

7 Air Forces under Blue Flag 2017

“Building coalitions, sharing knowledge”



An Israeli F-16I taxis past the flags of all the Blue Flag participants

The third edition of the biennial Blue Flag exercise took place between 2 and 16 November 2017 at Ovda Air Base, in southern Israel. The airbase, established in 1982, is perfectly suitable for large-scale exercises with close proximity to various ranges, low-level flying areas and ability to simulate Surface-to-Air

Missile (SAM) threats. The airport is a shared civilian/military airport, but for the two-week exercise all civilian airlines traffic was cancelled. *Blue Flag 2017* is the largest international aviation exercise the Israeli Air Force has hosted to date, with over 100 aircraft and 1,000 personnel from eight countries, the organisation took over

a year with a large conference during June 2017 to finalise preparations. The exercise is held across the entire southern part of Israel. During the missions the airspace is unlimited available for the participants with no limitations in altitude or speed. Flying operations are conducted with two missions a day (Sunday-Thursday) by the



Greek F-16 taxiing out at Ovda