
LUCKY SPOTTERS ON 100 YEARS GERMAN NAVY

Lucky spotters on Nordholz Airday

Hundred years of German naval aviation was remembered by with an Airday for the public at 18-08-2013 on the location of Nordholz-Spieka. In short, Vice Admiral / Naval Inspector Mr. Axel Schimpf stated: 'As the eyes, ears and tools of the seafaring units the 'Marineflieger' were an indispensable part of the flirt, that was yesterday and that it is today'. Being one of several subjects in European aviation history marked by hundred years of existence the German Airday was unlike others not honoured with bright sunny weather but with continuous showering instead, and what a pity that fact was for the thousands of spectators and aviation enthusiasts! As a prelude to the Airday the Marineflieger organized at 17-08-2013 a spottersday for selected public and press, and for those lucky ones the sun appeared during the day every now and then and so enabling some good moments of photographic circumstances.

Moving and shuffling

The event was highlighted with two special painted Marineflieger Sea King and Lynx helicopters forming a pair with the same design of art. Also an Orion maritime patrol aircraft was painted with a blue band and 100 Jahre Marineflieger. This high profile presence for public spectators reveals it is important for the Marineflieger establishment to get attention of public and taxpayer. Hundred years of German naval aviation also indicates very much where to go in the coming years. To avoid exceeding costs a few years ago the location at Kiel was abandoned by Marinefliegergeschwader 5 (MFG-5). Since october 8th 2012 all 'Marineflieger' activities were centralized at Nordholz. The Sea King helicopters moved to Nordholz were MFG-5 was joined with MFG-3. Both Sea King Mk41 and Sea Lynx MK88A helicopters are organized in MFG-5. The P-3C Orion and Dornier Do228(LM) are organized in MFG-3 'Graf Zeppelin'. The move was a success with a more effective logistic situation. One little detail bothers the Sea King pilots.

Today it is longer flying when it is required heading East for emergency. Both Lynx and Sea King will be replaced in future by the NH-90 NFH helicopters. The Sea King will be first in the process of replacement. The Sea Lynx is scheduled for another ten years of duty. The Airday attracted other interesting aircraft from neighbouring countries but also from Germany itself like the 'Artic Tiger' Tornado of the Luftwaffe. A Belgian F-16 was present with a real nice tail-art, an AWACS plane gave acte de presence, a flying boat Dornier D-24ATT, an EC-135, a Dutch NH-90, a nice painted Austrian SAAB-105, an English Sea-King, engines, missiles and many more. Some flights were cancelled due to weather circumstances, but on good moments the public could follow finde demonstrations such as the DO-228 Dornier which is updated since 2012 to NG or 'New Generation' with Several radar equipment, the newest electronics and screens to find (crime)pollution in different gradations. Also it takes care of fishery control with special equipment. >>>

