
AXALP UNDER FIRE: - SAAB GRIPEN !

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Military aviation exercises is one but the Axalp 'Fliegerschiessen' training which took place on October 11 at the Ebenfluh range between the Swiss Alps gives just a slightly different dimension. The swiss airforce is also under pressure according the replacement of the obsolete F-5E 'Tigers'. They planned to purchase some 22 SAAB JAS-39E between 2018 and 2021, and the period in between they think of leasing some 11 Gripens from SAAB (8 JAS-39C and 3 JAS-39D) , bridging period to the point where the final replacement will start earlier formally giving it a go in 2016. The whole construction must still be approved by the parliament, there is still criticism from the public and although the Swiss magazine Cockpit recently reported that the matter was closed and decided it may just be so that there is a referendum to be held first. "Axalp is a good chance to give a profile of the skills of the Swiss Air Force, and as expected this year a unique opportunity for the Gripen herein with a guest appearance to participate at the range. So it happened and the performance was giving a lot of satisfaction in showing how capable the Gripen is.

AIRSPACE CONTROL WITH GRIPEN ?

Now that the spectacular exercises 'Fliegerschiessen' are behind us, the target of the Swiss Air Force is again entirely on the replacement item of the Tigers. talking about the F/A-18 Hornets only 33 examples are on full strength. Four of them are on QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) 24/7, and are able to intercept within minutes over the Swiss airspace. The question is how many aircraft do you need to keep up the entire system in an operational stage ? Specialists claim a minimum of 66, though 75 is a more comfortable number. The expectation is that once the entire phase of replacement of the F-5 has been completed and the Gripen JAS-39E is fully integrated including the number of updated Hornets will be on 55 aircraft in total. We have to keep in mind ofcourse that the Gripen is a platform that is much more competent and capable than a handful of outdated F-5 jets. The required number of aircraft should be related to their individual and total capacity and serviceability within the tasks. The Gripen can perform in integrated warfare with state-of-the-art digital information such as data link. The cost of maintenance are low, and the purchase of this machine is to improve air combat situations and precision attacks in a fully multi-role element and that condition is fully achieved. Engels

Spaans

Nederlands



The 'Fliegerschiessen "exercises near Axalp will continue to generate skilled pilots, and the demo of the first participating Gripen is an excellent choice to accomplish this.

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