



DIRECTORATE OF MEDIA AFFAIRS
PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

PRESS RELEASE

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JF-17 THUNDER JOINS PAF's FIGHTER FLEET

ISLAMABAD 18 FEBRUARY, 2010: The PAF is well under way to meet the challenges of the 21st century and today Pakistan has attained another mile stone where the first JF-17 Thunder Squadron has joined the PAF fighter aircraft fleet. To mark this historic occasion, a ceremony for the formal induction of JF-17 Thunder aircraft in the PAF was held at one of the Operational Bases. Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The Chief of the Air Staff while addressing the Airmen said, "I congratulate the nation and all personnel of PAF on this momentous occasion. The formal induction of JF-17 aircraft in the PAF is in line with our resolve to face all challenges with poise and self-confidence. PAF has invested in the force multipliers like the Air-to-Air refuellers, UAVs and AEW&C aircraft to enhance our capacity and capability to undertake complex operations. These new state-of-the-art inductions make it imperative that we train hard and prepare well to induct and integrate the new systems professionally and safely. The achievements of PAF leave no doubt in my mind that we are immensely capable and, as a team, can set and achieve still higher standards". He further said, "We are a peaceful nation with no aggressive designs and want to maintain peace with honour in our region. We are inducting new systems to keep pace with technology and maintain credible conventional balance of force, without which peace cannot be ensured in South Asia." While addressing the Airmen he said that the JF-17 would be put through its paces in the forthcoming Exercise Hi-Mark 2010.

The 'JF-17 Thunder' has the capability to under take entire spectrum of offensive as well as defensive missions. By joining the elite ranks of PAF, the JF-17 would not only enhance the combat readiness of PAF but also form its back-bone in future. At the end of the ceremony, an A-5-III fighter led three JF-17 Thunder aircraft in a flypast that was followed by a single JF-17 which performed aerobatics over the venue.



Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force addressing during the formal induction ceremony of JF-17 Thunder aircraft, held at an Operational Air Base of Pakistan Air Force. (18.02.2010)



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Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force along with the Airmen at the formal induction ceremony of JF-17 Thunder aircraft, held at an Operational Air Base of Pakistan Air Force. (18.02.2010)