



336 Squadron "Olympos" recently has participated into a big event in the Netherlands and especially in Volkel Air Base. A big fan of 336 Squadron describes the experience of meeting a real Corsair from near distance. He is Kevin and not only a big fan of 336 Squadron but also the man who triggered the request for their participation in the Air Show at Volkel.

Feel free to enjoy his journey ...

### **THE CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS MILITARY AVIATION AT VOLKEL AB, THE NETHERLANDS.**

#### **KEVIN VAN DER SLUIS' TRIP REPORT**

**13 JUNE 2013**

It all started in the early morning when I was waiting for details of the (2x) HAF A-7 Corsair arrivals at Volkel AB. Luckily I have friends in Greece which were able to give me current updates for the A-7 departure. They could even tell that the black A-7 "Olympos" would come. Could it get any better?? I would see Hellenic A-7s roar over Volkel AB, including my favourite A-7 within 336SQ!! I figured out I needed 1½ hour to get to Volkel AB and the A-7s at approximately 2 hours from Araxos AB so I had to get ready...

09:48 local time assuming that they have already taken off, prepared with my camera and wearing my 336SQ flight jacket, I was able to drive off seconds later. I arrived at 11:33 local time and desperately was looking for the right spot to have a nice view on the runway. Finally I managed to reach a perfect spot at a guard fence, but I had to go through a crops field first.

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There were a dozen people at that particular spot and heard them say the A-7s still had to arrive. “YESSSS, I mad it on time!!” After being 15 minutes at the spot it happened. First a TA-7C came in at low level and a few seconds later “Olympos”. Due to the relative high fence I had difficulties getting the pictures at their final approach but I managed to focus and take pictures. After seeing some other planes arrive at Volkel AB I went home. I had seen the A-7s in action and that definitely worth the trip!

### 14 JUNE 2013

Again I woke up in the early morning to drive to Volkel AB, this time for the official show. At approximately 06:45 my father and I drove off. Short after we arrived at Volkel AB one of my RNLAf contacts called on my cell phone, saying he had arrange a military vent and we should be able to get close to the A-7s for a short moment. I remember I told my father to shoot as many pictures as he could from me and “Olympos”

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After the VIP treatment we were returned to our starting Point and continued to see the other planes on static. This time behind the barriers.

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MIG-17

(Polish Air Force)

Rafale

(French Air Force)

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F-18 Hornet

(Finnish Air Force)

F-16

RNLAF

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F-16

RNLAF

F-4 Phantom

(German Air Force)

Finally we decided to setup our camp close to the HAF A-7s in the grass and watch the show.

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Patrouille Suisse

(Swiss Air Force)

Red Arrows

(Royal Air Force)

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Su-22 Fitter

(Polish Air Force)

RAMEX Delta Mirage M-2000N

(French Air Force)

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F-4 Phantom

(German Air Force)

Saab Viggen

(Swedish Air Force)

During the show I saw 336SQ crew doing some checks at the A-7s so I decided to take a closer look. Perhaps I could make a picture with them.....

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YESSSSS!!!! I met the A-7 pilots!! After the pictures I decided to take a short walk on the Air Base, just to see if 336SQ was present at the promotion stands. After seeing almost every stand twice I found a small table covered with a flag from Hellas and 336SQ crew all around it. This was my lucky day!!! When I came close I noticed they saw me coming, most probable due to my t-shirt. I had a chat with the crew and had a great time. I think they liked my 336SQscarf as well.

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Of course I bought some 336SQ stuff and received a nice poster. To my surprise they asked me to come back later. If security would allow it, they would take me to "Olympos" to sit inside the plane.

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WOWWW.... Sit in "Olympos".... Really??.....

When I returned a little later at the spot where I left my father, I told him what just happened. I think he also couldn't believe it himself. After some time I returned to the promotion stand and they took me on a magical ride...

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After the pictures I couldn't thank the crew enough for their gift!!!! I wouldn't forget this ride... NEVER!!!! I proudly returned home. I can't remember when I stopped smiling.... The next day?



### Personal note:

With this trip report I'd like to thank all people who made the presence of HAF 336SQ and their A-7 Corsairs possible. It gave me great personal happiness to see the A-7 so closely and met such a kind and dedicated crew!!!



**THANK YOU ALL**  
**Kevin van der Sluis**