



**Joint Press Release Pacific Skies 24 – Stopover of the French, German and Spanish Air Forces in Malaysia: 5th till 6th August 2024 – Subang Air Base**

France, Germany and Spain are some of the leading nations of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy. Consistent with the EU Strategy in the Indo-Pacific (dated 2021), the three nations have decided to perform a combined deployment in the Indo-Pacific region this year. Consequently, the French Air and Space Force, the German Air Force and the Spanish Air and Space Force have partnered in a continuum of exercises throughout the region, encompassed in a trilateral deployment called PACIFIC SKIES 2024. The ability to deploy together, as well as the interoperability between the three nations and the regional partners are at the core of this deployment.

After a combined participation in Arctic Defender, a German-led exercise in Alaska, followed by the multinational air exercise Pitch Black 24 in Australia, the three nations will proceed to India together to take part in the Tarang Shakti exercise, the first multinational air exercise organized by the Indian Air Force.

The PACIFIC SKIES 2024 mission consists of the deployment of a large-scale air package in the Indo-Pacific region, in a non-escalatory state of mind. It covers many fields: demonstrating air power of the three nations, strengthening cooperation and partnership, and joint participation in high-intensity exercises, while supporting a free, stable and open Indo-Pacific in compliance with international law.

On August 5th, with approval of the Malaysian authorities, the three Air Force's assets will land in Subang Air Base (Malaysia) for an overnight stopover. This large package will gather more than 20 aircraft, including 12 fighter jets (9 Eurofighter « Typhoons » - 5 German and 4 Spanish – and 3 French « Rafale »), 5 A330 Multi-role Transport Tankers (MRTT) and 6 A400M military transport aircraft.

The three Air Forces of PACIFIC SKIES 2024 are honoured to be welcomed by Malaysia and express their most sincere gratitude for the essential support by the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). Being able to use Subang Air Base facilities is pivotal for the successful deployment activities of PACIFIC SKIES 2024 and provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the interoperability between the RMAF and the Air Forces of the three EU member states. This cooperation underlines our significant mutual trust and shared interest in the pursuit of regional security and stability.

## **France**

France is a nation of the Indo-Pacific, with overseas territories and more than 1.6 million citizens living in the region. Consequently, and on top of its permanent military presence in the Indo-Pacific, France achieves deployments from the mainland on regular basis. The French Air and Space Force has been performing large scale deployments in the area on an annual basis since 2018, namely PEGASE missions (except during COVID). It will be the third time Malaysia welcomes the French Air Force for such a deployment, this year on a trinational basis.

Weblink to the French Air and Space Force Press kit:

[https://www.defense.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/air/DP%20Pegase%202024\\_UK\\_v2\\_web.pdf](https://www.defense.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/air/DP%20Pegase%202024_UK_v2_web.pdf)

Social network:

- Instagram : @armedelair // @mission\_pegase // @armeefrancaise
- Facebook : Armée de l’Air et de l’Espace
- X : @EtatMajorFR // @FrenchForces // @Armee\_de\_lair

## **Germany**

Since the publication of its Policy Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific in 2020, Germany’s commitment to the Indo-Pacific region intensified constantly. This specifically applies to the cooperation between the Malaysian and German Armed Forces. The dimension of PACIFIC SKIES 2024 is unprecedented in size and ambition for the German Air Force. The German EUROFIGHTER jets will be led by the German Air Chief, and it is the very first time in history that German fighter jets will touch Malaysian soil.

Weblink to German Air Force PACIFIC SKIES 2024:

<https://www.bundeswehr.de/en/organization/german-air-force/pacific-skies-24->

Social network:

- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/team\\_luftwaffe](https://www.instagram.com/team_luftwaffe)
- WhatsApp Channel: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vad5nQXCsU9MoRpK1Q1L>
- X: Team\_Luftwaffe

## **Spain**

The visit for the first time of Spanish Air and Space Force assets to Malaysia, as part of the PACIFIC SKIES 2024, underscores the importance of international cooperation in the realm of defence and security. The close cooperation among our Air Forces strengthens mutual bonds of friendship and understanding, which constitute the main pillars of any endeavour of the kind in one of the world’s most dynamic geopolitical zones.

Weblink to SASF deployment in PACIFIC SKIES 2024:

<https://ejercitodelaire.defensa.gob.es/EA/ae/pacificskies/2024/index.html>

Social network:

<https://linktr.ee/ejercitodelaire>