

DIA DE LA HISPANIDAD

REPORT BY LOWPASS AVIATION



Día de la Hispanidad commemorates the discovery of America by Cristobal Colón (Columbus) on 12 October 1492. On this day, 27 countries on five continents celebrate the bond with Spain. In Spain, this day is mainly dominated by the Spanish Empire that arose after Columbus discovered America. The Spanish empire kept getting bigger and more powerful and was the most influential country in the world at that time. This national holiday is celebrated throughout the country with special activities,

such as parades and bullfights. In Zaragoza, 12 October is also the day of the 'Virgen de Pilar' and is accompanied by many festivities and processions in the city. 12 October is also a special day for the Guardia Civil as the 'Virgen de Pilar' is their patron saint. In the Spanish capital Madrid, a large military parade takes place which starts in Plaza de Cuzco and goes along Paseo de Castellana (next to Madrid's football stadium) towards Plaza San Juan de la Cruz. After this parade, a large Spanish flag is raised.

Among the hundreds of thousands of people that are watching this parade is King Felipe VI with his wife Queen Letizia and their children Leonor and Sofie and also, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. Next to the parade on the ground, there is also a large flyby of formations of helicopters, aircraft, and fighter jets. For this flyby, Lowpass Aviation was welcomed at the air bases Getafe, Cuatro Vientos, and Torrejon.



Spanish Armada Escuadrilla 009, EAV-8B Harrier

GETAFE AIRBASE

Getafe AB is located 14 km south of Madrid and was founded in 1911. In the summer of 1957, the airbase was also in military use. Today, Getafe AB is home to Ala 35 (Casa 295), Centro Cartográfico y Fotográfico (Cn-235, Ce-560, and Beech C-90), and a detachment of Ala 48 (Cn-235MPA). There is also a large factory that is part of the European Group EADS which carries out maintenance of various aircraft of the Spanish Air Force as well as programs for the improvement and modernization of these aircraft.

From the based units, one Ce-560, one Cn-235MPA, and two Casa 295s participated in the flyby. Visiting units at the Getafe airbase that participated in the flyby were the national jet display team Patrulla Aguila with eight Casa 101s, 792 Esc with nine PC-21s, and 721 Esc with two Casa 212s.



Above: CASA CN235MPA-100 assigned to Ala 37 at Villanubla AB which maintains the Spanish Air Force's CN235MPA-100s. The aircraft SAR aircraft are pooled at Villanubla AB and are dispatched from there to the SAR units.



Left: This CASA C-212 is assigned to 721 Sqn at Alcantarilla AB. The tail's special paint scheme is to commemorate the 1.500.000th paratrooper jump.





The advanced trainer aircraft Pilatus PC-21 replaced the CASA C-101 Avrojet of the Academia General del Aire (Spanish Air Force Academy) at San Javier AB.



This Cessna 560 Citation V (Ce560) is assigned to the 'Centro Cartográfico y Fotográfico' and is used for calibration missions.



TORREJÓN AIRBASE

Torrejón AB base is located in the northeast of the city center and was originally the home of the Spanish National Institute of Aeronautics. On 26 September 1953, the 'Pact of Madrid' was signed and construction began at Torrejón. The grass airstrip was replaced by a concrete runway and other necessary maintenance and shelter facilities were performed to accommodate the largest United States Air Force (USAF) bomber aircraft. The new runway was 4.100 m long and was Europe's longest runway at that time. On 1 July 1957, the first USAF unit was activated at Torrejón AB. Until 1982, various USAF units were based there. Since the establishment of Torrejón AB, it was also used by the Spanish Air Force itself. Currently, the airbase is home to Ala 12 (EF-18), Grupo 43 (CL-215 and CL-415), Grupo 45 (Falcon 900, A-310, and A-330), Grupo Mixto 47 (Falcon 20), CLAEX (C-101 and Casa 295), and the Guardia Civil (BK-117, EC-135, AS-365, Beech 350, and Cn-235 Vigma).

From the Torrejón-based units five EF-18s, one Falcon 900, one A-310, one A-330, one CL-215, two CL-415s, one EC-135, two AS-365s, and one Cn-235 Vigma participated in the flyby. Visiting units that participated in the flyby were Ala 15 with one EF-18BM, Ala 14 with four EF-2000s, Ala 23 with three SF-5Ms, Salvamento Marítimo with one Cn-235, and the Spanish Armada, Eslla 009 with five EAV-8Bs.



The Canadair CL-215T and CL-415 aerial fire fighting amphibious aircraft are operated by Grupo 43 at Torrejón AB.



EF-18BM assigned to 15 Ala at Zaragoza AB.



Single-seat EF-18M and two-seat EF-18BM assigned to Ala 12 at Torrejón AB.



Main image: SF-5M Freedom Fighter assigned to Ala 23 at Talavera AB.

Insets: EF2000 Typhoon assigned to Ala 14 at Albacete AB.





Top: AS365N3 *Dauphin* of the Guardia Civil.
Above left: CASA CN235M VIGMA of the Guardia Civil.
Above right: CASA CN235-300MPA of the Salvamento Marítimo.



Falcon 900B (**main image**), Airbus A310-304 (**inset right**) assigned to 451 Sqn, and Airbus A330-202 (**inset left**) assigned to 452 Sqn. Both squadrons are part of Grupo 45 at Torrejón AB.



CUATRO VIENTOS AIRBASE

Cuatro Vientos AB base is located 8 km south west of the city center. The translation of Cuatro Vientos into English is Four Winds. The airbase was established in 1911, twenty years before Barajas was established and thus, is considered the "cradle" of Spanish aviation. Originally, the airbase was constructed as a base for the Spanish Air Force but became a joint military / civilian airport in the 1970s. Since then, the civilian side of the airport has almost exclusively been used by flying clubs, privately owned small planes, and the Spanish Policia Nacional. On the military side of the airport is the Museum of Aeronautics and Astronautics, an air museum dedicated to the historical heritage of the Spanish Air Force. Today, Cuatro Vientos AB is home to 402 Esc (AS-332) and 803 Esc (NH-90).

Of these, one AS-332 and two NH-90s participated in the flyby. Visiting units that participated in the flyby were:

- Spanish Air Force
 - Patrulla Aspa with six EC-120s,
- Spanish Naval Aviation (Arma Aérea de la Armada)
 - Escuadrilla 003 with one AB-212,
 - Escuadrilla 010 with one SH-60B and one SH-60F,
- Spanish Army Aviation (Fuerza Aéromoviles del Ejercito de Tierra – FAMET)
 - Centro de Ensenanca de las FAMET (CEFAMET) with two EC-135s,
 - Battalion de Helicópteros de Ataque I (BHeIA I) with three Tigers,
 - Battalion de Helicópteros de Manoibra III (BHeIMa III) with three NH-90s,
 - Battalion de Helicópteros de Transporte V (BHeITra V) with four CH-47s
- and the Salvamento Maritimo with one AW-139.



Spanish Army CH-47F *Chinook* assigned to BHeITra V at Colmenar Viejo airfield.



SH-60F Seahawk (main image) and SH-60B Seahawk (inset left) assigned to Escuadron 010 at Rota AB and AW-139 (inset right) of Salvamento Marítimo.

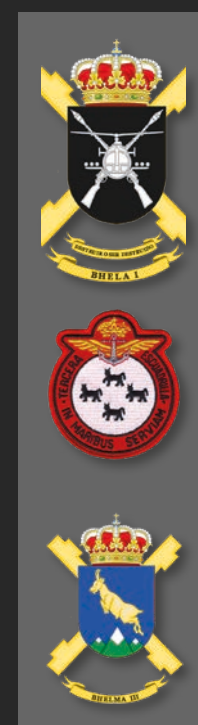


Spanish Air Force AS332M1 Puma of 402 Squadron at Cuatro Vientos AB.



Spanish Air Force NH90-TTH of to 803 Squadron at Cuatro Viento.





Top: Spanish Army Aviation Tiger HAD assigned to BHela I at Almagro airfield.
Above left: Spanish Navy AB-212 assigned to 9 Squadron at Naval Air Station Rota.
Above right: Spanish Army Aviation NH90-TTH assigned to BHelMa III at Almagro airfield.