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Aerospace & Defence Review



The Show Goes on !

ILA 2016

Airbus DS in Germany

Airbus Innovation Days

RIAT 2016

Eurosatory 2016

Farnborough 2016

KADEX 2016



The Kazakhstan Defence Expo, or KADEX 2016, is one of the very few possibilities to see the Kazakh Air Force in action. This year was the exhibition's fourth edition, and after a relatively tame showing in 2014, this year was different. No less than six upgraded Su-27s and three brand new Su-30s were present, most of which flew demonstration every day. An upgraded Su-25 was also displayed on the ground. But for many enthusiasts the highlight of the show arrived after the official closing ceremony, when an An-12 landed as support for the fighters.

The daily air power display, combined with a ground demonstration of Special Forces, were impressive affairs. There was great emphasis on helicopters, with three locally assembled Airbus EC145 displaying each day. "The use of helicopters as one of the modern means of warfare can further increase the power of armed forces, and are

indispensable during operations conducted by special forces, for fighting illegal armed groups, terrorists, drug trafficking and for border patrol," said Russian Helicopters' CEO Alexander Mikheev. This was complemented with daily demonstrations by the new multi role Ansat-K utility helicopter, upgraded Mi-35M and Mi-17V-5. The Russian delegation also had a large Irkut participation, with special prominence given to the Yak-130 trainer.

Many other helicopters were on static display, from a massive Mi-26 to the small and agile EC155, many different versions of the well-known Mi-8/17 family, including brand new Mi-171s as also heavily upgraded Ukrainian Mi-8s. The latter carried out a range of impressive daily demonstrations. A few transport aircraft were on static display, including a new An-74 of the Kazakh Border Guard and the last of four recently delivered Airbus C295Ms.



Su-27s dispense flares during their display



The venerable An-12, in logistic support of the Su-30s



Air crew of one of the new Su-30s after their impressive display



Russian Helicopters' Kazan Ansat-K

The last of four Airbus C295Ms ordered by Kazakhstan, recently delivered



Text and Photos: Patrick Dirksen