

# ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIRFORCE OPEN DAY AT GILZE RIJEN AFB

Photo impression by Piet Sinke ©

Friday and Saturday the Royal Netherlands Airforce opened her gates, this events happens every year, but every year at a different Air Force Base , this time it was the turn of Gilze Rijen to organize the event, which was very successfull, during Friday about 70.000 people visited the base and Saturday about 230.000 people saw a very good airshow.



The show was started with a massive **AIRPOWER** demonstration , which started with the arrival of 4 KLu **Apache** helicopters which came over the field for reconnaissance the area, they were followed by an air attack of 9 **General Dynamics F-16's** who cleared the area during an attack at the base from



all the sides this was followed by a large group of **Cougars** and **Chinooks** which landed a large group of military and materials at the base, and the end an **Hercules C-130** landed , offloaded materials very fast and departed again within a few meters at the runway.



Top : A **CHINOOK** in action with in the background one of the 4 **APACHE** 's guarding the operation.

Right : A farewell pass of the 9 F-16's which were used during the Airpower Demonstration.



## SPECIAL EDITION 2002 – 006

A **Mil Mi HIND E** of the Tsjech airforce showed the capabilities of this mighty attack helicopter which was widely used in Afghanistan by the Russian forces. another **HIND E** was at the static show ( Right )



The Polish **ORLIK**s of the Polish Air Force gave a good demonstration

Followed by a demo of an Italian Airforce Transport plane :



This demo was very good, not much people had seen this kind of tricks with a plane of this size, after landing the crew stick out the Italian flag from the cockpit and received a huge applause by the audiences ( pic below )



## SPECIAL EDITION 2002 – 006



Next was the **ROYAL JORDIAN FALCONS** demo team , which are flown by airforce pilots of Jordan , the teams flies the Special 300 which planes are build in Germany .



A surprise part of the show was the passage of the **Rockwell B1B** long range bomber of the United States Air Force, this planes are based all over the world and her duties are long distance flights, as sample sometimes this planes came from **Diego Garcia** in the Indian Ocean , dropping 1 test bomb at the Vliehors at Vlieland and are going direct back to the USA, a mission which covers more then 10 hours of the crew, and a lot of refueling midair during the trip, the **B1B** made 2 passes over Gilze Rijen AFB , the first very slow and the second pass was in the "full ahead" mode, this was the second time that a B1B showed up during and open day.

## SPECIAL EDITION 2002 – 006



At the Airfield a lot of Static planes where parked such as the **Danish F16** on the left and a **Boeing Sentry** better known by the public as a **AWACS** , which is normally based at Geilenkirchen in Germany



Also present was a **KC135 Air tanker** of the USAF which is normally based in the UK , this plane has a crew of 4 persons , 2 pilots , 1 navigator and 1 boomer which lays in the back of the plane to operate the fuel pipe with which the planes are refueled mid-air.

A **Jaguar** of the German Airforce ( right )



A **SH-60 Blackhawk** of the USAF. ( left )

A **F-4 Phantom** of the German Airforce gave a good demo with a lot of noise and power available.





## SPECIAL EDITION 2002 – 006



The Fokker 60 U-01 ( [Marius van Meel](#)) transport plane of the Royal Dutch Airforce

Below : the USAF was present with two F15-E fighter aircraft, this planes are the latest new type's of the F 15 series and based at Bittburg in Germany.



Top : The Turkish airforce was present with 2 [F2E Phantoms](#) at the static show

## SPECIAL EDITION 2002 – 006



The German airforce was also present with the **MIG-29 FULCRUM**, this plane is one of the souvenirs of the East German airforce West Germany received when the famous Wall came down. Later on another MIG 29 gave a perfect demonstration for the public.



The Dutch General Dynamics F-16 **J-021** was also present at the Static display, this plane completed her mid-life conversion as can be seen on the strips in front of her canopy.

## SPECIAL EDITION 2002 – 006



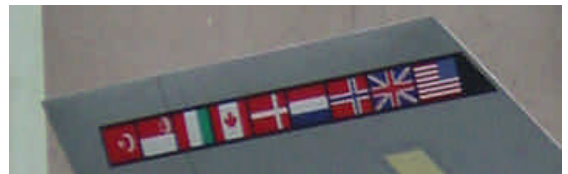
An **ANTONOV** plane from one of the former Soviet Republics



A **Bolkow BO-105** helicopter of the Royal Dutch Airforce



An **AUGUSTA A-109** of the Belgian Air Force



And at last for this article the new **Lockheed Martin JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**, this was a show model to get the first impression of this new plane which is sold to the following countries as shown on the tail of the plane.

