DEFENCE

Westland Lynx Mk.!
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he Westland Lynx Mk.9
made its debut with the
British Army Air Corps during
last month's NATO Certain
Shield exercise in Germany, cov-
ered by a temporary UK Ministry
of Defence Controller Aircraft
release.
The first two, of a total of 24
Lynx Mk.9s, were originally due
for delivery to the British Army
in July, but will not now be
received until November. Wes-
tland says that the Gulf War
pushed back the schedule.
The Lynx Mk.9 has several
improvements over the Mk.7.
The helicopter has composite
blades, an upgraded gear box,
wheeled undercarriage — which
caused some of the early prob-
lems, secure radios, improved
identification friend and foe, a
tactical air navigation system,
cockpit voice recorder, and a
tele-briefing system.
A problem has also emerged

9 makes AAC debut
with the composite blades on
the Lynx.
Westland says: "We discov-
ered, during the initial trials, a
small amount of caulking at the
blade tip access cap. This con-
tains anti-erosion joint filler ma-
terial and in some of the trials
this started to come out."
Westland claims that the
caulking was due to "...applica-
tion inconsistency, which did
not affect flying the helicopter
and was rectified on site".

The Lynx Mk.9, because of
composite blades and improved
gearbox, has improved per-
formance, with an all-up weight
of 5,125kg from 4,875kg.
The increased blade per-
formance masked the onset of
the helicopters' g design limita-
tions. In the Mk.7, this was
apparent by slight stick shake
and rotor vibration. The Mk.9 is
limited to the Mk.7 g limits of
+2.3g and -0.5g. •

Turkish navy eyes US

BY DOUGLAS BARRIE
IN MUNICH

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urkey and the USA are
holding talks over possible
acquisition of surplus Lock-
heed P-3 Orions to meet the
Turkish navy's maritime patrol
aircraft (MPA) requirement.

The P-3, is one of several poten-
tial candidates to fill the MPA
role, according to industry
sources, with the Grumman S-2
Tracker and CASA/IPTN CN-
235 also being considered.
The P-3s would come from
surplus US Navy stock, and al-
though some basic upgrade

Will Turkey join the Orion operators' club?