



“Falcon Strike” exercise:



- Between June 6-17, 2021, the historic first deployment of the IAF's "Adir" Squadron will take place in Italy, in which six "Adir" (F-35i) fighter jets will participate.
- This is the first deployment of the "Adir" Squadron abroad, and it will include a bi-weekly exercise featuring a number of air forces - Italian, American and British, in a large-scale exercise.
- The objectives of the exercise are to strengthen cooperation between the participating air forces, to become acquainted with F-35 squadrons around the world, to promote the connectivity capabilities between "Adir" (F-35i) fighter jets, to train in an unfamiliar environment, and to improve "Adir" deployment capabilities.
- The IAF will practice two sorties each day, the first sortie will be carried out in cooperation with American F-16 aircraft and the second sortie will be as part of a joint training with the Italian and British air forces, with F-35 fighter jets.
- During the exercise, the IAF will simulate various aerial scenarios with other air forces in an unfamiliar environment. Among the scenarios are defense missions, air-to-air combat, aerial strikes, surface-to-air (SAM) missile battery threats, air support to ground forces, and other scenarios over enemy territory.

Participating aircraft from each country:

- Israeli aircraft: F-35i (6), Israeli Eagle (1), Boeing 707 (2)
- American aircraft: F-16, F-35B
- British aircraft: F-35B, Airbus A330 Voyager
- Italian aircraft: F-35A, F-35B, Italian Eagle, KC-767, KC-130J
- Italian aircraft that simulate red power: Eurofighter Typhoon, Panavia Tornado, AMX, Alanya Airmaki, UAV Predator, Bell Agusta helicopter

**Aircraft carrier participating in the deployment:**

- British aircraft carrier Queen Elizabeth

Israeli Air Force Squadrons participating in the exercise:**Squadron 116, "Southern Lions"**

Squadron 116 was founded in 1956 as a Mustang aircraft squadron at Tel Nof Air Base. After several incarnations of the squadron on various bases, in 1983 it was transferred to the Nevatim Wing and became the first squadron on base. In 2003, the "Hawk" Squadron began operating, and ceased activity in the summer of 2015, thus ending the operational era of F-16 "Hawk" aircraft in the Israeli Air Force. In January 2020, the squadron was reopened as the second "Adir" Squadron in the Israeli Air Force, and was declared operational in August 2020. With its establishment, the "Adir" formation in the IAF was also established, together with the 140th Squadron.

**140th Squadron, "Golden Eagle"**

The squadron was established in August 1950, as a squadron of "Harvard" aircraft at the Sirkin camp, and was used by trainees in the Israeli Air Force pilot course. After several incarnations of the squadron on several bases, the squadron moved to the Nevatim Air Base in 2003, where it operated the F-16 "Hawk" aircraft. At the end of 2013, the squadron was closed, reopening in 2015 as the first "Adir" Squadron. On December 12, 2016, the first two "Adir" fighter jets of the Israeli Air Force landed while being flown by American pilots. On December 6, 2017, the squadron was declared operational.





122nd Squadron, "Nachshon"

The "Nachshon" Squadron is a transport squadron of the Israeli Air Force. The squadron operates the "Nachshon" aircraft (which is an aircraft with advanced systems unique to the corps) and was first absorbed in 2005.



"Nachshon" Squadron has two wings- Shavit, which performs intelligence missions, and Eitam, which performs command and control missions. The squadron's mission is to gather intelligence. "Nachshon" Squadron can carry out long-term complex tasks due to its ability to stay in the air for hours on end.

120th Squadron, "Desert Giants"

The 120th "Desert Giants" Squadron is a central part of the transportation system and constitutes a significant component in any future campaign. The squadron is unique in performing aerial refueling for fighter jets during their flight so that they can continue fighting without landing. The squadron operates the Boeing 707



"Re'em" aircraft. It is the largest transport aircraft in the Israeli Air Force, capable of staying in the air for many hours continuously and capable of refueling fighter jets in the air, carrying 82 tons of fuel. In addition, the aircraft can be turned into an airborne hospital for humanitarian assistance when needed.

The Israeli Air Force's "Adir" Squadron:

The "Adir" F-35i fighter jets are stealth aircraft belonging to the fifth generation of fighter jets.

In 2017, the Israeli Air Force absorbed its first "Adir" fighter jet and opened the first "Adir" squadron, as part of the IAF's transition to 5th generation. In 2020, Squadron 116 was opened as another "Adir" squadron, grouping the two "Adir" squadrons together into the Air Force's "Adir" Squadron.



The advanced capabilities of the “Adir” Squadron add another layer to the existing operational and strategic capabilities in the IAF, which will ensure preservation of aerial superiority, and above all the protection of the skies of the State of Israel and its security.

The “Adir” Squadron works in conjunction with various IAF platforms. Together, the 5th generation “Adir” fighter jets create an attack and defense arc with combined capabilities, with each platform bringing its exclusive capabilities to the battlefield.

International cooperation:

Over the years, the IAF has performed many exercises with forces from countries around the world, in order to prepare itself for a wide range of scenarios, strengthen professional ties and share professional and operational knowledge.

This exercise is a significant milestone in strengthening the strategic international cooperation between Israel and the countries participating in the exercise, while strengthening common interests and creating a bond that can lead to a unified front in the face of common threats.

The exercise gives ample opportunity for study and mutual collaboration between the forces, with an emphasis on the “Adir” Squadron, a new Squadron led by the IAF, which is still in development around the world.