

06 DEC 1999

LIMA-Home

LIMA PARTICIPANTS, AIRCRAFT LEAVE FOR HOME

LANGKAWI, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- Aircraft which took part in the LIMA '99 show here began their exodus from the island with the intermittent roar of jets taking off from the international airport at Padang Matsirat throughout the day.

Among the first to leave were the pair of United States Air Force F-15 Eagle accompanied by a four-engined tanker aircraft.

They were followed by the nine Hawks belonging to the British Royal Air force Red Arrows aerobatic team which flew to Bangkok for their trip home and the turbo propeller planes of the Royal Australian Air Force "Roulettes" team heading towards Singapore on their way Down Under.

MiG-29 fighters of the Royal Malaysian Air Force also left for their home bases today.

Organisers of the six-day Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (LIMA '99), which ended yesterday, said about 100 military and commercial aircraft took part in the show.

A Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) spokesman told Bernama the weather was overcast with low clouds and rain until afternoon but most of these sophisticated aircraft were robust and equipped to fly in all weather conditions.

The DCA official said the Russian Sukhoi fighters, including the highly rated Su-30KI from KNAAPO which displayed their awesome capability outside their country for the first time at LIMA, would be leaving tomorrow.

He said half of the Russian contingent of some 500 people left for home onboard a chartered Aeroflot airliner in the evening. About 30 Russian companies took part in the exhibition, making Russia the largest country participant.

A aircraft services company official said usually it would take a couple of days for the participants to move their personnel and equipment out of the exhibition areas.

The show, opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Dec 1, attracted some 1,000 companies from about 40 countries.

The maritime segment of LIMA was organised by HW LIMA while the aerospace section was organised by Le Proton Lima.

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