

Anatolian Eagle 2023

Tactical Training Centre



A Pakistan Air Force F-16 departs the Eagle platform. Pakistan participated for the first time with their Block 52 aircraft in Anatolian Eagle

Every year the Turkish Air Force and allied nations gather at Konya air base in the middle of Turkey for the international exercise Anatolian Eagle. Anatolian Eagle is a high-level tactical training exercise providing realistic combat training opportunities. It is considered to be at the same level as the US Air Force's Red Flag exercises. Next to national versions during the year, there is always one iteration that includes significant numbers of allied nations. The training takes place in a high-threat environment in a dedicated airspace. The main training area is roughly 180 nautical miles (NM) by 215 nautical miles, with a ceiling of up to 50,000 feet, centred approximately 70 miles east of Konya. Additionally, there is a maritime operations area of 140 NM by 75 NM between the Turkish coast and the northwest coast of Cyprus. This amount of airspace allows for more than 60 aircraft to participate.

The objective of Anatolian Eagle is to prepare aircrew for combat operations as Lt Col Hakan Girgin, AETC Commander explains, "We are training to reduce the

loss of inexperienced aircrews and aircraft in the early stages of a conflict. We provide air training to improve the skills of the pilots but we also encourage



161 Filo is a LANTIRN squadron specialising in night strike missions. They use the F-16 Block 50+