



Open Day at Tainan

The open day at Tainan Air Base on October 19 was the only event of its kind to take place in Taiwan for 2019, after bad weather forced the cancellation of the open house planned for Hsinchu AB in August. *AFM* contributor **Dietmar Fenners** reports from Tainan.



Above: F-CK-1D serial 1624 (87-8101) from the Tainan-based 1st TFW's 1st TFG was displayed with an example of the Wan Chien (Ten Thousand Swords) standoff cruise missile produced by the military-run Chung Shan Institute of Science and Technology (CSIST). This GPS-guided weapon has a 155-mile (250km) range and can hit targets on the Chinese mainland when launched from above the Taiwan Strait. Even though the missile has been known about since 2011 and was publicly displayed in 2014, its development has made slow progress due to political constraints. **Left:** Another specially marked jet in the flying display was this Mirage 2000-5Ei from the 2nd TFW. Serial 2020 received these colours back in 2017 to celebrate 20 years of service for the type in the ROCAF. The three Taiwanese Mirage groups - the 41st and 42nd TFGs and the 48th Training Group - are all based at Hsinchu. Taiwan acquired 48 Mirage 2000-5Ei and 12 Mirage 2000-5Di fighters. The US\$4.9bn deal was signed in November 1992 and also included delivery of 960 Matra MICA medium-range and 480 Magic 2 short-range AAMs.



Left: F-16A Block 20 serial 6635 (TA-35, FMS 93-0736) from the 22nd TFG/4th TFW at Chiayi AB was among the aircraft that performed a solo flying demonstration. The special markings were applied in 2017 to mark the 80th anniversary of the ROCAF. The Chiayi wing includes three tactical fighter groups - the 21st, 22nd and 23rd TFGs - which began to receive aircraft upgraded to F-16V standard in October 2018. The ROCAF is the world's first F-16V operator and the majority of upgraded F-16s will equip the 4th TFW at Chiayi and the Hualien-based 5th TFW. **Below:** F-16A Block 20 serial 6677 (TA-77, FMS 93-0778) flown by the 26th TFG/5th TFW stationed at Hualien. While most of the ROCAF's air combat fleet is assigned to wings located on the west coast, the 5th TFW is the exception, since Hualien is located on the east of the island. The base is home to the wing's 17th, 26th and 27th TFGs flying Fighting Falcons, plus the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron operating a mix of F-16s, RF-5Es (seven low-hour F-5Es that were converted to Tigereye reconnaissance standard by Singapore Technologies Aerospace) and two-seat F-5Fs.



Left: Tainan AB is home to the Republic of China Air Force's (ROCAF's) 1st Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), formed of three tactical fighter groups: the 1st, 3rd and 9th TFGs, all flying the F-CK-1 Hsiung-Ying (Brave Hawk). The 1st TFW was the second wing to receive the F-CK-1 and completed transition in early 2000, when the final production examples arrived at Tainan from the Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC). The morning of the open day started with the take-off of seven F-CK-1C/Ds from the 1st TFW, including two spares; five took part in the opening fly-by. **Right:** ROCAF P-3C serial 3310 (c/n 5581, BuNo 158572) wearing the bat insignia of 34 Squadron, which serves under the Maritime Group at Pingtung. A contract for the overhaul and upgrade work of 12 former US Navy Orions was awarded to Lockheed Martin in March 2009. The first aircraft was originally scheduled to be delivered in 2012, but this was delayed by a year, with the first upgraded example returning to the air in July 2012. The first of the ROCAF's refurbished Orions arrived at Pingtung in September the following year and was inducted into service in October. The final example was delivered in July 2017.



Serial 1427 (84-8045) is a single-seat F-CK-1C that also wears 80th anniversary markings. This aircraft is from the ROCAF's other Hsiung-Ying operator, the 3rd TFW at Ching Chuan Kang AB. The 3rd TFW is responsible for the 7th and 28th TFGs flying the F-CK-1C/D. This was the first wing to receive the F-CK-1, converting to the type between November 1993 and early 1997. While the initial 71 upgraded F-CK-1C/Ds were delivered to the 1st TFW at Tainan, phase two of the modernisation programme covered the retrofitting of the remaining 56 F-CK-1s. Work began in 2014 and was completed in December 2017, when the final Hsiung-Ying was assigned to the 3rd TFW at Ching Chuan Kang. All photos Dietmar Fenners