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If you say Historic SAABs, you mind will probably turn to the 4 wheeled variety first and maybe aeroplanes second

The minds of the organisers of this year's RAF Waddington International Air Show have been fixed firmly on the historic aircraft variety and after many months of negotiation and planning we are delighted to announce the Swedish Air Force Historic Flight's debut at RAF Waddington International Air Show.



This year will see, for the very first time, the flight fly their SK60 , Tunan and the mighty SAAB JA37 Viggen in the skies above RAF Waddington. Powered by a Volvo RM8B Turbofan engine, the Viggen first took to the skies on the 27th March 1967 and is capable of reaching speeds of up to twice the speed of sound. The Viggen was Sweden's first line of defence during the cold war period carrying out Strike, Air Defence and reconnaissance missions. It is capable of operating from standard airfields, as well as the unique system of deployed bases where public roads are used as runways throughout Sweden. The Swedish Air Force Historic flight (SwAFHF) Viggen was withdrawn from service in 2007 and after 5 years of restoration took to the skies again in March 2012, wearing the colour scheme of the earliest examples.

The Viggen will be joined by some of SAAB's other Jet aircraft including the SK60, a training and Light Attack aircraft, which is still in service with the Swedish Air Force and the Austrian Air Force. The trio will be completed by the Saab 29 Tunnan, an aircraft with its history rooted in the earliest days of jet powered flight. The Tunnan first flew in 1948, being designed from a mix of UK, German and US technology, due to its odd shape it became known as the 'flying barrel'.

The SwAFHF operate a range of aircraft, keeping Swedish aviation history alive across Europe. With a strong presence at this year's show the historic lines of Swedish aviation can be compared with their modern day equivalents - with the Viggin's successor the JAS 39C Gripen from the Czech Air Force in the flying display and a range of SAAB ISTAR aircraft including the SAAB 2000 Swordfish and SAAB 340 AEW 'Erieye' on the static display.

Editor: Paul Sall

Photograph:

Viggen.

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