

Summary

The History of the Airport of Niš – 95th Anniversary

The air command of the Supreme Command headquarters of the Army of the Kingdom of Serbia was founded on 24th December (on 11th according to the old Julian calendar) in 1912, in the surrounding of Niš. Aviation was situated at the airport of Trupale, Balloon company in the village of Medoševac and Gradsko polje, Hydrogen headquarters and Carrier pigeons (stations in Niš and Pirot) in the village of Medoševac. The first military airport in Serbia was built in the area of Utrine (the district of the village Trupale), eight kilometers from Niš. Six prefabricated hangars – tents of the “Besono” type, then hangars for airplanes and the technical workshop of solid material were erected. Motor pool and the technical support unit were also formed.

Serbia is among 15 countries in the world which have their own air force. With its 12 airplanes, Serbia has more powerful air force than the USA, Spain etc. The Serbs were the first to use the airplanes in war, thus gaining the combat experience. Serbia is one of the five countries whose pilots entered the First World War with previous war experience. According to all standards, it is very powerful. **The airport of Niš celebrates its 80th anniversary, a long tradition of sports aeronautics and the 8th decade of the civil air traffic.**

The rich aeronautic history of Niš, sends a message of the visionary step in the development of Serbian aviation. It is now the question whether those who make decisions about our aviation today will hear this message of the history. It seems they WILL NOT! In the period of May-June 2007, the air base, as well as the helicopter regiment, were abolished. What remains is the smaller air background and helicopter unit as a part of a new 98th aviation base of the airport Ladjevci (Kraljevo). It seems that this reduction is not the only one. The tradition dating back to 1912 has not been taken into account, the already proved combat advantage of the airport in Niš: strategic, operative and tactical. The same goes with its importance when it comes to the security risks that the republic of Serbia may have. The civil part of the airport in Niš is being developed, despite the lack of understanding of the authorities. The history will show why and who for the military part of the famous airport in Niš is being emptied.