



Macedonia - Mi-17 (left and above), Mi-SMT (below)

In 1994, Macedonia acquired four Mi-17 'Hips' helicopters from the Ukraine. Because of the arms embargo they were delivered with civil registrations. The Security Council excluded Macedonia in 1996 from the UN arms embargo and, shortly after, all four Mi-17s were painted in camouflage schemes and received military serials. When the crisis between Albanian terrorists and Macedonian Government forces broke out in March 2001, Macedonia received four Mi-SMTs. Having taken part in CK'00, Macedonia returned to the Co-operative Key exercise cycle at Saint-Dizier and, besides one of the originally delivered 'Hips', one of the former Ukrainian combat helicopters was also present, complete with self-defence flare package attached to the tail boom.



Croatia - Mi-8MTV (left)

A first timer in the 2002 Co-operative Key exercise at Saint-Dizier in France was the participation of Croatia with an Mi-8MTV. Following positive results, Croatia plans to participate in the CK'03 exercise to be held in Bulgaria with an additional An-26, and perhaps even some of its MiG-21s.

Slovenia - Bell 412 (right)

Regular CK participants are the Bell 412s from the 15 Brigada Vojskega Letalstva/Heleokopterska Eskadrila at Ljubljana-Brnik, which are used for transport, border patrol and SAR. During CK'02 at Saint-Dizier 10 NATO and 12 PIP countries brought together 29 fighters, 12 transport aircraft and 20 helicopters. New exercise elements were the establishment of a field air operations centre (AOC) and the introduction of night (air) operations for the more experienced participants. The assessment programme was eliminated and CIMIC operations were downsized.

