

ADAPTABILITY IN EASTERN EUROPEAN RESCUE MISSIONS



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AGENDA

- An overview on the purpose of a combat support unit
- Recent operational successes in firefighting, medical evacuation, search and rescue and integration with other government organizations
- Future plans for the squadron: How can we continue interoperability and what are the opportunities for collaboration?

243rd SQN – COMBAT SUPPORT UNIT



Main base:
Prague-Kbely AB
(LKKB)

HEMS detachment:
Pilsen-Líně
(LKLN)

243rd SQN - FLEET

MIL MI-17 / MI-8 (5+1)

- MTOW 13 000 kg
- 22 PAX / 4t cargo

PZL W-3A SOKOL (10)

- MTOW 6400 kg
- 12 PAX / 2,1t cargo



243rd SQN - FLEET

- VFR/IFR day/night, de-icing
- hoist, searchlight, SAR DF
- bambi bucket

- no armament or SP
- no secured COMM, IFF
- cockpit is not NVG compatible



243rd SQN - TASKS

HEMS (KR07)

- (3'/10' readiness 24/7) – 2x W-3A
- FLIGHT CREW (3) + MED CREW (2)
- 2 fully life supported lying patients

2023: 887 scrambles / 550FH
728 patients



243rd SQN - TASKS

SEARCH AND RESCUE

(20'/30' readiness 24/7) – 1x Mi-17
FLIGHT CREW (3) + RESCUEMEN (2)
+ URNA, ECMO

Average 20 scrambles per year
+ cca 200 FH training



243rd SQN - TASKS

H120

(120' readiness 24/7) – 1x W-3A

FLIGHT CREW (3)

- Transplantation program
- Support of IRS
- ...



243rd SQN - TASKS

- VIP flights
- cargo flights
- paradrops
- firefighting
- support of training
- radiation monitoring
- reconnaissance
- ...



243rd SQN - DEPLOYMENTS

2020/21: COVID 19



243rd SQN - DEPLOYMENTS

2022: BOHEMIAN-SAXON SWITZERLAND NATIONAL PARK FIRE



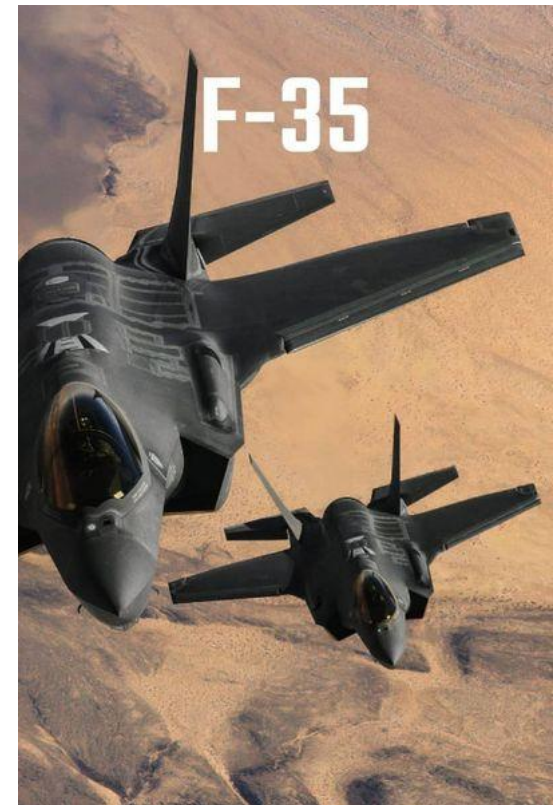
243rd SQN - DEPLOYMENTS

1997, 2002, 2010, 2024: FLOODS



FUTURE? - CONTEXT

Armed forces transformation



FUTURE? - WISHLIST

Capabilities we miss:

- NVG !
- modern SAR DF
- FLIR
- phone location system
- Doorguns + SP
- IFF, secured COMM

Possible solutions:

- New medium-lift helicopter?
- Modernized Mi-171?
- W-3A overhaul and upgrade?

WHAT WE CAN DO TO REMAIN RELEVANT?

MODERNIZATION

- Platform independent solutions
- Prioritization

INTEGRATION

- Teaming with police helicopters - SEARCH (FLIR) and RESCUE..(men)
- Phone location by fire squad
- Effective sharing of assets between resorts

WHAT WE CAN DO TO REMAIN RELEVANT?

BYPASS WEAKNESSES

- NVG in non-compatible cockpit
- iPad apps

TRAINING

- Complex scenarios
 - Synthetic training
- + collect data, analyse → system!





NEVÝSTUPTE OKÉNEMÍ (DVEŘÍ)
POČASÍ NEVÝSTUPTE
3. ČASNEJŠÍ PŘÍKAZ

EMERGENCY EXIT
1. TURN THE HANDLE
2. PULL THE DOOR IN

CZECH AIR FORCE

QUESTIONS?