



Romania – IAR-330 SOCAT (above)

The Israeli company Elbit Systems Ltd was selected as foreign system supplier in 1994, and in September 1995, IAR S.A. signed the contract for the upgrade of 24 IAR-330L Pumas with the Sistem Optic de Cautare si lupta Anti-Tanc (Anti-tank Optronic Search and Combat System) or SOCAT system. At the heart of the upgrade are a new integrated mission management system, a new 'glass' cockpit and digital avionics, advanced sensors, a Modular Integrated Display and Sight Helmet (MIDASH) for day/night observation and target acquisition, an integrated navigation, armament and attack system plus a completely new weapon suite. For CK02 two SOCATs operated mainly in the CSAR escort role.



Romania – IAR-330L (above and right)
The Cooperative Key series began in Romania in October 1996, hosted by the 90th Otopeni Air Transportation base with a total of 12 nations and eight helicopters and transport aircraft taking part. Among them were the Romanian IAR-330L Pumas. In 1974 a license-agreement was reached with Aérospatiale to build the SA 330L Puma in Romania, and since then 104 IAR-330Ls have been produced under license by IAR Brasov for delivery to the Romanian Air Force, which uses them for transport and SAR. During the second CK exercise hosted by Romania – CK00 held at Mihail Kogalniceanu airbase – the participant numbers rose to 650 personnel and 50 aircraft from 15 NATO and PIP countries. Here the new element of assessment was introduced for the first time.



Moldova – Mi-BMTV-1 (left)

CK 1998 was held in July of that year at three different locations in Turkey and involved six NATO nations and eight PIP nations contributing some 46 aircraft in six types of missions. New elements, such as a multinational combined air operations centre (MNCAOC), air defence and 'No-fly' zone enforcement missions, were introduced. During this exercise Moldova sent observers but no aircraft. During CK'00 a Moldovan Antonov An-72 'Coaler' participated, and during CK'02 at Saint-Dizier a single Mi-BMTV-1 made its appearance, coming from the Mixed Aviation Group at Mankulesthy.