

THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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No: 45 July 2016
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Air base spotting in Japan

Special Edition

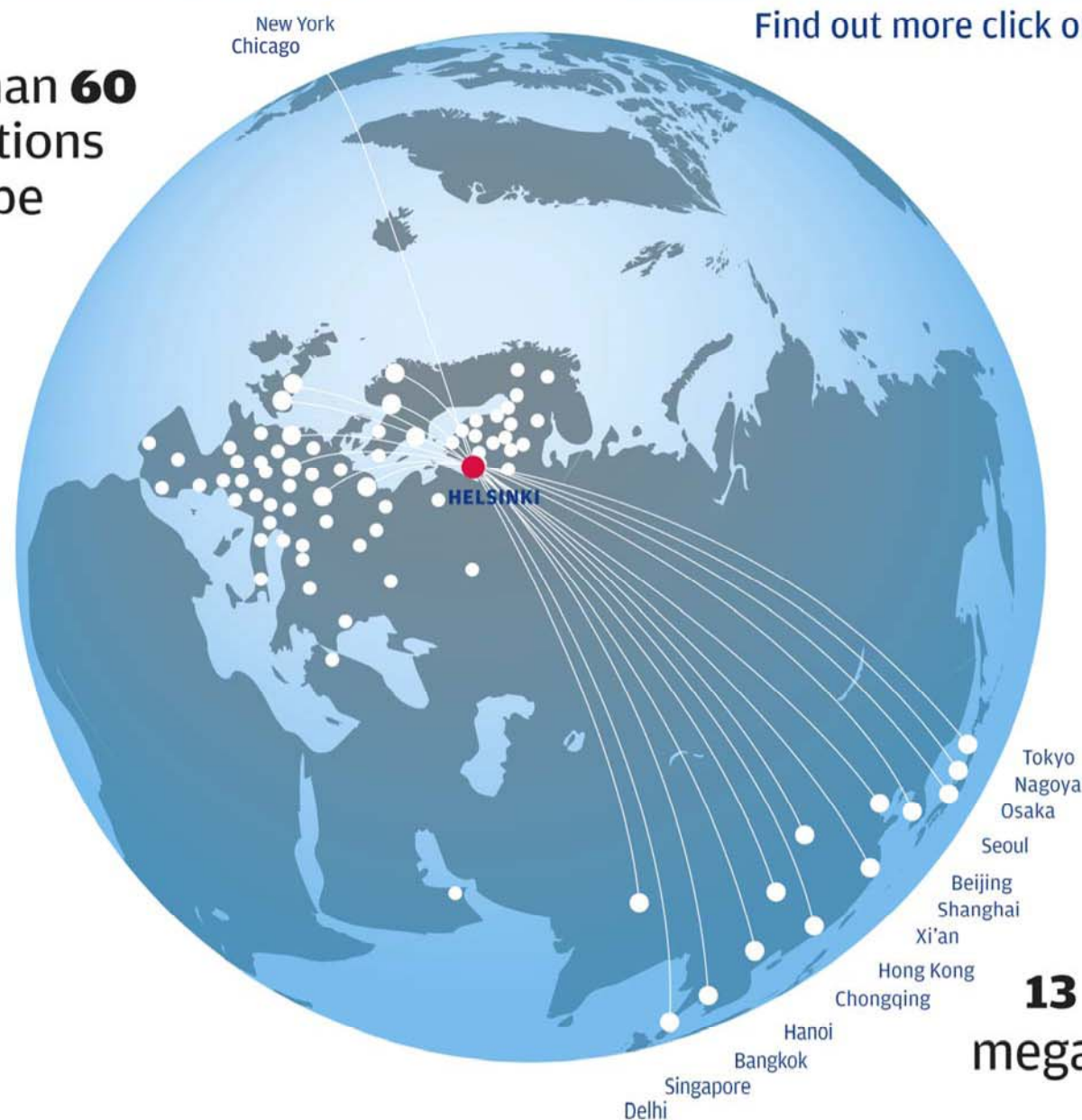
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Content:

- 5 News from the Editor
- 6 Japanese Airbase spotting
- 8 Hyakuri Airbase
- 18 Komatsu Airbase
- 22 Gifu Airbase
- 34 Iruma Airbase
- 48 Nagoya-Komaki Airbase
- 58 Akeno Airbase
- 76 Hamamatsu Airbase
- 82 Atsugi Airbase

Cover: Mitsubishi F-2A, photo by Wolfgang Jarisch

Index page: Mitsubishi F-2A, photo by Peter Thivessen



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AIR TO AIR



Photography by Laszlo
LASZLO.NPS@GMAIL.COM



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e-mail: info@theaviationmagazine.com

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.

Interested in joining us? We have (3) Volunteer Team positions available. We are looking for a Far East contributor, preferably from Japan, with good English communication skills, also for someone to cover the East and South-East portion of the USA, and for Marketing Person. If you are interested in becoming a contributor e-mail us with samples of your work:

info@theaviationmagazine.com

Publisher: AirShowsReview LLC.

Managing Editor: Laszlo Nyary

Contributing Team members:

- Steve "Swiper" Bigg
- Norman A. Graf
- Peter Thivessen
- Wolfgang Jarisch
- Ray Pace
- Christopher Mifsud
- Ralf Peter Walter
- Geoffrey Arnwine

Occasional contributors:

- Brian R. Veprek
- Jason Phelan
- Moni Shafir
- István Kelecsényi
- Joe Ciliberti

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NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Special Japanese Airbase Spotting edition of **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE**.

Two of our contributing photojournalists recently visited Japan. Instead of just using a few pages in our regular edition, we decided to have an extended coverage with more images for you to look at. We even cut back on the narrative to the absolute minimum just letting the images speak for themselves.

We look forward to bringing you many more air shows for the rest of the 2016 season as well as air base visits and exercises with a lot of enthusiasm, and to bringing you the "Best for Free" ® e-based aviation magazine as we take you to aviation events "As close as you can get without being at an air show!" ® Tell all your friends to like us on Facebook, follow us for the latest reviews and news on Twitter and to subscribe on Joomag to automatically receive the latest issue of **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE**.

Welcome to Japan

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Mengemedaol 歡迎 Velkommen 어서오세요 Willkommen
Mabuhay Тавтай морилно уу ยินดีต้อนรับ Chào mừng
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Japanese Airbase spotting

By Peter Thivessen and Wolfgang Jarisch

Two of our senior members have been planning since 2015 to visit Japan to do some airbase spotting, and in the Spring of 2016 they made their journey to the Land of the Rising Sun.

Going to Japan from Europe for two weeks is an expensive proposition when one takes everything into consideration. The airfare of 850 € per person actually was quite reasonable when compared to the other costs such as for two; hotels 1500 €, car rental 1140 €, gasoline for 3084 km (travelling) 235 €, Express Way tolls 480 €, parking in Tokyo 240 € and then one can add food and other miscellaneous necessities.

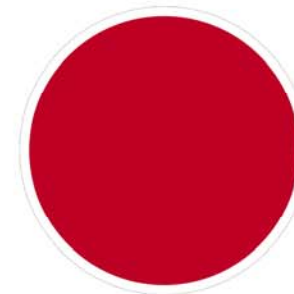
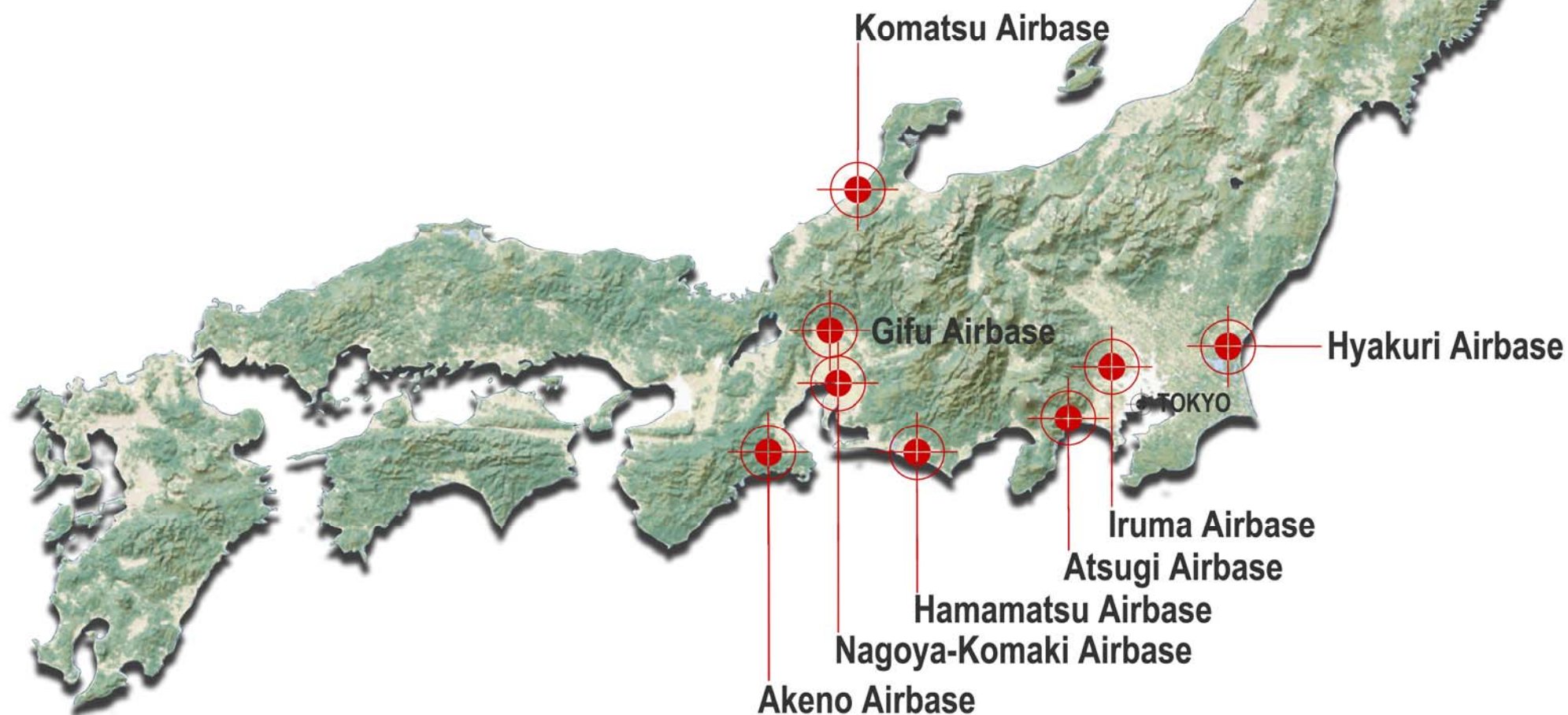
Once in Japan, their schedule and plans were constantly adjusted due to inclement weather. After all, to spot aircraft landing and taking off, one needs a bit of luck with weather and wind directions. Fog and rain are two things one needs to avoid as much as possible. A step ladder is also an advisable accessory along with long focal lens from 400 to 600mm in order to take images of aircraft taxiing on the runways or up in the air.

Driving in Japan



Driving is on wrong side (just like in England, cars drive on the left side of the road and have the driver's seat and steering wheel on their right side) so that takes adjusting, and it is a slow going at the best, travelling a mere 350 kms takes 7 hours! And did we mentioned the high toll rates for the roads? An International Driving Permit (IDP) or an official Japanese translation of their driver's license is a must to drive or rent a car.

The airbase spotting images are listed in the same order as they went to take them. While Peter and Wolfgang faced a couple of days of bad weather the overall results were priceless!





Mitsubishi RF-4EJ of 501 Hikotai - Peter Thivessen



Airbase layout from Google Earth

First base visited. Elev. 107 ft. Pos: 36°10'54"N 140°24'53"E
The base lies 100 km north-east of Tokyo. It is a fighter base of the JASDAF with a squadron of F-15J, squadron of F-4EJ and with a recce group with RF-4E.



Mitsubishi F-15J of 305 Hikotai- Wolfgang Jarisch



Mitsubishi F-15DJ 82-8066 of 305 Hikotai landing with (3) RF-4EJs in the background - Peter Thivessen



RF-4E 57-6192 of 501 Hikotai above



(2) F-4EJs 37-8320 and 87-8407 of 302 Hikotai below, images by Wolfgang Jarisch





Raytheon U-125A (Hawker 800SM) 72-3006 JASDF above, F-4EJ below

images by Peter Thivessen



F-15DJ 82-8066 of 305 Hikotai

by Peter Thivessen



UH-60J 08-4572 of the Hyakuri Kyunantai (Air Rescue) top, Kawasaki T-4s from 501 Hikotai (mid) & 302 Hikotai (btm)
images by Wolfgang Jarisch



(2) F-4EJs above, and F-4EJ landing below of the 302 Hikotai
images by Peter Thivessen





Airbase layout from Google Earth

2nd airbase visit. Elev. 22 ft. Pos: 36°23'38"N 136°24'27"E
The base lies 200 km north of Nagoya, right on the shores of Sea of Japan. It is a fighter base with two squadrons of F-15J (303 and 306 Hikotai) and one squadron of T-4.



Mitsubishi F-15J Eagle 32-8819 above, and F-15DJ 22-8056 Eagle below of 303 Hikotai images by Peter Thivessen





Kawasaki T-4 16-5624 above, and
F-15J 22-8806 below of 303 Hikotai
images by Wolfgang Jarisch



Mitsubishi F-2A of Hiko Kaihatsu Jikken Dan - Wolfgang Jarisch



Airbase layout from Google Earth

3rd airbase visit. Elev.128 ft. Pos: 35°23'39"N 136°52'08"E
The base lies 40 km in the north of Nagoya. Gifu is the centre of an Air Development and Test Command and Overhaul facilities of Kawasaki Heavy Industries. Home of the Hiko Kaihatsu Jikken Dan = Development and Test Brigade.



Cessna 680 Citation Sovereign, JA04AA of Aero Asahi Corporation (AAC) - Peter Thivessen



Kawasaki C-1 Test aircraft above and the Kawasaki C-2 prototype below

C1- by Peter Thivessen, C2- by Wolfgang Jarisch





C-130 85-1079 of 1st Tactical Airlift Wing 401 Hikotai - top Peter Thivessen, btm Wolfgang Jarisch





F-4EJ 07-8429 of Hiko Kaihatsu Jikken Dan above, Bell 412EP Gifu prefecture rescue helicopter below, images by Wolfgang Jarisch





Kawasaki Heavy Industries CH-47J above, by Wolfgang Jarisch
T-4 of Hiko Kaihatsu Jikken Dan below, by Peter Thivesen





Mitsubishi F-2B above, by Peter Thivessen
F-15DJ of Hiko Kaihatsu Jikken Dan below, by Wolfgang Jarisch



Nihon Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation YS-11EB Electronic surveillance (ELINT) aircraft
main image by Wolfgang Jarisch bottom by Peter Thivessen



Airbase layout from Google Earth
4th airbase visit. Elev.299 ft. Pos: 35°50'30"N 139°24'36"E
The base lies 60 km north-west of Tokyo. The base is packed with many very interesting and different aircraft. Among others based here is the Koku Sotai Sireibu = Air Defense Headquarters Squadron.





Kawasaki C-1 of the 402 Hikotai
images by Wolfgang Jarisch



C-130H of the 401 Hikotai
images by Peter Thivessen





Gulfstream U-4 of the 402 Hikotai

top image by Wolfgang Jarisch bottom by images by Peter Thivessen





Kawasaki CH-47J Koku Kyunandan (Air Rescue Wing)
image by Wolfgang Jarisch





Kawasaki T-4 of the Shireibu Hikotai - Headquarter Squadron
top image by Peter Thievensen bottom by Wolfgang Jarisch





Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB)/Kawasaki BK 117
Police helicopter, by Peter Thivessen



Kawasaki C-1 of the 403 Hikotai
by Wolfgang Jarisch





Airbase layout from Google Earth

5th airbase visit. Elev. 46 ft. Pos: 35°15'18"N 136°55'28"E
The base lies north of Nagoya (20 km). Komaki is the home base of the Air Transport Command with C-130H and B767 and overhaul facilities of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.





TRAINING SQ

Hawker 800 U-125A Peace Krypton of the Training Squadron
top and inset by Peter Thivessen



C-130H of the 401 Hikota
by Wolfgang Jarisch









Airbase layout from Google Earth

6th airbase visit. Elev. 20 ft. Pos: 34°32'00"N 136°40'20"E
The base lies south of Nagoya, southwest of Ise-Bay. Nearly every rotary type of the JGSDF is based here, also the helicopter flying school squadron located here.



AH-1S VATH 1 / 2 Hikotai by Peter Thivessen

Akeno air base buildings with a couple of Fuji built UH-1Js and firefighting trucks, by Peter Thivessen





Akeno air base buildings with an AH-64DJP taking off from the Kyoiku Shien Hikotai School Support Squadron main image and inset by Peter Thivessen









Kawasaki CH-47J main and inset image by Wolfgang Jarisch





(2) AH-1S Cobras of the Kyoiku Shien Hikotai - School Support Squadron of the Koku Gakko - Aviation School, above by Peter Thivessen

UH-60JA, below by Wolfgang Jarisch



Fuji UH-1J of the 10 Hikotai
by Wolfgang Jarisch





Airbase layout from Google Earth

7th airbase visit. Elev. 150 ft. Pos: 34°44'58"N 137°42'10"E
The base lies 100 km south-east of Nagoya. The home of the 602 Hikotai Airborne Early Warning Wing as well as the 31 and 32 Kyoiku Hikotai.



E-767 602 Hikotai Airborne Early Warning Wing
by Wolfgang Jarisch



Kawasaki T-4 of the 32 Kyoiku Hikotai, left top and bottom
T-4 of the 31 Kyoiku Hikotai right, all by Wolfgang Jarisch





Two Kawasaki T-4s of the 31 Kyoiku Hikotai by Peter Thivessen



Airbase layout from Google Earth

8th airbase visit. Elev. 205 ft. Pos: 35°27'17"N 139°27'01"E
 Atsugi is a large naval air base of JMSDF located 40 Km south-west of Tokyo. It is also the largest United States Navy air base in the Pacific Ocean and houses the squadrons of Carrier Air Wing 5 (the first carrier airwing to be permanently forward deployed) which deploys with the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76). NAS Atsugi was a major naval air base during both the Korean War and Vietnam War, serving fighters, bombers, and transport aircraft.



Kawasaki P-1 of the 3 Kokutai main and inset images, by Peter Thivessen

C-17 from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, by Peter Thivessen



C-2A VRC 30 DET 5 "Providers" by Peter Thivessen





Lockheed P-3C Orion will be replaced above, with the Kawasaki P-1, below images by Wolfgang Jarisch





SH-60J above and left inset and a UH-60K right lower inset images by Wolfgang Jarisch



Beech LC-90 King Air of the 61 Kokutai by Peter Thivessen



EA-18G Growler VAQ-141 "Shadowhawks" Electronic Attack Squadron by Peter Thivessen





MH-60R HSM-77 "Saberhawks" Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron by Peter Thivessen



F/A-18E VFA 27 "Royal Maces" Strike Fighter Squadron Tailcode NF by Peter Thivessen



MH-60S HSC-12 "Golden Falcons" Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 12 by Wolfgang Jarisch



C-130T VR-62 Fleet Logistics Support Squadron, by Wolfgang Jarisch





US Navy C-40 left bottom, by Wolfgang Jarisch
US Navy UC-12F right bottom, by Peter Thivessen



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