

The fighter jets that attacked the Syrian reactor were identified on 07.09.2018

On Thursday, marking the 11th anniversary of Operation "Out of the Box", the IAF received the name "Silent Tune", marking the marking of the fighter planes that took part in the attack on the reactor in Syria in 2007. The attack planes were marked with a symbol bearing an emblem of the nuclear reactor . "None of us imagined that in his military career there would be such a flight"

Ily Parry and Nofar Blit

The ceremony marked the 11th anniversary of Operation "Out of the Box", which was received by the IAF in the name of "Silent Tune", marking the marking of the fighter planes that took part in the attack on the reactor in Syria in 2007. At a ceremony held at the Hatzerim and Ramon bases, (F-15I) and the 253 ("Negev") squadron that operates the Sufa plane (F-16I). On September 14, 2018, another ceremony will take place in Squadron 119 ("The Bat"), which also operates the Sufa plane.



Photo: Noam Nahum

The planes were marked with a sticker bearing the symbol of the operation - a triangle, symbolizing an attack, in the colors of the Syrian flag (red, black and two green stars) with an atomic reactor symbol in its center. The markup, designed by graphic designer Raanan Weiss, was drowned by representatives of the pilots who participated in the attack, representatives of the technical division who prepared and armed the planes for the attack, as well as the squadron commanders, Lt. Col. JS R "L.

On the night between 5 and 6 September 2007, IAF fighter jets attacked a nuclear reactor that had been built in the Dir a-Zour region of Syria. The reactor was destroyed accurately before it was put into use. The "out of the box" operation took several hours and was completed without any gaps in planning. The operation reflected the creativity, professionalism, flexibility of thought and courage displayed by the Air Force's soldiers in carrying out the mission.



"Operation Quiet Tune took place 11 years ago, but its effects on the country, the IAF and the squadron in particular are felt to this day," said Lt. Col. G., commander of the 69th Squadron. Operational capabilities, planning and execution infrastructures, techno-operational capabilities, armament of weapons and systems, the professionalism of the squadron and more - all of these exist in the "hammers" from the establishment of the squadron but have become very sharp in that operation, To draw inspiration from the 'hammers' that led and commanded in the past and to look into the future with a sense of security, because together there is no task we can not do. "

First of all,

11 years ago, when Operation "Quiet Tune" was performed, Brigadier General A. was an air-combat unit commander in one of the Sufa squadrons, and today, when the participating pilots signify the planes that participated in the operation, he can testify first hand on the construction and execution of one The most complex and secret operations in the history of the State of Israel.



Photo: IDF Spokesperson

"We understood in the squadron that something was happening and four months before the operation only three people were exposed to the secret: the squadron commander, the planning officer and me," he reveals. "We began to build the outline during the training we did, during which none of the participants knew what was expected to be attacked and where, we always practiced in the territory of the State of Israel, over land and the sea. The training progressed, and with them the way the mission was carried out, and slowly the small group of people formed the outline on the day of the order. "



Graphic Design: Raanan Weiss

The secrecy and mystery that surrounded the squadron's corridors not only applied to the participants who practiced in the dark, but also to the attackers. They made sure to prepare for all possible scenarios and build the squadron and its personnel accordingly.

"On the day of the execution, we went to bed in the squadron while we were on the alert to carry out one mission, but we woke up in the morning and realized that today was the day we were carrying out the other mission we had been training for four months." "As soon as we understand what is happening, we bring all the participating teams so that they can sleep without noticing them, and I begin preparing for this specific flight: I prepare the briefing, add changes and adjustments to the execution, and at the same time the squadron commander makes sure that the entire squadron is prepared for combat. It is very likely that such an attack will begin with total combat, and we have prepared ourselves for the possibility that we are landing into an active campaign. "



Photo: Noam Nahum

"There is a historic importance for Israel, but also for our neighboring countries."

At 2 am, the first aircraft structure lands at Hatzetim base, followed by the other buildings one by one. The

execution proceeded smoothly and the reactor was destroyed as planned. "We left the flight behind us, but the next few days, when we saw that the war was not breaking out, we began to drill more thoroughly, and the significance of what we carried out began to seep," Brigadier General A. describes. In recordings of the radios we hear how our voice changes as soon as we cross a line and return to the territory of the State of Israel. The understanding of the magnitude of the event, its significance to the State of Israel, and its personal significance to each of the participants began to clear. None of us imagined that a military career would happen to him. "



Air crew members before leaving for attack Archive image

Eleven years after the operation and the same war that was held in the IAF did not break out. The IAF proves time and time again that it will be able to reach any point, near or far, and to carry out missions for which silence is good. We asked Brig. Gen. A. in the perspective of time mixed with the understanding of an air combatant, what would have happened if that attack had not been carried out at all?

"If the Syrian nuclear reactor had been established, there would have been a chance for the State of Israel to be an enemy state with nuclear capabilities, with which it shares a common border, and the open and covert operational activity that the IAF has carried out against the strengthening of the Hezbollah terror organization or against the Iranian buildup could have been limited by the nuclear threat that could hover in Syria, and the events in Syria in recent years could have been different if it had possessed nuclear capabilities that could have easily reached undesirable hands. There is no doubt that the operation led by the IAF was of decisive historical importance to the State of Israel, But also to our countries And neighbors. "



The air crew on their return from the attack Archive image

Since the operation was unveiled a few months ago, an opening has been opened for the transfer of this glorious battle heritage to all the soldiers in the corps who are involved in writing the nascent history of the State of Israel. "It is important for me to transfer the legacy to the young fighters and the maintenance personnel, who constituted 50 percent of that glorious attack," said Brigadier General A. "The marking of the planes, just as was done with the planes that participated in the attack on the Iraqi reactor or with planes that shot down enemy aircraft. The sense of mission and understanding of the magnitude of the things we do in our daily lives.