RAF RED ARROWS CHINA FINALE

A ninth and final display in China has been performed by the Red Arrows.

The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team finished with a spectacular flypast involving all nine jets trailing red smoke, to draw an end to its six-day appearance at Airshow China in Zhuhai on 5 November.

The displays at the event have made history, being the first time the Red Arrows have visited China and taking the number of countries in which the squadron has performed to 57 since 1965.

Squadron Leader David Montenegro, Team Leader and Red 1, said: ‘The team has flown nine public displays in China, in six days. In my time as Team Leader that is a first. China has offered a beautiful display site at Zhuhai. To fly those displays back-to-back has been a real pleasure. Every single day the weather has been great.’

The visit to China forms part of a major, 60-day tour to the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions by the Red Arrows. It is the team’s largest overseas tour in almost a decade and is aimed at supporting and promoting UK interests across defence, industry, trade and education.

Sqn Ldr Montenegro added: ‘To deliver aircraft ready for every display, we have travelled 9,000 miles, with more than 100 personnel within the team and many from several other organisations working for months to plan this tour. What that work has delivered is twelve serviceable aircraft into China for the very first time for the Red Arrows, and indeed the Royal Air Force. It takes an enormous amount of teamwork and every one of the team has played a part - whether you are the 18-year-old apprentice or more experienced. It has been so enjoyable to be a part of this team.’

After leaving China the Red Arrows were continuing with displays or flypasts in India, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

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