



MAESTRO MODELS J-35S Draken DK-215 "Last Flight"

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Finnish Air Force 1972 - 2000



THE LAST FINNISH DRAKEN

The final flight made by a Saab 35S Draken, DK-215, was made on 16th August 2000, by Captain Mika Tuiku in a specially painted aircraft.

After 28 years the Draken was retired from service in the Finnish Air Force during a ceremony at Rovaniemi Air Base in northern Finland. Seven Drakens were flown, five Saab 35S Drakens, one 35FS Draken and one two-seat 35CS Draken which was flown by the Commander in Chief of the Finnish Air Force, General Jouni Pystynen. The last Draken flown was DK-215, which was painted black on the undersurface and nose cone and vellow on the upper surfaces. Over the upper surfaces of the wing is a large grey and black buffalo, the squadron badge of Hävittäjälentolaivue 1, whilst on left side of the fin is 1972000. On the right side of the fin is the squadron badge repeated in the more usual style of buffalo on a yellow shield with a green outline. Capt. Tuisku performed an eighteen-minute aerobatic display.

colourfully painted "last" Drakens.

It is hoped that this aircraft will be passed to a museum for preservation as has happened to two of Sweden's References Air Forces Monthly July 2000, and October 2000. Syhart Decal website: www.syhartdecal.fr Email: webmaster@syhartdecal.fr

