

IRONBIRDS

OCTOBER 2025 #1

MAG

ANATOLIAN
EAGLE 2025

Sivrihisar
Airshow

improve
your
aviation
photography

Vintage Aircraft of SHG Airshow
Semin Öztürk Şener Turning the Skies Upside Down
Ali İsmet Öztürk Pushing Limits Above the Clouds



Hello World!

Welcome to the very first issue of IronBirdsMag — a new home for those who live and breathe aviation. Our goal is simple: to capture the spirit of flight through powerful visuals and inspiring stories from the world of aviation.

In this debut issue, we take you to the heart of Sivrihisar Airshow 2025, one of Turkey's most exciting aviation events. From vintage warbirds to precision aerobatic teams, our coverage highlights the passion, precision, and people that make this airshow truly special.

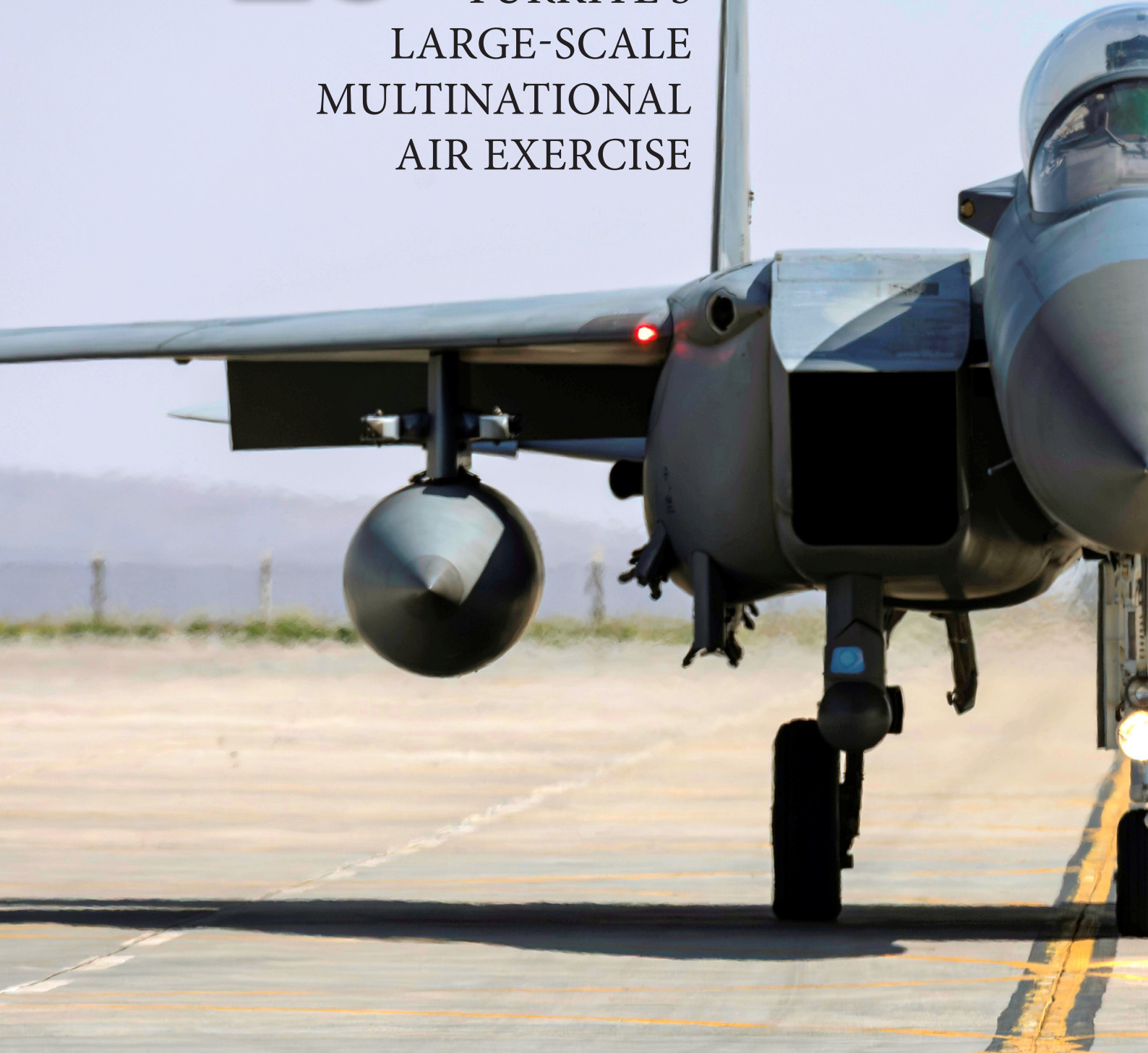
Our second feature dives deep into the art of Aviation Photography. Whether you're a seasoned spotter or just beginning to explore the world through your lens, you'll find practical tips, techniques, and creative insights to help you capture aviation in all its glory.

This is just the beginning. IronBirdsMag will continue to bring you the stories, images, and moments that make the skies so captivating. Thank you for joining us on this journey — and welcome aboard.

— The Editor

ANATOLIAN EAGLE '25

TÜRKİYE'S
LARGE-SCALE
MULTINATIONAL
AIR EXERCISE



Anatolian Eagle 2025 (often shown as Anatolian Eagle 25 or AE25) was held at the Turkish Air Force's Konya training complex in late June–early July 2025. The exercise brought together Turkish aviation units alongside NATO Allies and partner air forces for two weeks of intensive air-combat training, with a strong emphasis on interoperability, contested-environment tactics and integration of new concepts such as manned–unmanned teaming.





Dates & Location

The international phase of Anatolian Eagle 2025 took place at the 3rd Main Jet Base (Konya) from **23 June to 4 July 2025**. Konya's training area and ranges — with a very large operational footprint and high ceilings for realistic scenarios — are a core reason the event is considered comparable to other premier exercises like Red Flag. In addition, missions can also be executed over the Mediterranean Sea within the scope of the exercise. Another importance of Anatolian Eagle is that it allows for the development of the interoperability of countries coming from different aviation doctrines.

Participants

Turkish Air Force

F-16 (various squadrons)
E-7T "Peace Eagle" AEW&C
UAVs: ANKA-S, Akıncı (combat UAV)
CN-235 (transport / support)
KC-135R tanker aircraft
F-4E (special-painted) of 111 Filo

International & NATO / Partner Aircraft:

United States: F-16C/D
Saudi Arabia: F-15SA
Qatar: Eurofighter Typhoon (EF-2000)
Jordan: F-16AM/BM
Hungary: JAS-39C Gripen
Azerbaijan: Su-25
NATO: E-3A AWACS

Country / Service	Squadron / Unit	Aircraft Type(s) / Role	Approx. Number
Türkiye	113 Squadron (Eskişehir)	F-16 multirole	4
Türkiye	131 Squadron (Konya)	E-7T AEW&C	3
Türkiye	132 Squadron (Konya)	F-16 multirole	10
Türkiye	135 Squadron (Konya)	CN-235 transport	1
Türkiye	151 Squadron (Merzifon)	F-16 multirole / SEAD	5
Türkiye	152 Squadron (İncirlik)	F-16 multirole	5
Türkiye	161 Squadron (Bandırma)	F-16 multirole	3
Türkiye	162 Squadron (Bandırma)	F-16 multirole	3
Türkiye	191 Squadron (Balıkesir)	F-16 multirole	3
Türkiye	101 Squadron (İncirlik)	KC-135R tanker	1
Türkiye	311 Squadron (Eskişehir)	ANKA / ANKA-3 UAV	~
Türkiye	111 Squadron (Eskişehir)	F-4E (special paint)	1
United States	510th FS (Aviano)	F-16C/D multirole	12
Saudi Arabia	92 Squadron (Dhahran)	F-15SA multirole	6
Qatar	1st Wing (Tamim)	Eurofighter Typhoon	3
Jordan	1st Squadron (Al Asraq)	F-16AM/BM	3
Hungary	MH101 (Kecskemét)	JAS-39C Gripen	3
Azerbaijan	Su-25 Eskadrilya (Kürdamir)	Su-25 ground attack	2
NATO	E-3A Component (Geilenkirchen)	E-3A Sentry AWACS	1



Training focus and scenarios



AE25 focused on high-end tactical training in a contested battlespace. Key themes publicised by organisers and observers included: exercising integrated air-defence suppression and penetration missions; practising large-scale, coordinated mass launches and complex multi-force sorties; testing and refining manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T) and ISR-to-shooter chains; and deriving operational lessons from recent conflicts to sharpen tactics and tactics-techniques-procedures.

These aims were reflected in press releases, media day coverage and specialist reporting from the Konya event.

Unmanned Allies in the Skies

Another striking aspect of Anatolian Eagle 2025 was the exercise's emphasis on modern, asymmetric and low-signature threats—not just traditional air-to-air combat. For the first time in this edition, UAVs weren't just used for reconnaissance or support, but were assigned fully autonomous strike missions, sometimes escorted and protected by manned fighters.

More than that, the Konya base hosted simulated mass cruise missile attacks using low-radar-cross-section (RCS) target drones (like Simsek and Super Simsek) launched from UAV platforms.

These scenarios tested early detection, threat identification, electronic warfare, suppression of enemy air defences (SEAD) and ground-based missile countermeasures in a tightly integrated fashion. Moreover, the training environment was supported by advanced tools—such as the ACMI (Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation) system at Konya, real-time telemetry, threat emitters, and post-mission analysis software—turning the exercise into not just a test of aircraft and pilots, but also C2 (command & control), mission planning, and defence industry integration.



Scale and capabilities demonstrated

Reports from the exercise described a significant sortie rate and a broad mix of participants. Some outlets quoted Turkish briefings that put participating aircraft in the dozens (some sources cited around 75 aircraft), while allied press releases highlighted mass-launch events, sparring over simulated surface-to-air threats, and combined missions that integrated electronic warfare, air-to-air and air-to-ground elements. The event also showcased Turkish defence industry platforms and evolving force-multiplying concepts in operations.



Why Anatolian Eagle matters

Anatolian Eagle is one of Turkey's flagship tactical training events and has grown into a regular international gathering that offers realistic, large-scale air combat practice. For participating Allies it is a chance to operate together under a common command and control scheme, validate interoperability with diverse platforms, and rehearse complex mission sets that are difficult to replicate at smaller national exercises. For the host, it highlights Konya's role as a regional tactical training centre with the ranges and airspace to support high-intensity air operations.





Reporting and media access

The exercise included media and spotter days; official imagery and video clips were released by participating services (for example the U.S. Air Force and NATO channels) and independent aviation media produced photo reports and analysis from the base and surrounding ranges. These open sources provide the public record for aircraft movements, participating nations and key training themes. An Elephant Walk was organized and Turkish Stars demonstrated their brilliance as well.





We thank **Emre Göksu** for his contributions.





10 YEARS IN THE SKY

SİVRİHİSAR AIRSHOWS
CELEBRATE IT'S 10TH
ANNIVERSARY



PASSION, PRECISION,
AND EXCELLENCE
IN AVIATION

NESTLED IN THE HEART OF
ANATOLIA, SİVRİHİSAR AVIATION
CENTER NECATİ ARTAN TESİSLERİ
SERVES AS HOME TO THE EVENT,
COMPLETE WITH PRISTINE
RUNWAYS, HANGARS, AND
VISITOR AMENITIES.



A DECADE OF FLIGHT & LEGACY

Each September, the skies above Sivrihisar, a quiet town in Eskişehir, Turkey, transform into a stage of thunder, color, and heritage. The *Sivrihisar Hava Gösterileri (SHG Airshows)* celebrated its 10th edition in 2025, marking a decade of passion, precision, and excellence in aviation.

Nestled in the heart of Anatolia, the *Sivrihisar Aviation Center – Necati Artan Tesisleri* serves as home to the event, complete with pristine runways, hangars, and visitor amenities. The site also houses the M.S.Ö. Space & Air Museum (msomuseum.com), where historic aircraft are both preserved and flown, connecting Turkey's rich aviation past with the modern sky.

The 2025 edition introduced a new milestone: for the first time, admission was ticketed. Despite that, enthusiasm soared — more than 10,000 visitors and countless aviation photographers filled the grounds, capturing the roar and rhythm of the weekend. The venue, once again proved its worth, with the same high standards of cleanliness, organization, and safety that have become SHG trademarks.





STARS OF THE 2025 LINEUP



From roaring jets to timeless classics

Solotürk – General Dynamics F-16 Block 30

Turkish Army Parachute Team

Eurofighter Typhoon – Royal Air Force display team

Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15
1955, the only airworthy example in Europe

Vecihi XIV
replica of Turkey's first certified civil aircraft

Acromach Super S2S "Yeni Menekşe"
flown by Semin Öztürk Şener, Turkey's first professional
female aerobatics pilot

2 x **Stearman A75N1** (1940 & 1943)

Bell UH-1H Huey (1967, a Vietnam veteran)

Cessna 195A Businessliner (1950)

de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth
(1942 – featured in *The English Patient*)

Douglas DC-3 "Turkish Delight"
(1940 – completed a world tour beginning in 2017)

North American T-6G Texan (1953)

North American T-28B Trojan (1955)

North American P-51D Mustang
(1944 – credited with eight Luftwaffe kills and film
appearances in *Saving Private Ryan*, *Memphis Belle*, *Empire
of the Sun*, *Hart's War*, *Fury*)

Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IX
in historic Turkish Air Force markings

**Extra 300L, Aviat Husky A-1B, Cessna 172, A185F,
Bristell Ultralight, Piper Super Cub, Tecnam P92**



Since its first edition in 2015, Sivrihisar Airshows have established themselves as a hallmark of quality and diversity. Over the years, the event has hosted iconic performers such as **Turkish Stars, TAI Hürkuş, TAI T-129 Atak, Consolidated Catalina PBY-5A, 46 Aviation Wing Walkers, Romanian Hawks, Turkish Police Aviation, and the Gendarmerie Steel Wings.**

Each year, the show brings together the best of **heritage aviation and modern technology**, reflecting Turkey's growing presence in the global airshow circuit.



Among the highlights, **Vecihi XIV, the MiG-15, and the Eurofighter Typhoon FGR.4** drew the loudest applause. As usual, **Solotürk** was the star of the show and **Semin Şener Öztürk's** aerobatics was one of the highlights as well.

These represented a distinct era — the pioneering spirit of Turkish aviation in history and today, the legacy of Cold War engineering, and the cutting edge of 21st-century air power.

Precision on the Ground, Passion in the Air

SHG's success lies not only in its aerial lineup but also in its impeccable execution. Every aspect — from crowd flow and safety perimeters to timing and public facilities — reflects a commitment to professionalism. Visitors praise the **clean facilities**, the **attention to detail**, and the **warm hospitality** that define the Sivrihisar experience.

The event also serves as a living extension of the **M.S.Ö. Museum**, where aircraft from nearly every era are displayed and maintained in flying condition. Between flight displays, guests explore exhibits, talk with pilots, and witness history up close.





Looking Ahead

After ten years of continuous growth, SHG Airshows have earned their place among Europe's most respected aviation events. More than just an airshow, it is a celebration of Turkey's aviation heritage — a place where **enthusiasts**, **professionals**, and **dreamers** gather beneath the same sky.

The next edition of Sivrihisar Airshows will take place on 19–20 September 2026. For details and updates, visit **shgairshows.com**



Turning the Skies Upside Down

Semin Öztürk Şener is Turkey's first professional female aerobatic display pilot, celebrated for bringing technical precision and theatrical flair to airshows at home and abroad. Born into an aviation family, she earned her private pilot licence in her early 20s, trained in aerobatics in the United States, and made her public aerobatic debut at Sivrihisar in 2015.

She performs regularly in a high-energy single-and two-seat aerobatic aircraft, Acromach Super S2S “Yeni Menekşe” — and has represented Turkey at international events, building a reputation for disciplined flying and engaging showmanship.

Beyond displays, interviews and profiles note her role as a visible trailblazer for women in Turkish aviation and her ongoing work to promote aerobatics and aviation outreach.

Pushing Limits Above the Clouds

Ali İsmet Öztürk (born 1964, İstanbul) is Turkey's first professional civilian aerobatic pilot, a pioneer known for his precision, daring, and uncompromising confidence in the cockpit. After starting his career in the 1980s, he founded Mach Aviation Ltd., which grew into a major private aviation company. Surviving a serious helicopter crash in 1990, he returned to flying stronger than ever, designing and piloting his signature Acromach Super S2S "Mor Menekşe" ("Purple Violet") in airshows across more than 20 countries. His bold routines, often pushing +9/-6 G, helped define modern aerobatics in Turkey and inspired a new generation of pilots — including his daughter, Semin Öztürk Şener.



Though retired from professional flying, Ali İsmet Öztürk continues to serve Turkish civil aviation with the same passion that defined his career. Here, he's at the controls of a stunning replica of Vecihi XIV — Turkey's first certified civil aircraft, originally built by aviation pioneer Vecihi Hürkuş in 1935. Today, this remarkable aircraft is part of the M.S.Ö. Space & Air Museum collection, carrying forward the spirit of Turkish aviation heritage.









Aviation Photography Techniques



“Aviation photography isn’t just about planes—it’s about freezing the magic of flight in a single frame.”

There’s something truly magnetic about aviation photography. It sits at the intersection of technology, passion, and patience—a pursuit that draws both photographers and aviation enthusiasts alike. From the thunderous roar of a jet engine to the elegant turn of a propeller, each aircraft presents a new challenge and a new story waiting to be told.

In this feature, we’ve gathered our best tips, tricks, and professional insights to help you sharpen your skills and elevate your aviation photography game.

Know Your Subject

Before lifting the camera, know what you're about to capture. A slow-moving vintage plane behaves very differently from a high-speed fighter jet, and both demand unique settings and timing. Research aircraft types, airshow schedules, and lighting conditions in advance—because in aviation, preparation is half the shot.

“Knowing the aircraft helps you predict its movement and timing—your best ally in a fast-paced environment.”



Shutter Speed: Motion vs. Sharpness

Choosing the right shutter speed is key to achieving realistic and dynamic shots.

- **Propeller aircraft:** Slow shutter speeds (**around 1/125–1/250**) capture beautiful propeller motion blur, giving life and energy to your shot.
- **Helicopters:** Their rotor blades turn slower, so go even slower—**1/100 or below** works best.
- **Jets:** Fast movers need **1/1000** or faster to stay tack-sharp.

A tripod or monopod will help stabilize your frame when shooting at slow speeds—especially important for long telephoto lenses.

1/200



1/80



1/1250





Depth, Focus, and Burst Mode

Aviation photography thrives on clarity. Keep your aperture around **f/8–f/11** for a deeper field and sharper results.

Use **continuous autofocus (AI Servo / AF-C)** to track fast-moving subjects, and don't hesitate to switch to burst mode—sometimes the perfect shot hides between frames.

“When a jet streaks past at 900 km/h, your camera needs to think faster than you do.”

1/1000 f8,0

Understand Your Gear

Every lens has a sweet spot where it performs best. Usually, this is two stops down from its widest aperture.

Follow the **1/focal length rule** to minimize blur (e.g., 500mm lens → 1/500 sec or faster).

Use **fast memory cards** to avoid buffer delays and consider a **polarizing filter** to tame glare and deepen the sky.



Chase the Light

The best aviation photos are born in the golden hours—early morning or late afternoon—when sunlight paints soft highlights and warm tones across aircraft surfaces.

Avoid harsh midday light when possible; if you can't, position yourself with the sun behind you to reduce unwanted glare and shadow.



The Art of Panning

"A perfect pan tells the story of speed without ever showing motion lines."

Panning adds motion, life, and style to aviation shots. Follow the aircraft smoothly with your camera while using a slower shutter speed, keeping the subject sharp and the background blurred.

Start practicing with slower objects like cars or small planes before moving on to jets.



Compose with Intention

Technical precision is just one half of the craft. Composition gives emotion and storytelling to your images.

Try:

- Leaving space in front of the aircraft to suggest movement.
- Using clouds, runway textures, or vapor trails for drama.
- Shooting from low angles for majesty—or high vantage points for symmetry.

Creativity transforms a good photo into a memorable one.

Field Readiness

A long day of spotting means long hours in open light and variable weather.

Always bring:

- Sunscreen and a hat
- Water and light snacks
- Extra batteries and memory cards

Stay comfortable, stay focused.



Respect Boundaries

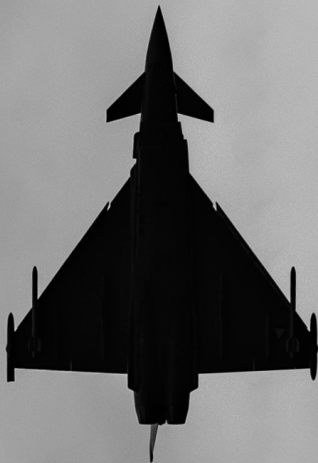
Always follow safety rules and local regulations. Airports and military bases have restricted zones, and unauthorized photography can lead to serious trouble. Whenever possible, shoot at official airshows or organized spotting events, where you'll have both access and safety on your side.



Practice Makes Precision

Tracking aircraft takes coordination, patience, and experience. If you can follow a bird in flight or a car on the highway, you can train your reflexes for aircraft.

Repetition builds skill—and skill leads to those breathtaking, perfectly timed shots that make aviation photography so rewarding.



Final Approach

Aviation photography is more than a hobby—it's a passion that combines art, technology, and a deep respect for flight. Each frame captures a fleeting moment of human ingenuity and skyborne grace.

So, keep your batteries charged, your lens clean, and your eyes on the horizon. Because when the next aircraft lines up for takeoff, you'll be ready to capture the moment that defines the spirit of aviation.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

www.ironbirdsmag.com

AND FOLLOW US

www.instagram.com/ironbirdsmag

<https://x.com/ironbirdsmag>

<https://www.youtube.com/@IronbirdTV>

IRONBIRDS
MAG
capturing the spirit of flight

