



The two-aircraft option from Uruguay's initial Pucara purchase was not exercised, although much later, in 1996, the FAU tried to acquire three more. Again, funds were not forthcoming. The type is useful for attack and surveillance and, like the A-37B, was involved in Uruguay's successful anti-drugs efforts. The Escuadrón Aéreo No. 1 fleet numbers these three aircraft.

Escuadrón Aéreo No. 1 (Ataque)

Grupo de Aviación No. 1 (Ataque) was officially established on 5 August 1955 and initially tasked with tactical reconnaissance, but in fact existed only on paper until Grupo No. 2 received its F-80s in 1958. At this point Grupo No. 1 took over eight North American F-51D Mustangs and two fourth American T-6 Texans. In 1960 its mission was changed to "Instruction and Training", and in 1978 the unit received its first T-34 Mentors, which it operated until 1981 when 19 of these trainers were transferred to the CIEVA. The remaining Texans were kept inventory until the last was phased out in 1989.

On 12 November 1980, a US\$10.8 million contract was signed with Argentina to purchase six new-build FMA IA 58A Pucarás (220-225), plus two options. On 15 May 1981, the first two Pucarás arrived in Uruguay. By October 1981 all were delivered to their new home at Durazno. Once again the mission was changed and the unit reverted to being an attack squadron. One of the Pucarás (229) was lost on 22 July 1993, but was later replaced by 227, illustrating the technical capabilities of the FAU. 227 is a composite aircraft built up from a replaced FAA airframe and two grounded Uruguayan examples.

