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Wonsan Air Festival

NORTH KOREA'S Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un partially lifted the veil of secrecy surrounding his air force during September. The Wonsan Air Festival 2016, between the 24th and 25th, provided an opportunity to see the Korean People's Army Air Force (KPAAF) up close. Held at the showcase Kalma International Airport, Patrick Roegies and Jurgen van Toor were among the many photographers to witness this incredible event.



Above: An immaculate-looking MiG-21bis touches down. It was later exhibited in the static display. **Far left:** Six MD500 helicopters were at the Wonsan Air Festival. One MD500 performed a solo air display, followed by a group of four. The sixth helicopter functioned as an air spare. **Left:** Clad in leathers and 'shades' this KPAAF Su-25 pilot poses in front of his aircraft. **Below:** KPAAF MiG-29 izdelye 9.12B, serialled 555 was among the first batch of MiG-29s delivered. It was built in the 36th batch by Mikoyan OKB under construction number 25755. **Right:** This Mi-17 is one of the few helicopters configured with a VIP interior. During the festival it was used for pleasure flights.





Above: Unlike other operators of the An-2 the KPAAF seems to have a standard camouflage pattern for its operational fleet. Three aircraft were present with two performing pleasure flights and a third kept as an air spare. The purpose of the plate-shaped modification under the fuselage is unknown. **Left:** A pair of Su-25K fighter bombers make a low pass down the runway. They were two of four involved in the demonstration. **Below:** An unmarked Pacific Aerospace P-750 XL was a surprise visitor and is one of three reportedly in service with the KPAAF for liaison duties. The aircraft, with construction number 199, was delivered to China's Shangdong General Aviation Services with registration B-10EG on October 9, 2015, together with another example - c/n 198/B-10EF - on the same date. It is likely the latter also found its way to North Korea.



More on North Korea next month.