Vojenský historický ústav Praha

Among the very interesting and unique exhibits of the Aviation Museum of the VHÚ, a special transport helicopter Mil Mi-8 P has recently been included, designed to transport up to eighteen passengers and crew. However, it differs fundamentally from other machines of this version in a number of details, the most striking of which were the round windows of the passenger cabin and only one side emergency exit.

This helicopter was originally manufactured in 1983 at the parent Buryat plant in Ulan-Ude as Mil Mi-9, which was the designation for a special flying command post, providing communication and command between the ground forces and the air force with extensive radio equipment. The machine equipped in this way was then delivered as the only one to the then Czechoslovakia and assigned to VÚ 5579 Bechyně at the beginning of 1984.

It was apparently not used much for its special purpose, because as of July 10, 1997, it had flown only 409 hours. In the meantime, it flew with units in Pilsen, Prostějov and Přerov. After the second overhaul at the Kbely Aircraft Repair Shop, it was permanently assigned to VÚ 8407 Prague in July 2003. Subsequently, at the beginning of 2004, the special equipment for the Mi-9 was dismantled from it and during another overhaul, this time at LOM PRAHA, completed in October 2010, it was modified to the Mi-8P version by installing special equipment for transport helicopters, at which time it also received a new "transport" color scheme.

In its new role, it flew relatively often within the 24th Transport Air Force Base in Prague-Kbely until October 2017. At that time, its operation was terminated with a total flight time of 4,344 hours and 13 minutes. This interesting helicopter was then offered to the VHÚ collection and officially transferred to it in November 2021, to then become an exhibit in the outdoor exhibition of the VHÚ Aviation Museum.