

Ostrava, 23 August 2022

The NATO Days in Ostrava under the partnership of the North Atlantic Alliance have a record international participation

Participants from a record number up to 22 countries, a hundred aircraft and a thousand pieces of ground equipment will arrive third September weekend at Leoš Janáček Ostrava Airport where the 22nd NATO Days in Ostrava & 13th Czech Air Force Days will take place. „We can say that we have one of the best editions ahead of us with the longest program to date. This year’s NATO Days in Ostrava & Czech Air Force Days will be among the most prestigious events in the whole Europe,“ said Zbyněk Pavlačík, chairman of the organizing association Jagello 2000.

„The event will be held in more than three weeks, and at the moment we are still intensively discussing other attractive participations, so we believe that this year’s display list is not final yet. After two years, we do not yet expect any entry restrictions for visitors due to covid-19, but of course we are carefully monitoring the situation,“ added Pavlačík.

The role of special partner will be taken over by the North Atlantic Alliance itself. „It is thanks to the partnership directly with NATO that we have a very interesting participation,“ said Pavlačík. NATO will be directly represented by the AWACS early warning aircraft on a static display and the A330 MRTT tanker which will be presented in the opening fly pasts. As part of the program, Finland and Sweden will be welcomed as new candidate countries for membership in the North Atlantic Alliance in the form of a joint fly past.

The visitors will have a chance to see for the first time the newest modernisation projects of the Army of the Czech Republic – Swedish infantry combat vehicle CV90, model of the Israeli system of air defence SHORAD at a scale of 1:6, which will be supported by the full-scale model of the fifth generation F-35 aircraft in the Czech national colours, and we are still discussing other equipment and weapon systems.

“We are pleased that we will be able to present the modernization programs of the Army of the Czech Republic to the public in such a comprehensive way at one time and in one place. The public will thus be able to get a concrete idea of the progress in modernization and where taxpayer funds from the increasing defence budget are meaningfully directed,“ said Major General Ivo Střecha, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army of the Czech Republic.

The NATO Days in Ostrava & Czech Air Force Days are the traditional venue for premiere and last performances, and this year will be no different. The first public appearance in Central Europe will have the most modern Swedish tactical aircraft Gripen E. „This year we will have a participant from a completely new continent - South America - in the form of a modern Brazilian C-390 Millennium transport aircraft which will be presented here to the Czech public for the very first time,“ emphasizes Zbyněk Pavlačík, chairman of Jagello 2000.

On the contrary, one of the last public performances will have the famous Mi24/35 helicopter, whose flight displays have always been very attractive to spectators. The Mi24/35 helicopter gunship, which

began serving in the Czechoslovak army in 1978, will be gradually replaced with the UH1Y and AH1Z helicopters of the American company Bell Flight next year, so this year's NATO Days will be one of the last opportunities for the public to see them on the ground and in the air," added General Střecha.

We are very happy that after six years we will raise the Jordanian flag again. The Female Company for Special Security Tasks (FCSST), which had great success here in 2015-2016, is preparing for the event. „With the unit, we will present an attractive example of a joint intervention," revealed Brigadier General Tomáš Kužel, Director of the Regional Directorate of the Police of the Czech Republic, Administration of the Moravian-Silesian Region.

The performances of two acrobatic groups will certainly be very attractive to visitors - the Swiss Patrouille Suisse flying on F-5E supersonic aircraft will also be performing in the skies of Mošnov for the very first time. On the contrary, the Croatian group Krila Oluje, using Pilatus PC-9M turboprops, will have a successful comeback.

The traditional participant is Germany which will demonstrate two dozen pieces of equipment. On a dynamic display, the modern NH-90 and the EC-135 helicopters will be presented for the first time, the A400M transport aircraft will demonstrate the refuelling of Czech Gripen aircraft. On a static display, Germany will demonstrate the Tornado IDS multirole combat aircraft with a full range of armaments and the P-3C Orion maritime surveillance aircraft. The German ground participation will be also rich - the most modern Leopard 2A7V tank, the Puma infantry fighting vehicle and the Panzerhaubitze 2000 howitzer.

The United States is sending two B-52 Stratofortress bombers and a very wide range of helicopters and ground vehicles to NATO Days. On Saturday, exactly after ten years, one B-52 will be seen on a flight display over the Mošnov, and the other will be on a static display throughout the whole event. The US Army will demonstrate a diverse range of helicopters: AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook and an unmanned aerial vehicle RQ-7 Shadow. There will also be heavy ground equipment - the main battle tank M1 Abrams, the fighting vehicle M2 Bradley and also the legendary HMMWV vehicle.

The 22nd edition of the NATO Days in Ostrava & Czech Air Force Days takes place on September 17-18 at Leoš Janáček Airport in Mošnov. Admission is free.

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