

NATO airbase in Turkey to assume a central role in a possible war on Syria

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According to plans prepared by the US and Turkey, Pirinçlik Air Base () , which is the closest NATO air base to Syria, will assume a central role in the event of an operation against Syria; reports Hurriyet daily.*

A delegation of 20 officials from the United States European Command (EUCOM) inspected the air base in Diyarbakir for two days to assess its current readiness for a possible military action.

(*) Hurriyet's report refers to the NATO base in Diyarbakir as "2nd Air Force Command" [headquarters], instead of 'Pirinçlik Air Base'. Although the US Department of Defence announced the return of the Pirinçlik Air Base to the Turkish Armed Forces in 1997, the base is still being used as one of the 24 NATO bases across Turkey and hosts NATO's early-warning radar system.

It is also worth noting that another NATO's Incirlik Air Base in Adana (southern Turkey) is in a similar proximity to Turkey's border with Syria. Incirlik is currently being used as a command center of NATO-led covert operations against Syria.

sources:

1) Operasyonel mekanizmada ilk adım

[The first step through the operational mechanism]

Hurriyet, 31 October 2012

<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/21820659.asp>

2) Turkish military denies presence of US troops in Diyarbakır

Today's Zaman, 31 October 2012

http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=296791

[Notes: Excerpts from Hurriyet's report have been translated and edited by Cem Ertür. Today's Zaman is the English version of the Turkish newspaper Zaman]

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