

Sky Avenger 2018 brings Czech and US Guard Units together

The 21st Air Force Base at Caslav will be the venue from June 18 to 29, 2018, for the Czech-US live-fly exercise Sky Avenger 2018.

Czech Air Force assets involve JAS-39 Gripen and L-159 ALCA fighter jets from Caslav air base, Mi-24/35 and Mi-171 helicopters flying from their home base, 22nd Helicopter Base at Náměšť nad Oslavou. The United States Air Force will deploy six Texas Air National Guard F-16 jets to Caslav and two Nebraska National Guard KC-135 tanker aircraft to Pardubice Airport.

The bi-national exercise will be held on the basis of a long-term cooperation with the guard units from Nebraska and Texas. "In addition to air-to-air drills and co-operation with Joint Tactical Attack Controllers (JTACs) we will fly missions in complex scenarios and integrate the tankers in Composite Air Operations (COMAOs)," says the Major Tomas Merta, the Czech Deputy Exercise Director.

Caslav Air Base will be open to aviation enthusiasts on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 for the Sky Avenger 2018 Spotters Day (accreditation required). The program for registered spotters includes photo opportunities at 100 meters from the runway e.g. of take-offs and landings of Texas ANG F-16 Fighting Falcon and a training approaches of the Nebraska National Guard KC-135 tankers. They will be joined by Czech Air Force JAS-39 Gripen fast jets and L-159 ALCA light fighters.

Interested media representatives are invited to accredit for Media Day on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. On that day they will be able to take a look behind the scenes of exercise Sky Avenger 2018. The exercise director Colonel Jaroslav Mika and participants of the Czech and United States Air Force will be available for interviews.

Cooperation between the Czech Armed Forces and Nebraska and Texas National Guard units was established in 1993, when its major goal was to assist the Czech military on their road into NATO. Within this framework cooperation has deepened and includes joint exercises in the Czech Republic or in Texas as well as the exchange of tactics, techniques and procedures e.g. in the areas of command and control, cyber defense, destruction of explosive devices or protection against weapons of mass destruction.

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