DEFENCE

Apache
evaluates

AAMs
WHITE SANDS

Tests continue to evaluate the
McDonnell Douglas AH-64A
Apache in the air-to-air role
using a variety of missiles.
Late last year a specially
modified Apache, leased from
the US Army by MDH,
conducted the first air-to-air
missile firing trials at White
Sands range, using two AIM-9
Sidewinders.
Company test pilots
conducted the trials, firing
one AIM-9 from the hover
and the other in forward
flight at 80kt. The test objec-
tives were to evaluate missile
separation, and how well
the Sidewinder's infrared
seeker head interfaced with
the AH-64's weapon control
system.
The company-funded air-
to-air missile (AAM) trials are
part of an MDH programme
to explore a multi-missile
capability and evaluate other
air-to-air Apache enhance-
ments, says programme
manager George Philips. The
trials are scheduled to
continue until August.
While at White Sands the
Apache also conducted laser
ranging and tracking tests

using Army UH-1 Iroquois
and Air Force A-7D Corsairs
as targets, with the
Apache's target acquisition/
designation system (Tads)
providing data for AAM
launch. The programme will
also include launches of the
General Dynamics Stinger
and captive-carrying tests of
the Matra Mistral AAMs.

Stinger is being integrated
into the Apache weapon
system under a separate US
Army contract. Plans call for
four Stingers to be carried
on each Apache, plus its
Rockwell Hellfire anti-tank
missiles. MDH and Rockwell
have also been investigating
the use of Hellfire in the air-
to-air role.

MDC and

Hughes
team for

missile
ST LOUIS

McDonnell Douglas and
Hughes Aircraft have teamed
up to compete for a US Navy
contract to produce an
Advanced Interdiction Wea-
pon System (AIWS), an air-
launched short-to-medium-
range stand-off missile for
use from the mid-1990s
onwards.

MDC is prime AIWS
contractor, and Hughes'
Missile System Group is
major subcontractor. The
teaming arrangement calls for
an even split of tasks and
responsibilities. MDC will
provide mission planning,
aircraft integration, weapon
design, and logistics, while
Hughes will provide avionics
seeker heads and data-link
technologies.

Sikorsky
gains Black
Hawk

funding
STRATFORD

The United States Army has
awarded Sikorsky a $983 • 2
million contract, the third
multi-year procurement
agreement, to produce 252
US-60A Black Hawks.
The contract, covering
fiscal years 1988 through
1991, brings the number of
Black Hawks delivered and on
order for the US Army to
1,200 since they first entered
service in 1978. The US Army
estimates that multi-year
funding saves about $140
million, because it eliminates
the many details and costs
associated with annual
procurement contracts.

Apache fires an AIM-9 Sidewinder at White Sands; further trials will include the air-launched Stinger and Matra's Mistral

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TRACER

Peru has received the last
of 20 Embraer EMB.312
Tucanos a month ahead of
schedule. Embraer has deliv-
ered 318 Tucanos to date, and
has orders and options for 274
more.

Matra's Mistral man-
portable Sam scored a direct
hit on a CT.20 drone on its
34th test launch. The target
was crossing broadside at low
level and 3km range. Matra
has three more Mistral test
launches to complete before
production starts. Variants of
the Mistral will include a six-
round armoured vehicle turret
launcher (Santal), a similar
Sadral turreted shipboard
system, and a helicopter-
launched version for air-to-air
combat.

New Zealand's new Chief of
Defence Staff is Gen John
Mace. He succeeds Air
Marshal David Crooks, who is
retiring.

Beech has received a sub-
contract from McDonnell
Douglas to design and build
composite landing gear doors
for the C-17 transport. Each
shipset has 12 doors.

Pakistan is to set up a new
air defence ground radar
chain with stations at Kara-
chi, Lahore, Pasni, Islamabad,
Rahimyarkham, and Jiwani.
The radars will be supplied by
Thomson-CSF of France.

Egypt has deployed Sams
and anti-aircraft artillery to
Kuwait to protect civil and
military targets from Iranian
air raids. The Kuwaitis have
only ZSU-23-4 AAA and
Sam-7s, and requested help
from Egyptian defence Minis-
ter Muhammed Abu Ghazala
when he visited Kuwait.

CASUALTIES

• A Philippine Air Force
Northrop F-5A Freedom
Fighter of the 5th Fighter
Wing at Basa AB crashed at
the USAF's Clark AB on
January 12. The pilot was
killed.

• A Somali Air Force heli-
copter believed to be a Mil
Mi-8 Hip or Mi-4 Hound,
crashed on January 13 in the
north of the country. The 12
passengers and crew were
killed.

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL, 30 January 1