“Grasp Your History, Enlighten Your Future”

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HISTORY OF AIR WARFARE

- Air Power in Theory and Implementation
- Air and Space Power in 20th - Century Warfare
- How Air Power Has Become an Independent Service
- The Contribution of R&D and Think Tanks to Air and Space Power
- Air Power and Society

TURKISH AIR WAR COLLEGE

09-11 APRIL 2014

TURKISH WAR COLLEGES ATATURK WAR GAMING & CONVENTION CENTER

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Attendees for ISAW 2014 are,

Top leaders from different air forces around the world,

The civilian and military dignitaries from war history worldwide,

War colleges and staff officer colleges worldwide,

The military dignitaries from NATO and air forces worldwide,

Senior defense industry members,

Universities and institutes of aerospace technologies

Strategy development institutes of aerospace power worldwide.
Beginning with the industrialization, past century has witnessed major developments in the field of technology. Two major wars as well as various conflicts in terms of magnitude and intensity happened in the 20th century. This period in which technological revolutions and wars were experienced could have been called the century of air and space power. In the age of aviation that began with the invention of aircraft by Wright brothers, operation area has become a three-dimensional area. Air power has become an indispensable element of war through the proven effectiveness of aircrafts in a very short period. Besides, having gained capability and effectiveness, air power has achieved outcome-determining role at the end of the century. Furthermore, use of the space for military purposes has increased the global impact of air power.

Having taken part in diverse fields such as conflict prevention, peacekeeping, personnel recovery and natural disaster relief, air power has proved to be an effective force. In the past century many theories regarding the role of air power in wars has been developed. Many scientific researches conducted about air power have been submitted to the service of humanity in many fields outside the military area. The emergence of air power, which modified the type and dimensions of war, also changed the structure of the armed forces. The emergence and rapid development of air power and its social impact on the society has created a new field of scientific research.

Being unequaled in human history and having significant effects on civilian fields as well, the Air Power and especially its historical dimension will be discussed in symposium organized by Turkish Air War College under the title of “International Symposium on History of Air Warfare”. Participating the symposium, which will be held in the city where continents meet, distinguished speakers and participants will have the opportunity to review the adventure of air warfare history, and they will also obtain a chance to share perspectives of different countries. As Turkish Air Force and Air War College, meeting with our guests in Istanbul is a great honor for us. We believe in that this symposium will prove that air power is also a peacekeeping power.
“The evolution of air power as an independent form of combat capability occurred incomparably faster than that of land and naval power. Air and space power showed its importance and impact within the span of just a single century, starting in the early part of the 20th century. No other force element has had a similarly profound effect on world affairs with such speed. Not only new weapons and technologies but also innovative theories and ideas have materially contributed to this transformation in the conduct of modern warfare. Air power has removed time and space constraints from the global arena, and the theorists who have guided the use and improvement of its exceptional capabilities have figured importantly in explaining its worth as an instrument of warfare.”
“Ever since the first successful manned flight in 1903, it was naturally understood that aircraft would eventually find uses in combat and that they would play game-changing roles in modern warfare. In fact, since leaving their first mark in military history during the Battle of Tripoli, aircraft figured prominently in the wars of the 20th century and played outcome-determining roles in those wars, especially during that century’s last two decades. Air power has steadily taken on new and expanded combat roles, and these novel evolving exercises in the art of war have fundamentally changed the course of warfare throughout the past century. There are many examples that proved the effectiveness of Air Power such as Kosova and Libya operations. As a result of its singular and unique capabilities, air and space power has effectively fulfilled new combat tasks in uses ranging from regional conflicts to world wars. Yet despite being so young as a force, air force has been indispensable choice for the commanders and decision-makers in the 20th century.”
How Air Power Has Become an Independent Service

“During aviation’s fledgling years, experiments prompted by a passion for flying were undertaken from the first days of humans observing birds in flight. These early flight trials could do no more than simply mimic the way birds flew. Eventually, however, thanks to this abiding passion, different forms of manned air vehicles emerged in the service of mankind, such as the balloon, the dirigible, the glider, and finally powered aircraft. This rapid advance in technological development progressively revealed the vertical dimension as the most exploitable operating domain. Through their capacity and capability, aircraft have emerged as a means of conducting strategic strikes beyond the more limited potential of land and surface naval forces. After having been used mainly for supporting other force elements during the first years of its existence, air power has since evolved into an independent force, in the process validating the predictions of the leading visionary airmen of that early era. Although some countries acquired independent air forces very early on during the history of military aviation, it took years for others to achieve independent air arms. In both cases, our conference will explore the various changes made by the world’s leading air forces along the road to independence from their parent services.”
The Contribution of R&D and Think Tanks to Air and Space Power

“Research and development (R&D) activities and “think tanks,” or organizations for conducting analytical studies in the service of defense planning, were driving forces behind the quantum leap made by air and space power throughout the 20th century. Some organic R&D entities in industry during the earlier years of aircraft manufacture evolved into separate organizations by mid-century. Research inquiries into space exploitation at the second half of the century deeply influenced the eventual evolution of space systems and ultimately the extension of the air domain into space. Concepts for employing air and space power made possible by advances in technology were first developed during the evolution of air warfare theory and were later refined in think tanks. Accordingly, one cannot ignore the contributions of R&D and think tanks to contemporary air and space power.”

Air Power and Society

“Air and space power are not just useful for warfare. Many of its constituent elements have also provided societal assistance during peacetime crises and emergencies as well as in wartime. Throughout their history, air forces have proven their versatility as instruments of social aid in such instances as the Berlin airlift, natural disaster relief operations, humanitarian aid operations, and peace support operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, many technological inventions obtained through the space studies and during the development process of air and space power have been presented to the service of society.”
Distinguished Participants,

We, Air War College, are honored to host you at the first International Symposium on the History of Air Warfare (ISAW) in Türkiye. In the symposium, organized by Air War College with the support of Turkish Air Force, the history of air warfare will be analyzed and the facts under the light of scholarly assessment will be provided for decision-makers of today and tomorrow. Academicians, scholars, senior fellows and top rank military officials well-known in the field of air power history, theory and strategy will make significant contribution to the discipline of Air Warfare History during the symposium which will be held in this beautiful city Istanbul where continents meet.

Topics of Air Warfare History, which will be discussed on an academic platform through ISAW, will shed light on the experiences of various countries in the last century. While providing an academic atmosphere in each session where participants will be able to discuss their ideas freely, the symposium will help enlighten the future of air power by grasping history. ISAW will be a platform providing a perspective that helps us to look to the future from the historical aspects.

The symposium will be held in six sessions including a very attractive opening session. Session Topics as follows:

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- How Air Power Has Become An Independent Service
- The Contribution of R&D and Think Tanks to Air and Space Power
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Thanks in advance for contribution of all participants.

Respectfully,

About Us

The Turkish Air War College is the highest level education center in the Turkish Air Force. The alma mater of all Air Force generals and commanders, the college holds the fundamental education philosophy of providing student officers with advanced level of thinking, problem solving, and the ability to present new ideas. The education is mainly based on leadership and management, technological developments and their exploitation for military purposes, command & control and operations. In addition, to further amplify the capabilities of future generals and commanders, Air War College Command has held numerous conferences, symposiums and panels causing the College to become an international center of attraction, along with its high quality of education. Empowered with synthesis of scientific notion and military tradition, the Air War College prepares the Air Force for tomorrow’s world.