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Thailand receives first batch of Gripen fighters

The Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) has now taken delivery of six Gripen C/D fighters. These aircraft belong to the first batch ordered in 2008. In total, Thailand has ordered 12 Gripen.

The Gripen fighters were flown from Sweden to Thailand and arrived to their new home base at Wing 7 in Surat Thani in southern Thailand on 22 February.

The six Gripen fighters are part of an intergovernmental business transaction where FMV, the Swedish Defence Material Administration, representing the Government of Sweden, supplies an integrated air-defence system based on products manufactured by Saab. The new air-defence system consist of Gripen, the Airborne Early Warning system Saab 340 Erieye AEW and a command & control system.

In preparation for the delivery of the Gripen fighters, pilots and ground crew from the Royal Thai Air Force have been trained in Sweden during 2010.

For further information, please contact:

Saab Press Centre,
+46 734 180 018
presscentre@saabgroup.com

www.saabgroup.com

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