

THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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No: 49 March-April 2017
Volume 8, Issue 2



- ✈ Ample Strike 2016, Czech Republic
- ✈ San Francisco Fleet Week, California, USA
- ✈ Joint Warrior 2016, Scotland
- ✈ Aviation Nation, Nellis AFB, Nevada, USA
- ✈ Best of 2016 Award goes to...



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See the Patrouille de France's North American Tour at:



Melbourne, Florida, April 1-2nd
Sun 'n Fun, Florida, April 4th
Kansas City, Missouri, April 6th
Maxwell AFB, Alabama, April 8-9th
Sacramento, California, April 15th
Wings Over Gatineau, Quebec, April 30th



THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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No. 49 March-April Volume 8, Issue 2

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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.

Interested in joining us? We have several Volunteer Team positions available. All require a good command of English communication skills.

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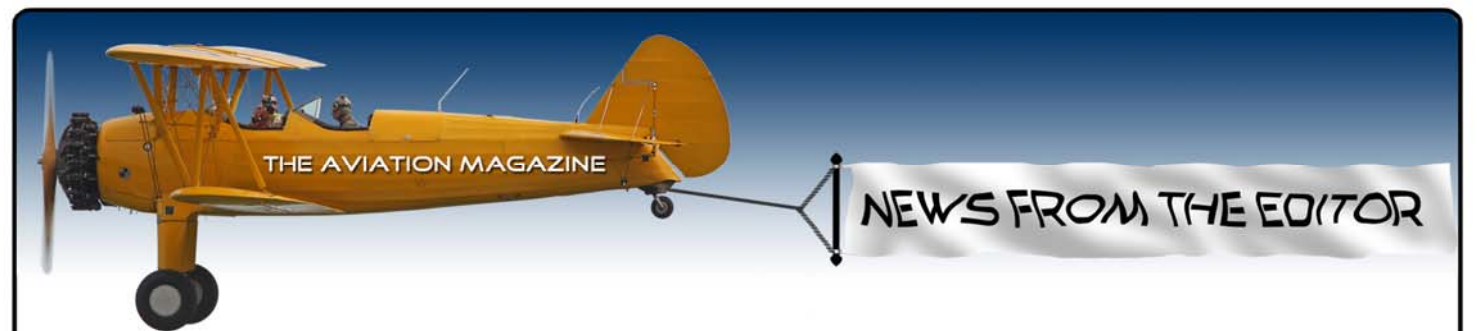
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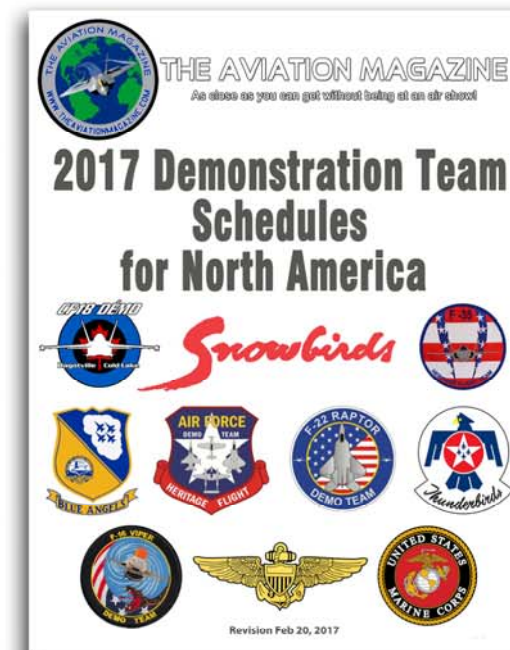


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Welcome to the 49th edition of **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE**. This is the second issue for 2017, but still, featuring events from 2016. However, the good news is that we will have several reviews for 2017 in our 50th issue. One of them will be the Australian International Airshow, for which our newest photo-journalist received his accreditation.

The 2017 worldwide air show schedules have been released and it is available for a free download from our site or by clicking here http://www.theaviationmagazine.com/2017_Airshow_worldwide_dates.html. The revised Military Team Schedules are also available by clicking on the image below.



We will be attending several major events this year, in the USA and worldwide from Malaysia Mexico, including MAKS 2017. Stay tuned for our updates and we hope that you will join us by downloading **THE AVIATION MAGAZINE** the BEST and FREE e-based magazine since 2009, imitated by so many, but never surpassed.





(2) Su-22M4 of the Polish Air Force

The third Czech-led international Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) [also referred to as Forward Air Controller (FAC)] exercise Ample Strike took place in the Czech Republic from August 30 to September 20. Seventeen Allied and Partnership for Peace nations came together to train their JTACs, aircrew and commanders of units on the ground in a realistic, complex and demanding scenarios.

The 2015, Ample Strike achieved a record number 1600 control runs allowing JTACs to keep up their skills of controlling aircraft in support forces on the ground. For 2016 Ample Strike did not exceed this number, instead concentrated on providing even more complex and Challenging Air Land Integration scenarios.

Adding to the exercise complexity, another novelty was the air-to-air refuelling missions during tactical and bomber missions. USAF KC-135R tankers refuelled not only German Tornado jets, Czech and Hungarian Gripen aircraft, but also USAF B-1B and B-52H strategic bombers operating from RAF Fairford in the UK. The seventeen Allies and Partners consisted of the following: Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Aviation Magazine would like to thank the Public Affairs namely Captain Tomáš Maruáščák, for all his support during our visit.



Su-22M4 of the Polish Air Force



L-39C from the Lithuanian Air Force above, the Pilatus PC-9M from the Slovenian Air Force in the middle and a very colourful PC-9M from Germany bottom.





- AH-64 of the US Army top
- Mil Mi-35 of the Czech Air Force

Patches



Challenge Coins



Zap Stickers



T-Shirts



Ceramic Mugs



Briefing Sticks



Custom Aircraft Models



Tail Flashes



Anniversary Parade Börgönd Airport, Székesfehérvár, Hungary

Article and Photography by István Kelecsényi



The 100th anniversary of Hungarian aviation history was celebrated at the 1050 year old city of Székesfehérvár, in 2016. The city of Székesfehérvár was the capital of Hungary in the Middle Ages: the Seat of Power, where thirty-seven kings and thirty-nine queens consort were crowned and fifteen rulers buried.

The Albatross Flying Association, celebrated this important milestone with an Fly-in at the former military airport in Börgönd, on Sunday, September 11th.

The Fly-in featured older and perhaps lesser known aircraft, some rare specialties still flying from the Soviet era. The Hungarian Old Timer Foundation operates several of these aircraft that includes; the Lisunov Li-2, the only one flying in the world, originally designated PS-84, was a license-built version of the American Douglas DC-3/C-47; the Polikarpov Po-2 biplane, Erno Rubik (whose son is the famous designer of the Rubik's cube also named Erno Rubik) designed several aircraft namely the Kanya R-18 basic trainer and Vöcsök glider. Another designer Emil Bánhid's basic trainer aircraft Gerle 12 was present too.

Boeing N2S3 Stearman, E75 Kaydet along with the Hiller UH-12D helicopter are rarely seen in Central and Eastern Europe, and two Soviet-designed Antonov AN-2 civilian aircraft were flying also. The Hungarian Air Force contributed a Saab JAS-39C Gripen and a Mi-8T transport helicopter to the event. The Fly-in closed with a performance by the World Champion glider pilot Józsa David and European Champion Zoltan Veress.

The following aircraft were present at the fly in: Li-2, Po-2, R-18 Kánya, Gerle 12, N2S3 Stearman, E75 Kaydet, JAS-39 Gripen, AN-2, Morane MS 389E, L-29 Dolphin; Vöcsök and Swift S-1 gliders; Mi-8T, Mi-2, KA-26, Hiller UH 12D, Bell Jet Ranger III helicopters.



- HA-AAE Bánhidi Gerle 12, top left and the HA-7022 Markanski SW1A Swift piloted by Dávid Józsa World Champion bottom left.
- JAS-39C Gripen of the 59/1 Puma Squadron, Hungarian Air Force, top right. HA-RUF Rubik R-18c Kánya, a rarity, right middle and the only flying Li-2 in the world, bottom right.





- Mil Mi-Mi-2 (NATO "Hoplite") firefighting helicopter
- Kamov Ka-26 (NATO "Hoodlum") crop dusting helicopter



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Wings Over Wine Country Air Show 2016

Article and Photography by Geoffrey Arnwine



Grumman C-1A Trader

The annual Wings Over Wine Country Air Show hosted by the Pacific Coast Air Museum took place on September 24-25. This year's show featured the most jet demonstrations ever hosted at the venue. Highlighting the performers were the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor Demo Team and Heritage Flight. Other major performers included the U.S. Navy F/A-18E/F Super Hornet VFA-122 TAC Demo and Canadian Forces CF-18 Hornet Demo Team. Also featured at the show were the USAFA "Wings of Blue" Parachute Team along with many different types of warbirds.

Gates opened at 9:00 am to the general public and attendees got to walk up close to multiple static aircraft that were there including the aircraft that are displayed at the Pacific Coast Air Museum. Along with the museum's lineup were military displays like (2) Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets and a C-17 Globemaster III from

March Air Reserve Base. Spectators were able to get up close to the performing warbirds and pilots. RC pilots flew their planes in the airspace while people were beginning to get seated.

The opening ceremonies kicked off with the "Wings of Blue" Parachute Team performing during the National Anthem. Shortly after their performance was finished, the Sonoma Police Department flew their helicopter to demonstrate a rescue mission with the Fire Department. After the opening acts, a U.S. Coast Guard C-27 Spartan made a very special flyover on Saturday. Two T-38 Talons from Beale Air Force Base were originally scheduled to flyover but decided to cancel after the fatal U-2 crashed that happened earlier in September. In tribute to the fallen pilot, a group of 4 Nanchang CJ-6 WWII trainers of the Red Stars Formation team flew a missing man formation.

Every year, the air show has a stellar warbird lineup. Starting out the warbird routine was Gregory “Wired” Colyer in his T-33 Shooting Star called “Ace Maker II.” After his flight, a group of vintage Navy aircraft took to the skies including the T-6 Texan, SBD Dauntless, TBM Avenger, and C-1 Trader. Rounding out the warbird highlights were the fighter class which included three P-51 Mustangs, a P-40 Warhawk, P-47 Thunderbolt, and F4U Corsair. Aerobatic performers this year were much lighter compared to previous years. The only two aerobatic demonstrations came from Kent Pietsch in his Jelly Belly Interstate Cadet and Vicky Benzing in her Boeing Stearman.

The event got loud when the jets took to the sky. The first fighter jet to perform was the Canadian Forces CF-18 Hornet piloted by Capt. Ryan “Roid” Kean. Every year the CF-18 has a special paint scheme with a unique theme. This year’s theme was the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). The specially marked jet featured a black and yellow scheme similar to that of the T-6 Harvards used back in WWII by the British. Another major jet highlight of the show was the U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet TAC Demo flown by VFA-122. On Saturday, the team flew the twin seat F model which commemorated the late Blue Angels pilot Capt. Jeff Kuss who was killed earlier in the summer of 2016. On Sunday, they flew the single seat E model, but had to limit their show routine due to aerial fire fighting operations.

Concluding the show was the U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor Demo Team making it’s first ever appearance at the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show. Piloting the F-22 was Maj. Dan “Rock” Dickinson. Maj. Dickinson showcased the raw power of the F-22 with it’s highly manoeuvrable capabilities. After it’s demonstration, the F-22 flew in formation with a P-51 Mustang known as “Dolly” for the Heritage Flight. It was a rare opportunity for the public to see a U.S. fighter from the past fly in formation with a modern fighter jet. After the demonstration, Maj. Dickinson flew the F-22 back to Travis Air Force Base where it was staged during the entire weekend.

To learn more about the Pacific Coast Air Museum and the aircraft that they have on display, check them out at <http://pacificcoastairmuseum.org>

To see GoPro footage inside the cockpit of the T-33 Shooting Star “Ace Maker II” piloted by Gregory “Wired” Colyer during Saturday’s performance, just click on the image below.





- Canadian Forces CF-18 Hornet piloted by Capt. Ryan “Roid” Kean, above
- P-47 Thunderbolt, top right
- TBM Avenger, mid right
- T-6 Harvard, bottom right



- A rare sight of the C-27 Spartan Flyover by the USCG main image
- F/A-18E/F Super Hornet USN, bottom left
- USAF Heritage Flight with F-22 Raptor & P-51 Mustang bottom right



San Francisco Fleet Week (SFFW), took place from 3rd – 10th October 2016 on the Marina Green, Pier 39 and within the San Francisco Bay area over the Italian Heritage Weekend. SFFW's air show, parade of ships and many community events have become a significant and integral part of the city's local culture and economy since its inception in 1981.

With glorious blue skies and temperatures above 80 degrees Fahrenheit a warm welcome is greeted to any visitors to San Francisco and the main event at Fleet Week. Three days of aviation action can be seen over the skies with Friday 7th October being a full dress rehearsal for the main two show days on 8th & 9th from 12:00pm – 16:00pm, even on the Thursday running up to the show many of the acts can be seen flying round the Bay surveying the area and obstacles.

2016 was to see the largest and most diverse show in the events 36 history. With no less than three display teams and the first time visit of the Breitling Jet Team flying 7 x L-39 Albatross aircraft from France and in the final stages of their two-year American Tour. The Breitlings American counter parts the Patriots Jet Team in 6 x L-39 Albatross displayed a very different and unique display with a blend of formation, solo and three pairs routine.

The show was opened each day with the Navy's Leap Frogs Parachute team from San Diego with six parachutists completing two separate drops from a USAF Hercules. Solo Aerobatics came from the Lucas Oil sponsored Pitts S-1-11B & the Legendary Sean D. Tucker and Team Oracle's Challenger III, both providing a unique blend of high octane and breath-taking routines.

The Canadian Air Force displayed its CF-18 Hornet in its immaculate British Commonwealth Air Training Program (BCATP) demonstration ship, whilst the USAF F-22 Raptor flown by Maj. Dan Dickinson from Langley Air Force Base showed off its 5th generation capabilities. The later joined up with Steve Hinton flying a P51 Mustang for the famous Heritage flights presenting the evolution of USAF air power.

One of the highlights was United's Boeing 747 flying an extremely spirited series of high speed flypasts, a dirty flypast, with a final on crowd flyover. The finale each day was of course the US Navy's Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron in their 6 F/A -18 Hornets. The team performed for almost an hour with high energy, sneak passes and tight formation passes that enthralled the gathered crowd and those in ear shot of the commentary where entertained by the team's commentator adding to the team's dramatic display.



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Throughout Fleet Week, thousands of visitors can climb aboard amphibious carriers, destroyers and cruisers docked at the Embarcadero to get a glimpse into the day-to-day lives of the sailors serving in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian Navy. Ships docked throughout Fleet Week included USS San Diego (LPD 22), USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), USCGC Mellon (WHEC 717), HMCS Calgary (FFH 335) & USS San Francisco. Most of the fleet also paraded under the Golden Gate bridge and through the Bay area on the Friday before the main flying started.

For anyone attending SFFW it is a great opportunity for photography as the sun is behind you for most of the day. The main areas to view the display is at the aquatic park and the marina green and these are the only areas that you can hear the commentary. Pier 39 is a good viewing area but the crowds and the many boats tall masks are a hindrance at times. As the largest and most significant event of its kind in California, SFFW features a unique training and education program that brings together civilian and military forces to develop and share best practices in humanitarian assistance.

Consistently attracting millions of visitors, creating important and lasting relationships for its partners, and generating over \$10M in annual revenue for the city, SFFW is now recognized by the United States Department of Defence as the model for fleet weeks across the country.

San Francisco Fleet Weeks mission is to honour the contributions of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces while advancing cooperation and knowledge among civilian and military-based Humanitarian Assistance personnel.



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USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) a Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser sailing past Alcatraz Island, main image, and the French Breitling Jet Team with their (7) L-39 Albatross performing in the skies above San Francisco Bay, top right.



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U.S. Navy's Leap Frogs Parachute Team jumping from USAF ANG C-130H Hercules, top images. Two U.S. Coast Guard SAR MH-65D helicopters flying in close formation, below.



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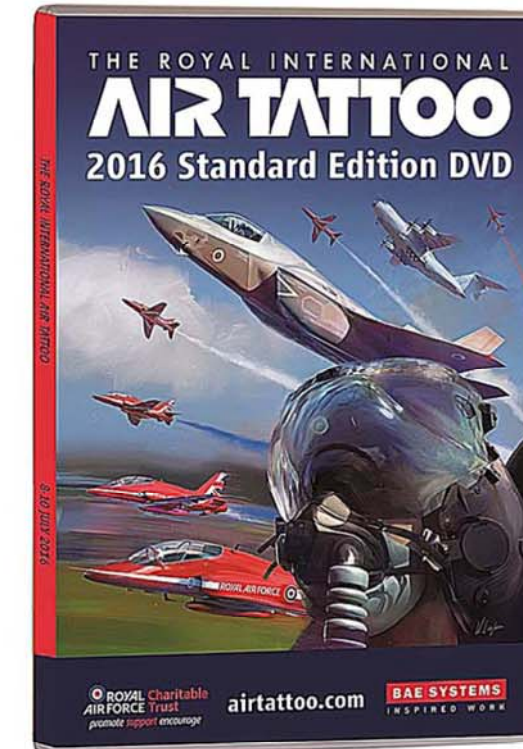
- USAF Heritage Flight: F-22 Raptor & P-51 Mustang top left
- USAF F-22 Raptor to right
- UNITED Airlines Boeing bottom main image



- RCAF CF-18 Solo Demo top left
- The world famous US Navy Blue Angels top left and flying by the Golden Gate bridge bottom image



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All the highlights from the world's biggest military air show have been captured including the show-stopping international display debut of the F-35B, whose manoeuvrability and hovering capabilities were demonstrated for the first time to a UK audience by RAF test pilot Squadron Leader Hugh Nichols. The aircraft also appears in an iconic joint flypast with the Red Arrows and two RAF Typhoons, which provided a dramatic demonstration of UK airpower to the Air Tattoo's sell-out crowd.

Sold in support of the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust, the official Royal International Air Tattoo 2016 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 2016 official souvenir discs can be ordered from: <http://www.airtattoo.com/shop>



California Capital Airshow

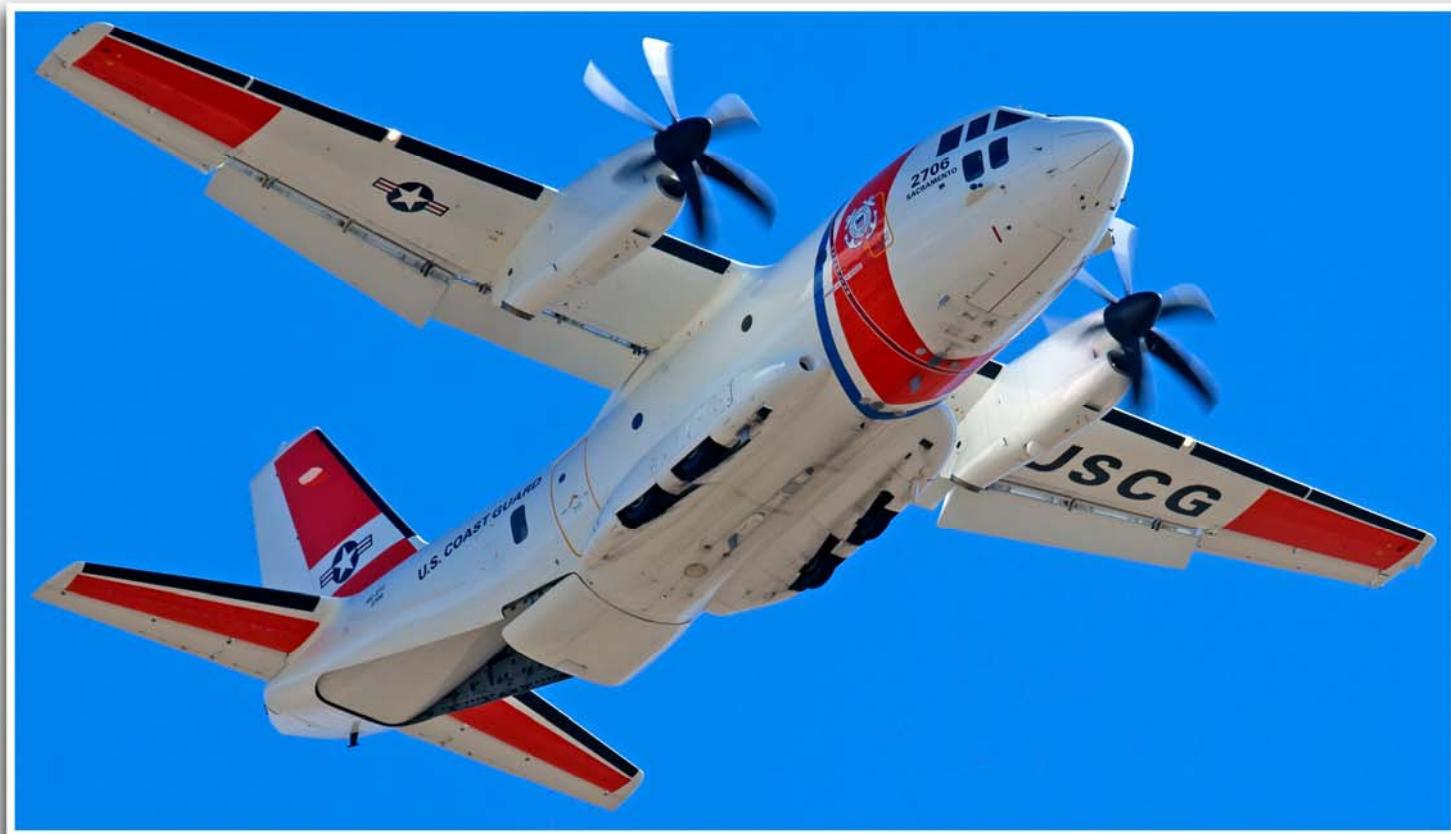
Article & photography by Geoffrey Arnwine

The eleventh annual California Capital Airshow took place on October 1-2 with the United States Navy Blue Angels as the headline act for the first time since 2008. Joining the lineup included the U.S. Air Force F-16 Viper Demo Team and Canadian Forces CF-18 Hornet Demo Team. The show also featured a wide variety of the different warbirds for the crowd to enjoy.

Prior to aerial activities, the crowd was able to visit static display aircraft which included lots of different military aircraft like the new F-35A Lightning II based out of Luke AFB and a rare U-2 Dragon Lady spy plane based out of Beale AFB. On Saturday, the weather was nice and sunny, but on Sunday it was more cloudy and rained for a few moments as the day went on.

Starting out the aerial show was the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team performing a demonstration during the opening ceremonies. The crowd at Mather got to witness the precision maneuvers by the Army sky jumpers as they performed various stunts with their parachutes. The team went back up in the air later during the show to showcase even more performances. Unlike previous years, this year featured only one aerobatic performance flown by Mike Wiskus in his Lucas Oil Pitts biplane. Joining him during his aerial display was Bill Braack in his Smoke 'n' Thunder Jet Car. The two raced across the runway and got excited spectators on their feet to see who would win. In the end, Wiskus won one of the races while Braack won the other.

During the warbird performances, the crowd got to witness some rare aircraft take to the skies. Starting



- HC-27J of the USCG top left
- USAF Heritage Flight with the F-16C Viper and the P-51 Mustang top right
- Mike Wiskus in his Lucas Oil Pitts biplane racing Bill Braack in his Smoke 'n' Thunder Jet Car bottom right

out was the Navy Class featuring the F4U Corsair, SBD Dauntless, TBM Avenger, and PBJ Mitchell, the Navy variant of the B-25. As the warbird display continued, former aircraft of the Army Air Force took off including the very rare B-29 Superfortress "FiFi", P-38 Lightning, P-40 Warhawk, and 2 P-51 Mustangs. To conclude the spectacular demonstration, "FiFi" flew low over the runway for a very special bomb run featuring the Wall of Fire.

Along with the various warbirds that took to the skies, there were a couple of great jet demonstrations. The first jet to fly at the show was the CF-18 Hornet piloted by Capt. Ryan "Roid" Kean. Every year the CF-18 is painted up in a special theme and this year's is the British Air Commonwealth Training Plan (BACTP). The jet featured a black and yellow scheme and showcased the tactical maneuvers it is capable of to the crowd. The second jet performer of the day was the F-16 Fighting Falcon piloted by Maj. Craig "Rocket" Baker. The F-16 Demo Team is based out of Shaw AFB and performs at over 20 different shows per year. Maj. Baker was able to showcase the tactical capabilities of the F-16, and also flew in the Heritage Flight featuring a P-51 Mustang. The Heritage Flight was a rare opportunity for spectators to witness a vintage warbird fly in formation with a modern day fighter.

Concluding the air show was the United States Navy Blue Angels. Because flight leader Cdr. Bernacchi was dealing with food poisoning on Saturday, the team could not perform that day. On Sunday, Cdr. Bernacchi was well enough, and the Blue Angels were able to fly a full demonstration for the crowd. For the first time in eight years spectators got to witness the precision formation maneuvers and solo demonstrations that the team performs throughout the year. After their show, the crowd was able to meet the pilots and get autographs.

Despite the Blue Angels cancellation on Saturday, the 2016 California Capital Airshow was a success. The people who attended saw a wide variety of different aircraft in the air and on the ground. Thanks to the volunteers, staff, attendees, and performers for making this year's show a success.





- P-40 Warhawk, top left
- P-38 Lightning, bottom left
- F-16C Viper, top right
- CF-18C of the RCAF in the BCATP paint scheme, bottom right





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Exercise Joint Warrior 16-2

Article and photography by Peter Tivessen and Wolfgang Jarisch



2 Panavia PA-200 Tornado GR4 in formation

Joint Warrior is a major, bi-annually held, multi-national exercise that involves numerous warships, aircraft, marines and troops, and it is the largest military exercise in Europe. Responsible for the organization for this vast exercise was the Joint Tactical Exercise Planning Staff (JTEPS) located in Faslan on Clyde, Scotland.

The exercise took place in the Scottish Exercise Areas. Most of the activities occurred offshore in the coastal waters to the north east and north west of Scotland. JW 16-2 included air, sea and ground assets from NATO and partner countries, including Belgium, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. The aircraft that involved in the exercise were based at RAF Leeming, which is in North Yorkshire, and at RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland.

The exercise was designed to improve interoperability between NATO and allied forces and to provide the opportunity to train in a multinational, multiplatform, and a multi-warfare environment.

Many of the Typhoons and all of the Tornados based in Lossie, were not involved in the exercise. The RAF had several units deployed to Asia and the United States, so there were a reduced fleet of aircraft available for the standard missions and training flights and only a few Typhoons participated in JW 16-2. Most of the workload of the fast jets operations were been done by the Swedish AF. For aircraft enthusiasts JW 16-2 offered a good opportunity to take some images of the Gripen's and the Portuguese F-16's.

The end of the line countdown for the Tornados at Lossie has been started. XV Squadron will be disbanded next year in April and all of the remaining Tornados will be moved to Marham, where all Tornados from the RAF will be stationed. together. Also a rare visitor at Lossie for this exercise was the Royal Navy Sea King ASaC7.



Lossiemouth is preparing for the future. After the closing of RAF Kinloss and the scrapping of the last remaining Nimrods, the Royal Navy has lost the maritime patrol capability. During Farnborough Air Show, the British government confirmed the purchase of nine Boeing P-8 Poseidons. According to recent reports, RAF Lossiemouth should be the new home of the new MPA's.

We're looking forward to see some interesting participation for future exercises at RAF Lossiemouth, Moray, Scotland.



- CP-140 RCAF, from 407 MPS, Comox top
- Eurofighter EF-2000 Typhoon T.1 bottom



- P-8A USN, from Jacksonville, top
- ATL-2 French Navy, bottom



Sea King ASaC7, Royal Navy, above and below



ATL-2 French Navy, below



One of the Portuguese F-16AM pilots, below



(2) F-16AM Portuguese Air Force, Esq 201/301 Monte Real



©2016 Wolfgang Jarisch

Nellis AFB Aviation Nation 2016

Article & photography by Geoffrey Arnwine





On the final weekend of air show season, Nellis Air Force Base hosted their 2016 Open House known as Aviation Nation celebrating 75 Years of Airpower. Highlighting the air show performers was the hometown U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds along with demonstrations by the F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning II, QF-4 Phantom II, F/A-18 Super Hornet, various warbirds, and multiple aircraft stationed at Nellis.

Prior to aerial activities, the crowd got a chance to view nearly 100 static display aircraft including Nellis assets such as the F-22, F-35, F-16, and more. Others that were on display included one of the last active QF-4 Phantom II drones, an A-4 Skyhawk and L-39 Albatross from Draken International who participated in Green Flag during the week of the show, and the very rare Mi-24 Hind Russian helicopter. Admission onto the base was free and spectators could even upgrade to better seating in the chalet areas that were away from the busy crowds.

Opening the flying portion of the show was the U.S. Air Force Academy "Wings of Blue" Parachute Team jumping to the National Anthem. The aircraft they jumped out of was a C-17 Globemaster III from the Hawaii Air National Guard based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which later returned to the sky for a solo performance as part of the Pacific Air Forces Demonstration Team. The solo demonstration by the C-17 showcased the tactical capabilities of the advanced transport.

The aerobatic performers at this show were very light but featured a nice lineup including Vicky Benzing in her Boeing Stearman biplane, the West Coast Ravens Formation Team flying roughly 24 different

RV kit aircraft together, and Chuck Coleman in his Extra 300 aerobatic monoplane. Each of the three performers showcased the aerobatic capabilities of their aircraft before setting the stage for the upcoming warbirds and modern fighters. After the finish of the aerobatic part of the show, spectators got to witness a very special Nellis Heritage Parade which featured a wide variety of rare aircraft from the Commemorative Air Force and Planes of Fame Air Museum. The first phase of the parade featured a BT-13 Val Replica, P-40 Warhawk, T-6 Texan, B-25 Mitchell, one of only two flying P-39 Airacobras, and the only flying PB4Y Privateer in the world. The next round of aircraft included the P-51 Mustang, T-33 Shooting Star "Ace Maker II," F-86 Sabre, MiG-15 Fagot, and two T-28 Trojans. A MiG-21 Fishbed was originally scheduled to participate but had to cancel due to a fuel leak prior to departing for the show. Concluding the parade was a very rare performance by the QF-4 Phantom II based out of Tyndall AFB, FL. The QF-4 performed six passes for the crowd and showcased one of its last public aerial demonstrations before going into retirement in December.

Once the Heritage Parade was finished, Gregory "Wired" Colyer flew his T-33 known as "Ace Maker II" to perform a solo routine. During his performance, he showcased the aerobatic capabilities of the T-33. Later, Colyer was joined by Bill Braack in the Smoke 'n' Thunder Jet Car for a race. Their race took place across the front runway and even featured the Wall of Fire in the end. Following a fantastic lineup of rare warbirds in the air, the air show shifted to modern day aircraft stationed at Nellis. Starting out the Nellis Capabilities Demonstration was the Air-to-Air simulation featuring two F-16 Fighting Falcon Aggressors featuring the Splinter and Arctic camouflage paint schemes, along with two F-15D Eagles.

This demonstration featured a lot of incredible activity including flares and pyro. The jets came very close to the crowd and even showcased the tactical manoeuvres that pilots would use in a dogfight. The second part of the act was the Air-to-Ground portion which featured two F-15E Strike Eagles and two A-10 Thunderbolt II's. During this part of the demonstration, spectators got to witness more pyro explosions as the F-15Es and A-10s performed simulated manoeuvres that would depict close air support against enemy ground forces. After their routine two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters flew over show center simulating a rescue mission of a pilot who was shot down in their aircraft.

Another rare performer that flew at the show was the DC-10 Water Bomber aircraft. Joining the DC-10 was an OV-10 Bronco which left a smoke trail over the runway to depict the location to fly during a simulated fire fighting mission. The DC-10 came low over the runway and dropped 60,000 gallons of water mixed with retardant to showcase what its like to take out an actual fire in the mountains. Representing the U.S. Navy in this show was the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet of VFA-122 "Flying Eagles" part of the West Coast TAC Demo Team based out of NAS Lemoore, CA. The single-seat E model performed on Saturday while the twin-seat F model performed Sunday. Throughout the weekend the F/A-18 Demo Team showcased the special manoeuvres of the aircraft in a stunning tactical demonstration.

Towards the end of the show, the Air Force brought in its most advanced aircraft when the F-22 Raptor Demo Team out of Langley AFB, VA. Taking to the skies, it showcased the super manoeuvrability of today's only operational 5th generation air superiority fighter. Piloting the F-22 was Maj. Dan "Rock" Dickinson, who performed the final show of the year for the team in front of the Nellis crowd. After the demonstration, Maj. Dickinson flew the F-22 in formation with an F-35A Lightning II piloted by Maj. Will "D-Rail" Andreotta, and an F-86 Sabre piloted by Steve Hinton Sr. for the Heritage Flight. The Heritage Flight is a rare opportunity for spectators to witness historic fighter aircraft fly in formation with ones of the modern day. This was also the final show for the F-35A Heritage Flight Team out of Luke AFB, AZ, and Maj. Andreotta was able to showcase a few afterburner passes before landing the jet. Concluding the air show was the hometown U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team, flying their final public demonstration of the 2016 season in their Block 52 F-16CJ Fighting Falcons. The Thunderbirds showcased their various formations and tactical maneuvers to their home crowd in Nellis. After their aerial performance was complete, the team got to meet up with their family members and sign autographs at the crowd line. Each Thunderbirds officer stays with the team for two years and this weekend was the final show for Flight Leader Lt. Col. Christopher Hammond, Right Wingman Maj. Alexander Goldfein, and Lead Solo Maj. Nicholas Eberling. Returning to the team next year will be Left Wingman Capt. Ryan Bodenheimer, Slot Pilot Maj. Nick Krajicek, and Opposing Solo Maj. Alex Turner who will be transitioning to the Lead Solo position.

After the aerial activities of the show were completed, attendees were able to continue visiting the different static aircraft and booths before being shuttled back to the Motor Speedway parking. The after show was a great opportunity for photographers to get pictures of aircraft on the ground while the sun was setting. Sunday evening was a great opportunity to catch a couple of aircraft departing the show including the Pacific Air Forces C-17, L-39 Albatross, and other various aircraft.

This year's 2016 Aviation Nation Open House was a huge success and one of the best shows that Nellis AFB has ever hosted. Special thanks to the volunteers, performers, spectators, and airmen of Nellis who made this event happen. Next year's show for 2017 is scheduled on November 11-12.



To see GoPro footage of Gregory "Wired" Colyer in his T-33 Shooting Star "Ace Maker II" performing at this air show, click on the image to the left.



(2) F-15D Eagles, taking off above and deploying flares, below.





- F-15E Strike Eagle, top
- Gregory "Wired" Colyer T-33 Shooting Star "Ace Maker II" flying low, left bottom
- PB4Y Privateer , right bottom.



- USAF Heritage Flight with F-22, F-35 & F-86, top left
- A rare sight for the Bronco lovers the OV-10 flew at Nellis, mid left
- Vicky Benzing's 1940 Boeing A75N1(PT17) Stearman, bottom left
- Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateer, top right
- B-25 Mitchell flying low over some pyrotechnics, bottom right.



F-35A, above and a T-28 Trojan below



A-10 Warthog streaking by the control tower below



A classic P-51D Mustang below



- F-15Cs and F-16 based at Nellis AFB, top
- USN F/A-18F Super Hornet Tactical Demonstration, bottom





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IMAGES FROM 2012 FROM THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

From our 2012 Review: "Coming to the Scott AFB to see an air show is always a very pleasant experience. The organizers and all the volunteers are very friendly, helpful and showing warm mid-western hospitality, the air show at Scott AFB always delivers. You want to come back show after show!"

The BEST of 2016



Our much anticipated Award for 2016, based upon our air show visits in the USA, Canada, Europe and worldwide.

Our over all winner was the **"Royal International Air Tattoo"**, (aka RIAT, based in the United Kingdom. (click on link for review on our web site) RIAT is held annually at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, is a must-see show for any air show enthusiast, with emphasis of military aircraft currently in use and of old timer warbirds.

The **Great Lakes International Air Show**, in St. Thomas, was the best Canadian and the best American air show **Thunder & Lightning over Arizona** held at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, in Tucson, Arizona were in our opinion the winners.

Our team, through our process, determines the final BEST. All our decisions are final. We look forward to announcing a new, BEST, after the air show season has ended, usually in our first Spring issue each year!

Please visit our site at TheAviationMagazine.com to read all the reviews.





Marine Corps Aviation on Hawaii

Article & photography by Ralf Peter Walter

If you want to fly military aircraft at a location where many people want to go for a dream-vacation? Then the place to be is Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. Located on the Mokapu Peninsula in the Kaneohe Bay on the south-east coast of Oahu, the Marine Corps Base is home to Marine Aircraft Group 24 with four squadrons and the US Navy with the Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TWO flying the Lockheed P-3 Orion and the Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 Easyriders with the SH-60R Seahawk.

The Aviation Magazine was given the opportunity to visit three squadrons of MAG-24 for a photo report:

- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 Pegasus operates the Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion. HMH-463's mission is '... to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Commander by providing assault support transport of heavy equipment, combat troops, and supplies, day or night under all weather conditions during expeditionary, joint, or combined operations ...'.

The CH-53E is a three engine heavy lift helicopter designed to operate from shore-based bases as well as from onboard assault ships. Its empty weight is 37,500 lbs, max weight on wheels is 69,750 lbs. The maximum gross weight with up to 35,000 lbs external load is 73,500 lbs. The Super Stallion can transport 32 troops or 24 litter patients or seven 40"x48" warehouse pallets. If necessary the helicopter can be armed with two XM-218 or two GAU-21 .50 caliber machine guns and one ramp-mounted GAU-21 .50 caliber machine gun. Max speed is 150 kts, max range is 540 nm and endurance (unrefueled) is up to four hours. Currently the US Marine Corps has about 145 CH-53E in its inventory with an average age of approximately 27 years.

- As a frontline squadron Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 Scarface has 18 AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters and nine UH-1Y Venom utility helicopters. The mission of HMLA-367 is to provide '... offensive air support, utility support, armed escort and airborne supporting arms coordination during expeditionary, joint or combined operations ...'. The squadron operates from the sea off assault ships and from expeditionary/austere Forward Operating Bases.

The AH-1W has an empty weight of 10,750 lbs and a max gross weight of 14,750 lbs. Combat radius with 30 minutes time on station and a 20 min fuel reserve is 58 nm, cruise speed is 131 kts. The AH-1W has a three-barrel 20mm Gatling cannon and four weapons stations that can be loaded with 2.75-inch rockets, TOW, HELLFIRE with multiple warhead configurations and AIM-9 Sidewinder. Current plans are to replace the AH-1W with the AH-1Z in the near future.

The UH-Y has an empty weight of 11,700 lbs, max gross weight is 18,500 lbs. Mission radius with eight combat loaded troops, a five minute mid-mission hover out of ground effect, 10 minutes on station, and 20 minutes fuel reserve is 119 nm, cruise speed is 139 kts. The UH-1Y has two weapons stations that can be fitted with 2.75-inch rockets, fixed forward or crew served 7.62mm/GAU-17A gun and/or crew served M240D/GAU-16/GAU-21 machine guns.



Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion

- Helicopter Maritime Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268 Red Dragons. The squadron's mission is to '... provide assault support to the landing force in the ship to shore movement and in subsequent operations ashore by transporting combat troops, supplies and equipment...'. In 2014 HMM-268 became VMM-268 when the squadron started with the transition from the Boeing CH-46E Sea Knight to the MV-22B Osprey. In 2016 VMM-268 relocated from the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in California to MCB Kaneohe Bay, to become the first Osprey squadron based on Hawaii.

The MV-22B has an empty weight of 35,200 lbs and a max gross weight of 52,600 lbs in vertical take-off and 57,000 lbs in short take-off operation. It can carry up to 24 troops or 12 litters. Combat radius is 325 nm without air refuelling. Top speed is 280 kts and cruise speed is 266 kts. The Osprey does not carry any offensive weapons.

The Aviation Magazine would like to thank Ms. Amy S. Bevan, Capt. Michelle Shoenberger and Cpl. Adam Koroley for making this report possible.



Bell Boeing MV-22B Osprey



Bell AH-1W Super Cobra



Bell UH-1Y Venom



Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallions



Sikorsky SH-60R Seahawk



Bell AH-1W Super Cobra







Relocation of VMFA-121 to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

By Cpl. Aaron Henson with photography as noted



Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Jan. 18, 2017.

VMFA-121 conducted a permanent change of station to MCAS Iwakuni from MCAS Yuma, Arizona, and now belongs to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"There's definitely been a lot of challenges . . . moving our aircraft here, the logistics and we have a lot of people to move," said U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Vincent Koscielniak, an avionics technician with VMFA-121. "One of our biggest issues was the physical movement and preparing everything to come here. There has been a lot of cooperation within the unit and most of the Marines here are very good at what they do. They are hand-selected, and it has shown the last few months."

VMFA-121 consists of the F-35B Lightning II aircraft, which is planned to replace the F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier II aircraft currently based at the air station.

The F-35B Lightning II is a fifth-generation fighter, which is the world's first operational supersonic short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) aircraft. The F-35B brings strategic agility, operational flexibility and tactical supremacy to the Pacific with a mission radius greater than that of the F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier II in support of the U.S. – Japan alliance.

"The F-35B represents the future of Marine Corps tactical aviation, and bringing it to Japan makes MCAS Iwakuni the second only operational F-35B base," said U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Jimmy Braudt, a quality assurance officer and pilot with VMFA-121. "One of its capabilities is a powerful sensor suite that fuses together several different sources and provides superior situational awareness to the pilot. It will be the first short takeoff and vertical landing aircraft permanently based in this theatre, and it is capable of countering modern threat systems beyond what legacy aircraft were designed to handle."

Braudt said it impacts the relationship with Japan and other Pacific allies. Bringing the most capable, modern and lethal platform in the U.S. inventory to Iwakuni demonstrates the U.S. Government's commitment to the defence of Japan.

The Marine Corps conducts the essential training needed to accomplish their assigned mission, including the training and operations required to be ready to defend the Pacific region as necessary.

"VMFA-121 desires to contribute to the readiness of MAG-12, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and III MEF as a whole," said Braudt. "Our objective is to be highly trained and effective in our platform while learning how to integrate this new capability with the rest of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force and our Pacific partner nations. We are happy to be in Japan and look forward to the culture we will get to experience, and we would like to thank the people of Yamaguchi Prefecture and Iwakuni for being excellent hosts."



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AIRPORT SPOTTING

Images and locations as noted



- Aer Lingus Airbus A320-214, top
- Air Serbia Airbus A319-131, bottom, both at London Heathrow LHR by Christopher Mifsud



- TAM Linhas Aereas Boeing 777-32WER, top
- China Southern Air Lines Boeing 787-8, middle
- KLM Cityhopper Fokker 70/100, bottom, all at London Heathrow LHR by Christopher Mifsud





- FINNAIR Airbus A340-300, top
- Volga-Dnepr Airlines AN-124-100, bottom left and right pages
- All images on these pages at Malta International Airport—MLA except as noted, by Christopher Mifsud



- Gulf Helicopters Bell 412EP, at St. Luke's Hospital Helipad, Malta, top
- Medavia - Mediterranean Aviation Dornier 328-110, bottom



THE AVIATION MAGAZINE

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