

50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE F-4E PHANTOM II
IN THE TURKISH AIR FORCE

1974



2024



Turkish Air Force
2024

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“THE FUTURE IS IN THE SKIES”

K. Atatürk



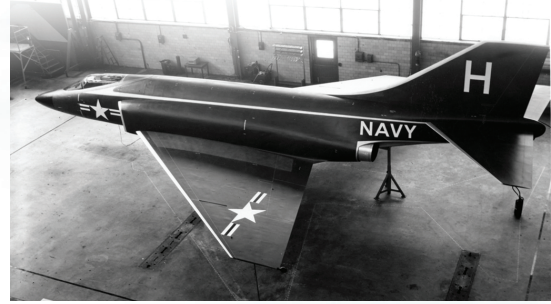
1. INTRODUCTION OF F-4E PHANTOM II AIRCRAFT INTO THE TURKISH AIR FORCE INVENTORY

F4-E Phantom II is a double seat, double engine, jet fighter bomber aircraft which was manufactured for the United States of America and for many other countries by the McDonnell Aircraft Cooperation (later McDonnell-Douglas Cooperation). When it came out of production in 1979, more than 5.000 phantoms were manufactured and it became one of the most successful fighter aircraft since The Second World War until now.

The tension between Türkiye and Greece because of Cyprus and the decision of Greece in 1972 to purchase the F4-E Phantom II aircraft which was one of the most modern fighter aircraft of that period, brought forward the issue of meeting the requirement of Turkish Air Force having modern and strong aircraft.

In 1972, it was determined that 40 F4-E Phantom II aircraft and its related systems were going to be purchased for the Turkish Air Force. Project studies about the subject stated on August 07, 1972 and on 14 August 1972, an agreement was signed between the Turkish and American government's Military Representatives.

In order for the personnel requirements to be met for the new aircraft to be purchased, 8 officers (Pilot), 4 officers (Weapons System Operators), 2 Aircraft Maintenance officers, 1 Electronic Maintenance officer, 86 non-commissioned officers (misc. specializations), total of 101 personnel were sent to USA between 1973-1974 for training in two groups (first group October 13, 1973 and the second group July 03, 1974). Upon completing their training, the first group came back to the country on February 20, 1974 and the second group on October 14, 1974.





First F-4E Phantom II to Enter Turkish Air Force Inventory



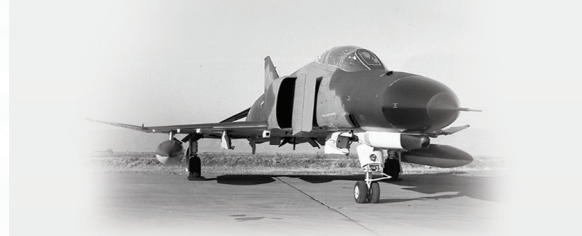
Furthermore, in order to provide national training of the personnel who are to be employed for the F4-E aircraft, a Mobile Training Device command was established within the structure of the 1st Main Jet Base (Eskişehir) in 1974.

Trainings started on August 16, 1974 by the instructors of the Mobile Training Device and pilots, Weapon System operators and the personnel who were going to be instructors at this MTD were trained first. Starting from September 04, 1974 Turkish instructors started to give trainings under the supervision of the American instructors and this training system continued for two more semesters and then it started to be conducted by only Turkish instructors.

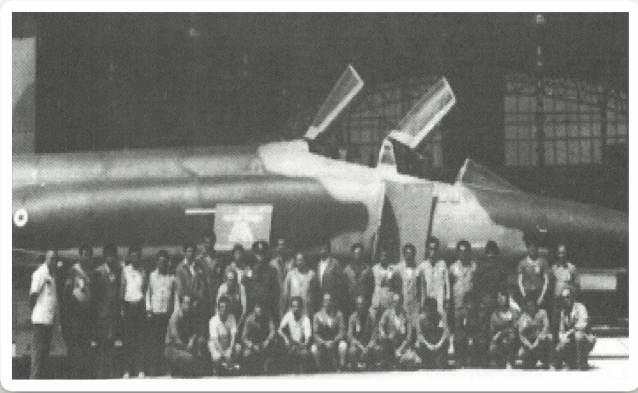
From national budget, the first of the two F4-E Phantom II aircraft out of the lot of 40 were brought to 1st Main Jet Base (Eskişehir) on August 30, 1974 at 14.30 by American pilots.

In 1974, F4-E Phantom II aircraft entered into the inventory and then emerged a need for a new class and in 1974, the Weapon System Operator class was established for the first time. This name was later changed to Weapon System Officer. Since 1974 to date, the Weapon System Officer training program is implemented according to the needs and after the Tayfun Squadron and Şimşek Battalion commands, it continued at Malatya Erhaç, within the structure of the 172nd Squadron Command.

In 1974, 8 F4-E Phantom II aircraft were added to the inventory of Turkish Air Force. Because of the embargo that started in 1975, rest of the 32 F4-E Phantom II aircraft's arrivals were delayed and at the end of 1975, the embargo was partially lifted. The rest of the aircraft were brought to Türkiye.



Pilot Training of F-4E Fliers in the USA, 1973-1974



Painting of Turkish Air Force markings on F/RF-4E aircraft and FASBAT exit



The 1st Main Jet Base Command Squadrons began modernising with F-4E Phantom II aircraft on 30 August 1974.



F-4E Phantom II Aircraft entered the inventory of the Turkish Air Force with the 113rd Squadron (TYPHOON Squadron).



In 1976, it was decided that an additional 32 F4-E and 8 RF-4E aircraft be purchased and the delivery programs for these aircraft started in 1978-1979.

The first F4-E Phantom II which was procured with this project was added to the Turkish Air Force's inventory on April 07, 1998. By the addition of the last aircraft to the inventory of the Turkish Air Force in April 20, 1979, this project was completed.

Later in 1981-1982, 1984-1985 and in 1987, more F4-E Phantom II aircraft were purchased from the USA and they still continue their missions in the Turkish Air Force.

Together with the arrival of the F4-E aircraft, in scope of ammunition, TV guided AGM-65A/B Maverick missiles used for air-ground purposes, Dave Spike laser targeting pod and laser guided 500 and 2000 pounds GBU-10/12 Paveway 1/11 and optical guided 2000 pounds GBU-8 HOBOS bombs were added to the inventory. Turkish Air Force achieved a precision attack capability against air-ground targets for the first time in its history.

As for modern ammunition, half active guided mid-range AIM-7E Sparrow, short range infrared (IR) guided AIM-9B/P Sidewinder series missiles were added to the inventory in order to upgrade Electronic Warfare capabilities and for the aircraft to be protected against ground deployed radar guarded air defense missiles (SAM), ALQ-119 pods, which were effective electronic interference systems (ECM) of that time were added to the inventory. Thanks to the APQ-120 radar, that the F4-E's possessed which were regarded as high technology at that time, the capability to execute interceptor missions under every weather condition, both day and night.



Squadrons Which Executed Missions with F4-E Phantom Aircraft and Their Missions

1st Main Jet Base (Eskişehir)

- 111st Squadron Command “Panther”, (F-4E, F-4E/2020 Interceptor/Bombardment)
- 112nd Squadron Command “Devil”, (F-4E Intercept/Fighter)
- 113rd Squadron Command “Light”, (USAF/GAF RF-4E, reconnaissance)
- 401st Test Squadron Command (F-4E/2020 Test)

3rd Main Jet Base (Konya)

- 131st Squadron Command “Dragon”, (F-4E, Training)
- 132nd Squadron Command “Dagger”, (F-4E, F-4E/2020 Weapon & Tactical)

7th Main Jet Base (Erhaç-Malatya)

- 171st Squadron Command “Pirate” (F-4E, F-4E/202 Terminator/Interceptor/Bombardment)
- 172nd Squadron Command “Falcon”, (F-4E Intercept/Fighter)
- 173rd Squadron Command “Dawn” (GAF, RF-4E, reconnaissance)





2. SQUADRONS WHERE THE F-4E PHANTOM II SERVED

a. 1st Main Jet Base Command (Eskişehir)

(1) 111st Squadron Command “Panther”, (F-4E, F-4E/2020 Interceptor/Bombardment)

In scope of modernizing the striking force components of the Turkish Air Force, the 111st Squadron Command was modernized with F4-E aircraft as of October 23, 1998 and continued to execute their missions on the interceptor-bombardment squadron.

Modernizing the 111st Squadron Command with the F-4E aircraft provided the squadron to achieve an electronic warfare ability and capability.

On February 22, 1999, the first aircraft with the tail number 77-O289 was sent to Israel for modernization.

The modernization of the aircraft of this squadron was completed on January 29, 2001 and the squadron achieved the capability of carrying out interceptor/bombardment missions in every weather condition both day and night with the F-4E/2020 aircraft.

111st Squadron Command is the only squadron command in Turkish Air Force which serves as the interceptor/bombardment role with F-4E/2020 aircraft.







Commander of the Turkish Air Force General Ziya Cemal KADIOĞLU,
111st Squadron Command, in Preparation for Combat Training Flight of 2024-2025 Flight Training Year, Eskişehir, 05 September 2024



Commander of the Air Force General Ziya Cemal KADIOĞLU with Commander of the Combat Air Force General İsmail GÜNEYKAYA saluted the Çanakkale Martyrs' Monument and performed the 2024-2025 Flight Training Year Respect Flight, 05 September 2024



(2) 112nd Squadron Command “Devil”, (F-4E Intercept/Fighter)

In scope of modernizing the striking force of the Air Force Command, in 1975 it was decided that the 172nd Squadron Command be equipped with F-4E aircraft. Within this scope, 20 of the 40 F-4E aircraft which was purchased with national budget from the USA in 1974 within the Peace Diamond I project were allocated to the 172nd Squadron Command.

112nd Squadron Command which was modernized with F-4E aircraft in 1974, continued the interceptor/bombardment missions until 1979. In 1979, modern weapons of air defense were added to the inventory of the Air Force Command, thus changed the roles with the F-4E aircraft and became a “All Weather Intercept” Squadron.

After executing the “All Weather Intercept” role successfully for 25 years, the 112nd Squadron Command transitioned to the interceptor-bombardment role on September 01, 2004, and to the interceptor-bombardment/training role on February 26, 2009.

The F-4E Phantom aircraft which was added to the inventory of Turkish Air Force and was a great striking force component served for 38 years and produced 170,000 hours/145,000 sorties. Within this period of time the “F-4E Full Combat Readiness Training” was given to the pilots and weapon systems officers at the squadron. The activities of the 112nd Squadron Command was put out on June 12, 2015 after a last flight.







(3) 113rd Squadron Command “Light”, (USAF/GAF RF-4E, reconnaissance)

F-4E Phantom II aircraft has a special place in the history of aviation in fighter jet aircraft category and its addition to the inventory of Turkish Air Force was with the 113rd Squadron Command which had a call code “Tayfun”. 113rd Squadron Command was established on August 29, 1974 and it was affiliated to the 1st Main Jet Base and the first squadron commander of the 113rd Squadron Command was Air Pilot Staff Major Ergin CELASIN. The first two aircraft of the 40 lot F-4E Phantom II package which was procured from the USA with national budget within the scope of Peace Diamond I project were allocated to the 113rd Squadron Command on August 30, 1974.

Out of the 40 F-4E aircrafts which were purchased from the USA with national budget, in 1974 8 aircraft and in 1975 12 aircraft were allocated to the 113rd Squadron Command and thus the number of aircraft in the squadron raised to 20. The personnel of the Squadron started the combat readiness training in 1974 and they became combat ready in 1975.

The 113rd Squadron which was modernized with RF-4E aircraft became a reconnaissance squadron in 1979 and its call code was changed to “Light”. 113rd Squadron Command which added the RF-4E aircraft into its inventory which were modernized within the scope of Light Project, continued its successful tactical reconnaissance activities until its last official flight on April 21, 2014.





113rd Squadron (Typhoon) Commander Air Pilot Lieutenant Colonel Ergin CELASIN, Squadron personnel and US pilots in front of the first F-4E's arriving in Türkiye, Eskişehir, 30 August 1974



(4) 401st Test Squadron Command (F-4E/2020 Test)

The testing and modernization activities of the Turkish Air Force Command started in 1996 under the roof of the 1st Air Supply Maintenance Center Command within the Modernization Management Department (later Technology Weapon Systems Development Department).

The 401st Test Squadron Command made it possible for us to conduct flight test activities which only a couple of countries possess in the world with our own national capabilities. 401st Test Squadron Command continues to execute the testing activities of ammunitions and their systems to be added to the inventory of Turkish Air Force which are developed by the Turkish Defense Industry.



b. 3rd Main Jet Base (Konya)

(1) 131st Squadron Command “Dragon”, (F-4E, Training)

The history of the 131st Squadron Command dates back to 1951 to the establishment of the 112nd Squadron Command under the structure of the 1st Main Jet Base. The 131st Squadron Command which added the F-4E aircraft to its inventory in 1987, started to give

“Combat Readiness Training”. On July 30, 2004 the activities of the 131st Squadron Command which was under the structure of 3rd Main Jet Base were put out and it deployed to the 7th Main Jet Base with its aircraft and joined the 173rd Squadron Command.





(2) 132nd Squadron Command "Dagger", (F-4E, F-4E/2020 Weapon & Tactical)

In July of 1970, 131st and 132nd Squadron Commands together with Standardized Formation Command which were under the organizational structure of 3rd Main Jet Base (Konya), deployed to Education Directorate in Çiğli/İZMİR. On September 15, 1970 instead of the deployed commands the 133rd Operation Training Unit (OTU) was established. The name of the 133rd Squadron Command which was equipped with the F-84F aircraft was changed to 132nd Squadron Command on March 28, 1972.

In February of the year 1994, in addition to the F-5A/B Freedom Fighter aircraft, the F-4E Phantom aircraft were also added to the inventory of 132nd Weapon Tactics and Standardized Squadron Command. During this period, F-4E/F-5A interceptor Weapons and Air Combat Course, Double and Quadruple Formation Leadership Training, Pilot/Controller Cooperation

Course and Flight Units Commander Courses were given by the 132nd Weapon Tactics and Standardized Squadron Command.

On September 01, 2006 the organizational structure of the squadron was reorganized and in this scope on August 28, 2006 the F-4E/2020 Terminator and F-16C/D aircraft were added to the inventory of the Squadron. Within the same organizational scope, the F-4E aircraft were removed from the Squadron's inventory and the standardizing authority of the Squadron was put out and its name was changed to 132nd Weapons and Tactics Squadron Command. On May 04, 2014 the 132nd Weapons and Tactics Squadron Command handed over the F-4E/2020 aircrafts in its inventory to the 111st and 171st Squadron Commands and it continues its activities with the F-16C/D aircraft to this date.







c. 7th Main Jet Base (Erhaç-Malatya)

(1) 171st Squadron Command "Pirate" (F-4E, F-4E/202 Terminator/Interceptor/Bombardment)

The history of the 131st Squadron Command dates back to 1951 to the establishment of the 112nd Squadron Command under the structure of 1st Main Jet Base. The 113rd Squadron Command which was located in Eskişehir from its establishment until 1963 deployed to the 7th Main Jet Base Command on August 10, 1963.

171st Squadron Command was modernized with F-4E aircraft on July 05, 1979. The 171st Squadron Command which started its missions with the F-4E/2020 aircraft on

December 21, 2001, participated in Air Force Command third generation fighter aircraft shooting competitions in 2004 and 2008 and took the first place. The 171st Squadron Command successfully executed its missions both nationally and internationally and in 2016 it was put out and the squadron personnel and its aircraft joined the 111st Squadron Command.







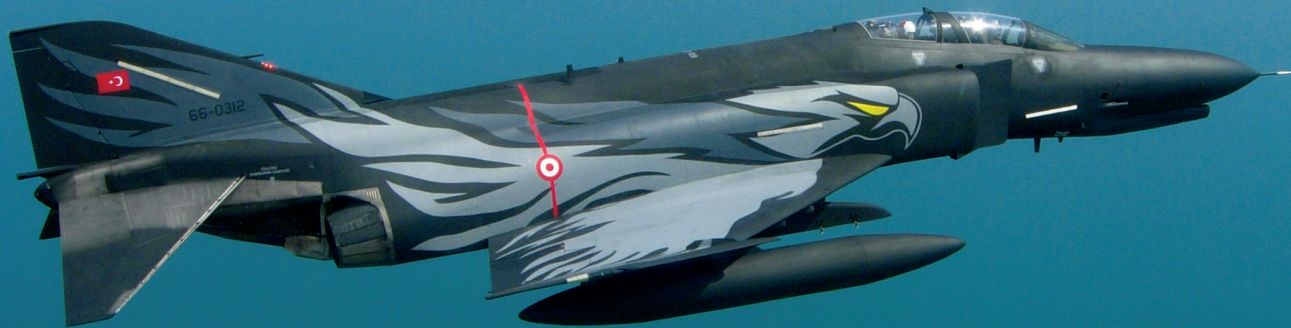
(2) 172nd Squadron Command "Falcon", (F-4E Intercept/Fighter)

172nd Squadron Command was first established in 1951 with the affiliation to the 8th Air Base Command (8th Air Regiment) with the name of 182nd Squadron Command in Erzincan. It deployed to 7th Main Jet Base on September 12, 1963.

The 172nd Squadron Command which was modernized with F-4E aircraft in 1978, assumed the Lightning Detachment Command mission in May 1982 and gave "F-4E Combat Readiness Training".

After the decision of the Air Force Command to take the F-4E aircraft out of the inventory which were outside scope of modernization, an "F-4E Implementing Order" was published on February 26, 2009 and the 172nd Squadron Command was temporarily put out.





Last Flight of the "Black Hawk" Aircraft, specially designed for the Closing of the 172nd Jet Squadron Command, 24 April 2009.



(3) 173rd Squadron Command “Dawn” (GAF, RF-4E, reconnaissance)

The 173rd Squadron Command was established under the structure of 7th Main Jet Base on November 02, 1981 as a “All Weather Intercept” Squadron. Within the scope of Kaan Project the Squadron was equipped with 20 GAF RF-4E aircraft which were purchased from Germany and thus its interceptor role ended and it transitioned to the “tactical reconnaissance” role as of July 01, 1994.

On June 30, 2004 with the deployment of the RF-4E aircraft and its personnel to the 113rd Squadron Command in Eskişehir, the 173rd Squadron Command's reconnaissance role ended. At the same time, the 131st Squadron Command in Konya deployed to Erhaç/Malatya and started to give combat readiness training to newly graduated pilots in the role of fighter bombardment and training under the name of 173rd Squadron Command.

As of August 16, 2004 the 173rd Squadron Command which was tasked with fighter bombardment and training missions, continued as the sole squadron of the Air Force Command to train F-4E pilots.

In line with the needs of the Air Force Command, it was decided that the 173rd Squadron Command be equipped with the RF-4E aircraft coming from the 113rd Squadron Command and start its missions in reconnaissance role once again and the F-4E combat readiness trainings to be given by the 172nd Squadron Command.

173rd Squadron Command was put out after the final RF-4E mission flight of the Air Force Command on March 12, 2015.







3. MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES OF THE F-4E PHANTOM II

a. F-4E Modernization Project (F-4E 2020)

The F-4E Modernization Project which started on January 21, 1997 with the signing of the project contract covers the preparation of air-ground focused missions and realization of the technological transfer by structural and avionic development of the

54 F-4E aircraft in Peace Diamond-I (28), Peace Diamond-II (21) and Peace Diamond-VI (5) series. The avionic and structural developments of the 26 aircraft were done in Israel and 28 aircraft were done in 1st Air Supply Maintenance Center Command.





*23rd Air Force Commander General Ergin CELASIN's First Flight
with F-4E/2020 at the 1st Main Jet Base Command, Eskişehir, 27 January 2000*



b. Işık Project

Işık Project is the first national aircraft modernization project in which the experiences from the F-4E/2020 and NF-5/2020 modernization projects were taken advantage of and it was carried out by the 1st Air Supply Maintenance Center Command from the designing phase to the mass production phase.

Within the scope of the project which started on January 29, 2004, the necessary structural enhancements and renewal of the electronic warfare systems, radio and navigational systems to increase the life cycle of 18 RF-4E Phantom II reconnaissance aircraft were carried out







c. Şimşek Project

F-4E Şimşek Project started in 2006 and its aim was to put the 16 F-4E Phantom II aircraft through structural enhancements and avionic modernization.







4. THE OPERATIONS THAT THE F-4E PARTICIPATED IN 50 YEARS

Turkish Air Force has used F/RF-4E Phantom II aircraft in cross-border operations in north of Iraq and north of Syria against terrorists who target our country and threaten the unity and solidarity of our nation by attacking our security forces and civilian sregardless of religion, language, age and gender.

During these missions, the F/RF-4E Phantom II aircraft have performed the task assigned to by the Turkish Armed Forces with outstanding success.

a. Operations in North of Iraq

- Pursuit Operation (1986)
- Yavuz Air Operation (1987)
- Broom Operation (1991)
- 1992 Operations
- Zeli Air Operation (1994)
- Steel-1 Operation (1995)
- Hawk Operation (1996)
- Hammer Operation (1997)
- Atakan Broom Operation (Sun) (2008)
- Sincar-Karaçok Mountain Operation (2019)
- Claw Operations (2019-still)

b. Operations in North of Syria

- Euphrates Shield Operation (2016)
- Olive Branch Operation (2018)
- Peace Spring Operation (2019)
- Spring Shield Operation (2020)

The F-4E aircraft has taken an effective role in Türkiye's Counterterrorism Operations and it will continue to do so.







5. THE EXERCISES THAT THE F/RF-4E PHANTOM AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATED IN 50 YEARS

F-4E aircraft in Turkish Air Force has participated in various exercises and tried to keep up and enhance the combat readiness situation of the Turkish Armed Forces. In this scope it participated in many exercises nationally and internationally.

- Efes Exercises
- Anatolian Eagle Exercises
- Arrow Series Exercises (NATO)
- Eager Lion Exercises (Jordan)
- Tiger Meet 2015 Exercises (NATO)
- TurAz Exercises (Azerbaijan)
- Dynamic Mix Exercises (NATO)





6. ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOR SPOTTERS AND PRESS MEMBERS

TIME	SUBJECT
08.00-11.30	Taking The Shots Of The Taxiing Of The F-4E Aircraft
11.30-12.00	Watching The Ceremony Flight
12.00-12.30	Watching The Passage Flight Over Base
12.30-13.45	Lunch (Ceremony Area)
13.45-14.30	Watching The Concert Of The Eagles Of The Jazz
14.30-16.00	Static Aircraft Exhibition Tour
16.00-16.30	Watching The Passage Flight Over Base
16.30-17.00	Taking The Shots Of Elephant Walk of the F-4E Aircraft
17.00-18.00	Departure of Spotters and Press Member

IMPORTANT POINTS

- The time to be at the gate is 08.00. Do not forget to bring your ID with you
- You will be handed an “ENTRANCE CARD” at the gate. This card will be valid only on November 17 2024. You can keep the card after the activity.
- You will be transported the Spotter location in the base with a bus.
- For your safety and for flight safety, please comply with the instructions. If you have any hesitation, please contact the officers.
- Please do not leave the area reserved for you and be considerate about not creating Foreign Substance Damage
- There will be only food and beverages sold in the areas reserved for you. No electricity will be available. Please take necessary precautions In order for you to get the best images, planning is going to be made for the direction of the sun and take-off and landing.
- Meteorological forecast is given below:
November 17, 2024: Mostly Cloudy, 10 degrees centigrade

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to be continued...



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