

Combined Rescue '95



WITHIN THE PARTNERSHIP for Peace (PfP) framework, the first US/Hungarian Search and Rescue exercise was held at Szentkiralyzabadja, Hungary, during July 16-23, 1995, hosted by the based Bakony Combat Helicopter Regiment.

The US was represented by two MH-53J Pave Low II helicopters from the 21st Special Operations Squadron (SOS) based at RAF Mildenhall with SAR crews; and two AFRes C-130E Hercules transport aircraft from the 327th ALS based at Willow Grove ARS, Pennsylvania, in addition to 140 USAF personnel. The Hungarian contingent included 348 Air Force personnel, nine medium helicopters (Mi-8 and Mi-17) and four SAR crews.

The purpose of the exercise was to prepare the Hungarian Home Defence Forces for a larger NATO/PfP exercise, scheduled for 1996, by planning, co-ordinating and preparing techniques, procedures and regulations currently in use with NATO.

It also gave the US and Hungarian Forces a chance to gain experience in operating each other's equipment; their SAR procedures; and techniques in conducting combined operations.

The participating forces arrived on Sunday, July 16 — two MH-53J Pave Low II helicopters being met at the border by two Mi-24 Hinds and an Mi-8 Hip to be escorted to Szentkiralyzabadja.



Above: *Mi-8Hip 2656 flying above Szentkiralyzabadja air base after a successful casualty exercise.* (Christiaan Sap/MIAS)

The opening ceremony on the following day featured a number of distinguished guests, including the Commander of the US Special Operations Force Group, James I Gadsden.

The second and third day of the exercise were concerned with equipment familiarisation, as well as ground and airborne training, which included paradrops from C-130s, MH-53Js and Mi-8/17s. Instrument and visual SAR missions were conducted on July 20 and there was a rehearsal for the next day.



Above: *An MH-53J and Mi-8 waiting to pick up paratroopers at Point 0 — where the major part of the training and exercise activities were carried out.* (Carlo Brummer/MIAS)



Above: *C-130E 63-7883 of the 327th ALS based at Willow Grove, Pennsylvania — the unit provided two examples for support duties.* (Carlo Brummer/MIAS)