Winds of Change at Güvercinlik

Carlo Kuit and Paul Kievit of Bronco Aviation visit Turkish Army Aviation

"Train today as you fight and win tomorrow" is the doctrine taught at the Turkish Army base Güvercinlik to students and Turkish Army (*Türk Kara Kuvvetleri*, TKK) aviators alike. This Army Aviation School was established in 1957 with re-deployment from Polatli to Güvercinlik. In 2003, the Turkish Aviation Command was reorganised as an independent command directly reporting to Turkish Army Headquarters. Since 1 September 2014 the Army Aviation School is subordinate to the Army Aviation Command and is composed of Headquarters, Aviation Training School, 1st Army Aviation Regiment and Air Transportation Group (Güvercinlik), 2nd Army Aviation Regiment (Malatya) 3rd Army Aviation Regiment (Gaziemir), 4th Army Aviation Regiment (Istanbul) and the Training and Exercise Centre (Bodrum).

In mid-2016 over 184 army aviators were under training at the Army Aviation School, participating in various courses. The first T-129 ATAK helicopter student to be trained in Turkey by the Army Aviation Training School graduated in end-May 2016; all prior T-129 pilots were experienced Army Aviators trained in Italy with AgustaWestland itself (now Leonardo Helicopters). Lt Col Ahmet Okur is currently the most experienced instructor pilot on the T-129, and was among the twenty-seven pilots that received T-129 training at the Italian Army Training Centre in Viterbo, Italy.

"It has been very helpful to have dedicated training to adapt to the new T-129 platform," said Lt Col Okur. "Our three-month training course focused on the instructor/test pilot part the longest. We had

HEWS upgrade on a Sikorsky S-70