



Case Study

QinetiQ GmbH delivers new
Threat Representation capability
to Slovenian Armed Forces

Summary

In November 2023, QinetiQ GmbH delivered live-firing air-to-air combat training to the Slovenian Armed Forces.

This is a new capability that complements the existing Aerial Training Service (ATS) offering as part of our Threat Representation offering.

This new training has enabled the Slovenian PC-9M crews to become combat-ready and experience their first live-firing training exercise against a physical air-to-air target.





Customer Testimonial

Following the training, a statement from the Slovenian Armed Forces published on the MoD website said:



At the end of the week, the ten-day training of the crews of the Pilatus PC-9M aircraft of the Slovenian Army comes to an end in Greece, during which the pilots of the 152nd Fixed Wing squadron in cooperation with the Greek 117th Combat Wing conducted combat shooting at targets in the air (air-to-air) for the first time.

Shooting is carried out with 12.7mm machine guns at moving targets in the air at a distance of up to 1000 meters. The training is aimed at checking the competence and performance of crews and technical personnel in combat operations against targets in the air, as well as strengthening the cooperation and exchange of experience of air units in the execution of combat missions.



Brief

QinetiQ was awarded the contract in July 2023 to support the 152nd Fixed Wing Squadron of Slovenian Armed Forces at their training exercise in Greece. With just four months to deliver this new training capability and with a high dependency on state approval for special operations with live-firing, meant that the team had to work collaboratively to achieve delivery against a tight timeline.

The team ensured the material resources and crews were ready to deploy to Andravida Air Force Base, Greece, by late October '23, to allow ample time for safety and operational briefings to be completed before the first live-firing mission took place over four days in November.

Outcome

Using multiple flights across the four days, QinetiQ GmbH demonstrated a steady flying target with a sleeve target towed behind a PC-9B aircraft. The Slovenian Armed Forces flying a PC-9M then approached the target within range, using 12.7 calibre machine gun pods attached below the wings. The integrated hit counter then gave feedback of accuracy and number of hits to the sleeve target to the air crews, giving a direct outcome and therefore ensuring positive training outcomes.

QinetiQ's maintenance team provided a crucial component to ensure delivery throughout the project, by preparing and continuously ensuring that the aircraft and material were serviceable, enabling fast turnaround to meet hard scheduled slot times in the various training areas.

The high degree of professionalism from all involved was a vital component to ensure that this new capability was safely demonstrated within a short time period. The success of this first air-to-air live firing training against physical targets lays the foundation for the future of ATS training that the customer aims to carry out regularly.

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