

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION



TWENTHE AFB OPEN DAYS 2003

Photo's / text : Piet Sinke ©



After successful open days last year at Gilze Rijen AFB which attracted 270.000 spectators it was this year the turn of Twenthe AFB to organize the open days. Which was again successful, this year showed a large static display area and a lot of demo teams and solo displays from all over the world. Direct at the entrance of the base the US Airforce parked one of their **KC 135 Extender**, this large inflight air tanker is an improved



version of the famous **DC-10**, underneath the tail the boom is visible with which the fighter planes are refueled during the flight.

Right : KC 135 Extender



From Lakenheath in the UK two McDonnell Douglas **F-15 C Eagles** arrived also to participate in the static display, before the 2 planes landed they made a few passes over the flight line.

Left : F-15 C Eagle.

The air display started with

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the Polish display team named the **ORLICKS**, this display team also participated last year in Gilze



Rijen, the planes did a very good display, but one of the planes was unlucky to get a tyre burst when landing after the display, this small incident resulted in a delay of 20 minutes of the airshow, the plane had to be pulled away, and the runway had to be cleaned again, the next plane in line of the show was a German **TORNADO** of the Marinefliegergeschwader, this Tornado is operated by the Navy, the **Panavia TORNADO**

is a very popular plane flown by the UK, Germany, Italy and special designed for low-level attacks, after the display the pilot landed the plane safely at the runway, The next plane which took off was a not so common plane in the Dutch air space, a Hungarian **MIG 29 FULCRUM**, this double



engined Russian build machine smoked sometimes heavily during the display, and the pilot showed the public a nearly complete **"stopped-in-air"** situation, what is very rare to be shown with this kind of planes, a very



good show with a lot afterburner boost, which resulted in a lot of noise.

Left : the Hungarian **MIG-29 FULCRUM** taking-off for the display.



After the display the Hungarian **FULCRUM** landed and used her **"brake-chute"** to show her short stop.

After the **FULCRUM** it was the turn of the **Patrol de Aquilar**, the display team of the Spanish Air force, this display team was never before on one of the open days of the Royal Dutch Air force, The team started 17 years ago and consist out of 7 **CASA 101** planes, total flying hours of the pilots is

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more than 14.000 hours, the team was flying a very good show which was completed with a goodbye to the public before lading the planes with flying in formation and showing the Spanish flag colours.



After the modern planes it was time for some historical planes, the first which showed up was a **B-25 Mitchell** bomber of the **Duke of Brabant Air Force**, from this plane type more then 10.000 were build during World War

II, as can be seen at the picture above this **Mitchell** is painted in the colours of the KNIL.

After the **Mitchell** a formation passed with a **T-33 T-Bird** in front followed by a **Sabre** and a **Hunter Mk6** all



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planes which have flown in the past with the Dutch Airforce. After the oldies the Royal Dutch Airforce started her famous "**Air Power demonstration**", first the airfield was attacked by **16 General Dynamics F-16 fighter planes**, which was done with a lot of after-burner noise, after the all clear was given the **Apache** helicopters showed up to cover the other helicopters to land the pathfinders, after the pathfinders made sure that the area was clear the "Air mobile" (Lucht mobiele brigade) was flown in with a few **Chinook** helicopters , after all



the cargo was landed a **C 130 Hercules** landed at the runway, made a short stop, and opened her stern door landed some troops and a vehicle and took off again, the whole



operation was done within 2 minutes, after all the materials and troops were landed, all the helicopters came back to recover all the people and materials again.

Right :
A Cougar picking
up the pathfinders
again.



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After the Air Power Display one of the 2 **KDC 10** Air tankers of the Royal Dutch Airforce made a pass together with 3 F-16 fighter planes, this **KDC 10** planes are based at Eindhoven and heavily used for transporting troops for peace keeping missions and also refuelling of the Dutch F-16 's above Afghanistan and other places all over the world where the Dutch

Airforce is present.

In the meantime the 2 first **ALPHA JETS** of the **PATROUILLE DE FRANCE** arrived at Twenthe to check the situation before the other planes were mobilised from France.



Left :

A **Pilatus P-7** trainer of the Dutch Airforce at the static display.



In the meantime the **FRECCIE TRICOLORE** of the Italian Air force showed up and presented a very good display for the public as can be seen at the picture left.

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After the Italian display team the Dutch Airforce showed her **F-16 Solo Display** (Right) and the Royal Airforce the **Mk 9 Harrier** (V/STOL) aircraft (below)



The next in line was also a not common plane in the Dutch airspace, a **SAAB J-35 DRAKEN** of the Austrian Airforce which performed a good display and landed safely using the brake-chute.



Direct after the landing of the **DRAKEN** the **F-5 E TIGERS** of the famous **Patrouille de Swiss** took off from the runway and started their display.



Upon completion of the show of the **Patrouille de Swiss** the German Airforce showed up with a oldie , the **RF-4 PHANTOM** , this plane equipped with the same J 79 engine as the **F-104 Starfighter** is 42

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years in service and still used by several air forces worldwide, this plane is very noise and can easily be recognized when approaching from a distance , a large smoke-trail is always visible.

Below : The Phantom landed using the brake-chute to clear the runway ASAP for the next take-off



The next display team was the **ROYAL JORDANIAN FALCONS** , this planes are not of a military type but are special designed **EXTRA 300** display machines powered by a 300 HP engine, build in a very light plane which weight is less then a average family car.



The last display for the day were the famous **RED ARROWS** of the Royal Air Force seen here taking off from the runway for their display, commanded by Squadron Leader "Spike" Jepson, due to the low cloud base the display was changed during the show, to avoid the planes climbing out too high.

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Left : The **RED ARROWS** in the CONCORD formation



The **RED ARROWS** completed the day programme on Friday, a good programme which started around 10.00 hrs and was finished 17:00 hrs with a lot of spectators, the same programme was planned for Saturday.



NEXT YEAR VOLKEL AFB WILL ORGANIZE THE OPEN DAYS



The **PATROUILLE DE FRANCE** started their show after everybody left Twenthe AFB, so this display was good visible from out all the cars which were waiting to leave all the parking areas before going home.

ALL PICTURES : PIET SINKE ©