exercise, the Air Tactics Center oversees the missions from scenario planning to debriefing and makes certain that they cover the full spectrum of missions currently performed by the HAF such as:

Air operations versus Integrated Air Defence System
Offensive Counter Air / Airfield Attack
Air Interdiction / Special Targets (bridges, power stations, vehicles, etc.)
Anti Surface Warfare
Slow Mover Protection
Combat Search and Rescue
Dynamic Targeting / Strike Coordination and Reconnaissance / Close Air Support / Time Sensitive Targets
High Value Airborne Asset Protect/Attack

Participants:

Country	Type of aircraft
Hellenic Air Force	F-16 Block 30/50/52+/52+ Advanced, F-4E, Mirage 2000-5, EMB-145H AEW&C
U.S. Air Force Europe	F-15E
United Arab Emirates Air Force	Mirage 2000-9
Cyprus National Guard	AW-139
Royal Air Force	Typhoon FGR4
Italian Air Force	Tornado IDS
Israeli Air Force	F-16C Block 30CF

The Aviation Magazine thanks the Hellenic Air Force for the great hospitality on the Andravida Air Base during our visit and a special thank you to Lt Colonel (P) Ioannis Tsitoumis, Spokesman of the Hellenic Air Force who made this visit possible.



F-15E Strike Eagle

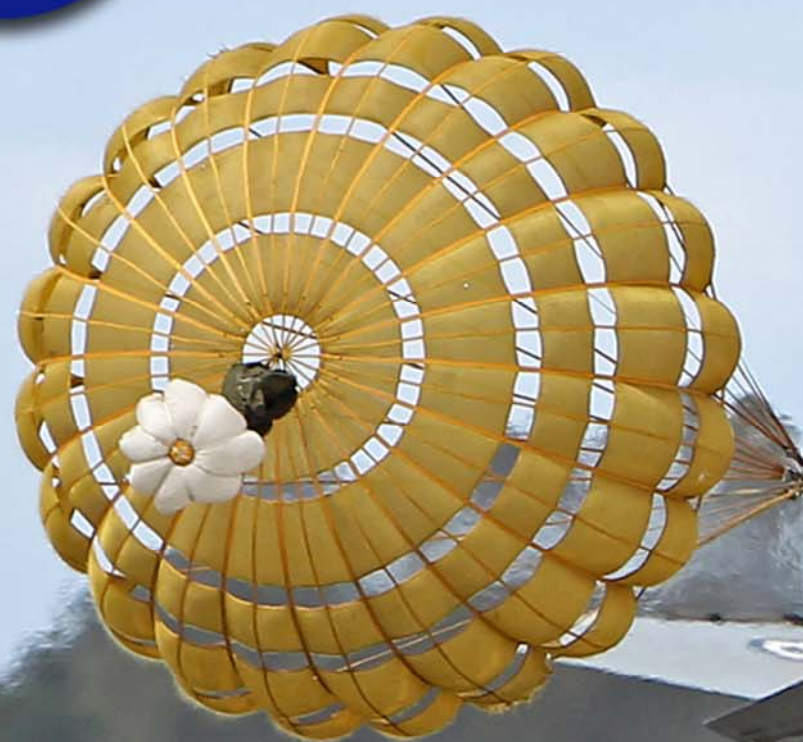


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Hellenic Air Force F-4E





© Peter Thivessen



Italian Air Force Tornado IDS



© Peter Thivessen



© Peter Thivessen



© Wolfgang Jorisch



Hellenic Air Force F-16s Block 52+ Advanced



© Ralf Peter Walter



Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4





United Arab Emirates Air Force Mirage 2000-9





© Wolfgang Jorisch



Israeli Air Force F-16C Block 30CF Barak



© Peter Thivessen



The fifth annual Los Angeles County Airshow took place on March 24-25, 2018 at General William J. Fox Airfield in Lancaster, California. This year was very special because it commemorated the 75th Anniversary of Lockheed Skunk Works which is based out of the Mojave desert area. Headlining the show was the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor Demo Team and many other interesting aircraft.

Gates opened at 9:00 am both days and attendees were able to visit the many unusual static aircraft that were offered which aren't seen anywhere else in the world today. There were also various STEM tents from Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman that people of all ages could enjoy. The weather both days was very cold and breezy but fortunately did not have any effect on the flying activities.

The flying portion of the show began at 11:30 am with the singing of the national anthem and flag jumps by the Patriot Parachute Team. After the opening ceremonies, multiple aerobatic pilots took to the skies to perform. Highlighting them was Bill Stein in his Edge 540, Kent Pietsch in his Jelly Belly Interstate Cadet, Chuck Coleman in his Extra 300, Anthony Oshinuga in his Pitts S-1 biplane, and Jim Pietz in his F33C Bonanza. Another major aerobatic act was the Red Bull Air Force which consisted of Kirby Chambliss flying his Extra 540, Aaron Fitzgerald in his BO-105 helicopter, and the "Swoopers" jump team.

The show featured a stellar amount of classic jet aircraft ranging from the final days of WWII to the Korean War era. The jets featured were the F-86 Sabre and MiG-15 Fagot of Planes of Fame performing a dogfight simulation, the T-33 Shooting Star "Ace Maker II" piloted by Gregory "Wired" Colyer, and a rare DeHavilland Vampire British jet fighter piloted by Jeff Conley.

As usual, many warbirds were featured at this event. The warbird portion of the show offered plenty of photo passes from the aircraft and lots of pyro. The aircraft flying included the P-51 Mustang, F8F Bearcat, Supermarine Spitfire, and B-17 Flying Fortress "Sentimental Journey" of the Commemorative Air Force, the F4U Corsair and B-25 Mitchell of Planes of Fame, and the newly restored P-38 Lightning from the Collings Foundation.

Representing the U.S. Marine Corps in the show was the MV-22 Osprey. The MV-22 is a tilt-rotor aircraft that can perform both the capabilities of an aircraft and helicopter. In the demonstration, the crew showcased the many capabilities of the MV-22 including flat passes and hovering manoeuvres. Perhaps the rarest part of the show was flybys from 2 different versions of the Lockheed U-2 Spy Plane on Saturday. The first aircraft to fly was a U-2S known as the "Dragon Lady" which flew out of Beale AFB. The second was a NASA ER-2 High Altitude Research Aircraft. This was a major part of the Skunk Works 75th anniversary celebration because the U-2 is a major accomplishment from the Lockheed corporation.



F8F Bearcat above and the B-25 Mitchell below

Concluding the air show was the United States Air Force F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team based out of Langley AFB, Virginia. The F-22, piloted by Maj Paul “Loco” Lopez, took to the skies of Lancaster for the very first time ever and showcased the many advanced characteristics of the fifth-generation fighter including tight turns, tail slides, and high speed passes. After the solo demonstration, Maj. Lopez joined formation with a P-38 Lightning piloted by Mr. Steve Hinton for the Heritage Flight. This was a rare opportunity for the public to watch a formation of U.S. Air Force fighters of past and present. After the Heritage Flight, the P-38 flew a solo aerobatic routine to commemorate 75 years of Lockheed Skunk Works. On Saturday, after the flying was over, Maj. Lopez walked over to the center of the air show to swear in new Air Force recruits with a very special Wall of Fire.

After flying activities concluded, spectators were able to continue visiting the different static displays and tents before gates closed at 5:00 pm. Special thanks to the organizers, volunteers, sponsors, performers, and spectators for making the 2018 Los Angeles County Air Show a success!





Supermarine Spitfire Mk XIV



DeHavilland DH.100 Vampire



P-51D



B-17G and the B-25 Mitchell



USAF Heritage Flight with the F-22 Raptor and the P-38 Lightning



MiG-15 Fagot and the F-86 Sabre



P-38 Lightning



Aviation Profile preview of the "Thistle" squadron, BAF

By Laszlo Nyary



My interest in the "Thistle" Squadron started when I entered their international contest for a profile drawing for their 100th Anniversary F-16MLU aircraft, aka "Blackbird", and my profile won.

I've looked into the history of the squadron and turned out to be fascinating, the history will be covered in the next issue of The Aviation Magazine in detail, after my base visits in Florennes, Belgium. I've asked the pilot who was in charge of the contest if he could provide me with a list of the aircraft they flew over the 100 year period. He obliged and sent me a photo that showed all the aircraft they flew.

Looking at the images, it occurred to me that I could do a set of profiles, all 16 of them, which would be more accurate and with better detail. Thus, I challenged myself to do so. It took several months and countless hours of research to do the profiles, but it was worth the effort.

You can see some of them here, enjoy.



General Dynamics F-16 MLU
100th Anniversary of the 1st Squadron Stingers 1917-2017
Florennes Air Base, Belgium



The winning profile above and my reference image below





Hanriot H-D1

Aircraft of the 1re Escadrille de Chasse of the Aviation Militaire Belge, 1917. The Hanriot H-D1 was used by the 9ème Escadrille (1re reorganized) from 1917-20.



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The first aircraft type above and second one below



Fokker D.VII F-2

Fokker D.VII F-2 6693/18 of N° 9 Squadron "Thistle" at Evere airbase in July 1919. Between 1919 and 1931 at least 35 of these aircraft were used by the Aviation Militaire Belge and later the Aéronautique Militaire Belge with various squadrons.



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The third aircraft type above and fourth one below



Sopwith F1 Camel

Aircraft of the 1re Escadrille de Chasse of the Aviation Militaire Belge, 1917. On 1 March 1918, while stationed at Les Moëres aerodrome near Veurne, it would be reorganized into the 9ème Escadrille.



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A.V.Roe AVRO 504K

Aviation Militaire Belge operated a number of 504K and later the N version from 1921 to 1940. This aircraft was operated by the "Thistle" squadron.



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Morane Saulnier MS.30.E1

In 1918 three MS.30E's were supplied to the Aviation Militaire for evaluation. One of them was evaluated by the 9th Squadron "Thistle" and it was in use until 1924.



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Fiat CR.1

One of the two Fiat CR.1 evaluated by the Belgian Aéronautique Militaire, 1925



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The eight aircraft type above and the twelfth below



Hawker Hurricane Mk1

Of the "Stingers" squadron in 1938 at Schaffen-Diest Air Base.
15 Hurricanes were delivered to the Aéronautique Militaire Belge in 1939.



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BLACKBIRDS



Blackbird IV F-16MLU, 2017



Blackbird III F-16AM, 1997



Blackbird II F-16A, 1992



The original Blackbird Mirage 5BA, 1987



OVER THE YEARS

1st Squadron Stingers, 2nd Tactical Wing
Florennes Air Base, Belgium



© AIRCRAFT PROFILES BY LASZLO



Rest In Peace

A SAD DAY FOR THE THUNDERBIRDS

On April 4th, Major Stephen Del Bagno, pilot of the USAF Thunderbirds crashed, killing him. The following was released by the Public Affairs at Nellis AFB.

"Thunderbirds Aircraft Mishap

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – A U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds pilot was killed when his F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed over the Nevada Test and Training Range today at approximately 10:30 a.m. during a routine aerial demonstration training flight.

The identity of the pilot is being withheld for 24-hours pending next of kin notification.

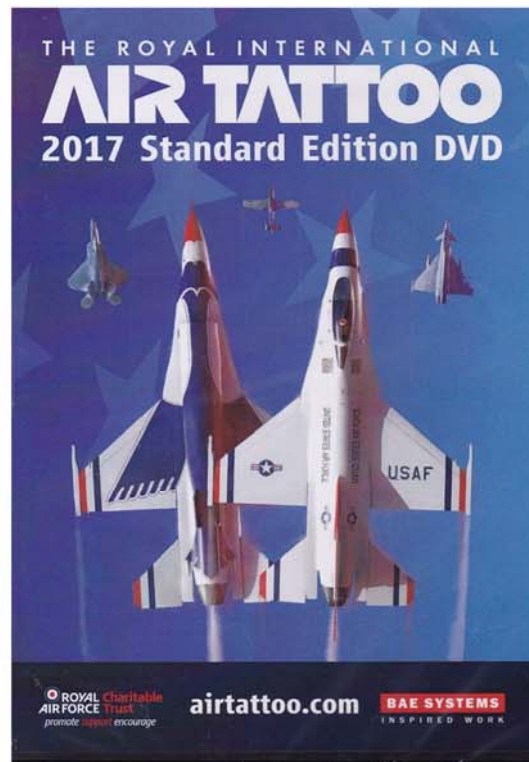
An investigation is being conducted into the cause of the mishap.

The team's participation at the March Air Reserve Base "The March Field Air & Space Expo" has been cancelled. It is unknown how this accident will impact the remainder of the 2018 Thunderbirds Season."

We at The Aviation Magazine, would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and Team mates.



AIR TATTOO DVD READY FOR TAKE OFF



Relive the thrills, buzz and excitement of the 2017 Royal International Air Tattoo

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>

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS ON JOOMAG PLATFORM!

THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

As of Aug 15th will be moving to a different reader platform at ISSUU.

Please check for the latest issue of the magazine on ISSUU starting with #58th.

We will publish further notification regarding our move in our next issue!



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