

Kunovice Air Museum - A Good 2016

Posted: 15 days ago on <http://pickledwings.wordpress.com>



"Nagano

Express", the Tupolev Tu-154M which brought the Czech gold medal winning Olympic ice hockey team home from the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, arrives at her new home in Kunovice on 25.9.2016.

The Great Flight and Some Smaller Details

This past Sunday, the 25th of September, I paid my second visit of 2016 to the Kunovice aviation museum in the south east of the Czech Republic.

My first visit took place in spring, only a day or two after they opened for the season. At the time, the biggest development was a new building for the ticket office and souvenir shop.

Here, near the end of the 2016 season, further positive developments are in evidence.

Velký Přelet - The Great Flight

Without a doubt, the biggest development of 2016 was the completion of the move of a retired Czech air force Tupolev Tu-154M transport plane from Prague to Kunovice.

In late 2014, museum staff began to dismantle the aircraft slowly over irregular trips to Prague.

In 2015, the museum began an internet crowdfunding project to raise money to cover the costs of road transport and other demands of the project. They set out with the goal of raising US\$16,000 total; by the end of one month, they had raised more than US\$50,000. Less than 48 hours after the crowdfunding started, they had raised more than enough to cover the road transportation costs.

To date, it has been one of the most successful crowdfunding projects in the Czech Republic.

With the extra money, the museum was able to purchase fresh fasteners to reassemble the plane with and will have enough money to give the aircraft a fresh coat of paint and prepare concrete hardstands to prevent it from sinking into the ground once in its display spot.

The morning of September 25, 2016 was the big payoff for the museum and anyone who contributed to the crowdfunding. After a road journey starting in Prague on September 23, the aircraft arrived to much fanfare in Kunovice.

Other Work at the Museum in 2016

Besides the Velký Přelet project, a look at the museum display area showed that some work had been carried out on a couple of their existing exhibits.

The museum's MiG-19 PM got a bit of a facelift this year. The fiberglass radomes were refinished and repainted to favourable results: