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RIAT TO WELCOME BACK OLD FLAMES

AN AEROBATIC display team that attended only the second International Air Tattoo in 1972 is set to return to the UK this summer to mark the 40th anniversary of what has since become the world's largest military air show.

Les Diables Rouges (The Red Devils) aerobatic display team, part of the Belgian Air Force, will be taking part in the Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire on July 16 and 17.

In 1972, the two-ship team took part in the tattoo when it was staged at North Weald airfield. The pilots flew Fouga Magisters. Five years later, the team was disbanded.

However, the Red Devils have now reformed, flying SF-260 aircraft, and they plan to return to the Air Tattoo in the summer to celebrate their historic links with the air show. →



AOPA MAKES IMPORTANT "BREAKTHROUGH"

THE SOUTH African chapter of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) recently made what its president, Koos Marais, described as "an important breakthrough" as far as its negotiations regarding the "infamous" MAN 49 document is concerned.

In a statement emailed to *World Airnews*, Marais said: "Hundreds of aircraft owners have experienced high levels of frustration because of the infamous MAN 43, a document of draconian nature which was issued by SA Civil Aviation Authority last year. This notice was abused by many inspectors and aircraft owners were forced to apply for unnecessary and expensive modification approvals for equipment which had been installed decades previously.

"After several meetings and presentations by ourselves, in particular by exco member Reinie Guldenpfennig, this MAN document has now been repealed or modified, he said, adding: "Firstly, the amnesty has been extended to October 2011 (it would have expired at the end of April). Also, the administration has been moved from the certification department to the airworthiness department which, in itself, has the potential to solve many of the problems. →

"And finally, a concise and simplified process has been published on the SACAA's website. It is now up to our members and the AMOs to make full use of the amnesty and to get the paper work in order," Marais wrote.

He added that AOPA had consistently said that it had been experiencing a general improvement in the service levels and especially the relationship between its members, the clients, and the SACAA staff since the beginning of 2011. →

FIRST F.406 FOR TUNISIA

THE FIRST aircraft produced since the restructuring of Reims Aviation Industries by GECI International, was delivered recently to its Tunisian operator, the Office of Tourism and Cartography, which depends on the Ministry of Defence.

On its arrival at Tunis, the F406 aircraft was welcomed by managers of the Tunisian OTC as well as officials of Reims Aviation Industries. The mapping equipment on board was supplied by the Institut Geographique National and Intergraph.

The F.406 twin turboprop aircraft, is particularly suited to light airborne surveillance, especially with the integration of latest generation systems. →