



The Royal Australian Air Force is one of the first customers for the C-130J Hercules

## COMMANDO DE AVIACION DEL EJERCITO (ARMY AIR ARM)

The army air arm is divided into 16 units. It has a requirement for a medium cargo helicopter, but a selection has yet to be made. It has received 17 of a total of 23 UH-1H helicopters and is in the process of receiving a final six.

Type	No	Role
OV-1 Mohawk	23	surveillance
Cessna T-41	6	trng
Cessna T-207	5	liaison
Cessna U-17	2	utility
C-212 Aviocar	1	trans
Aeritalia G-222	3	trans
DHC-6 Twin Otter	2	trans
Sabreliner 75A	1	VIP
Citation II	1	geograph photo
Merlin III	3	VIP
Merlin IV	3	medevac
Queenair B-80	1	geograph photo
AS332B Super Puma	3	polar trans
SA330L Puma	2	trans
AS532 Cougar	20	trans
Bell 212	1	VIP
Bell 205A1	4	utility
UH-1H Iroquois	23	utility
Agusta A.109A	5	armed recon
SA315B Lama	5	SAR
Hiller UH-12ET	8	trng

## ARMENIA (CIS REPUBLIC)

There were no Soviet air force units in Armenia. The republic has used around 12 Mi-24s and some Mi-8 armed helicopters in its conflict with Azerbaijan.

## AUSTRALIA

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE (RAAF)

The RAAF signed a contract with British Aerospace in mid-1997 for 33 BAe Hawk 100s as its lead-in fighter trainer. Delivery of the first aircraft is due in 2000. The first 12 will be assembled in the UK, and the remaining aircraft RAAF Williamtown, from kits supplied by BAe. The RAAF has also shortlisted three bidders to meet its Caribou-replacement light-transport requirement: the CASA CN-235-300M or C-295M, IPTN CN-235-330 Phoenix, and Lockheed Martin/Alenia C-27J Spartan.

Some major upgrade projects are in progress, including those for the F-18 Hornet and F-111 Aardvark. Major new investment projects planned from 1997 include an order for 12 C-130Js, airborne early-warning and control aircraft, defensive-aids system for ADF transport aircraft, new air-to-air weapons and a stand-off imagery capability.

Type	No	Role
F411C/RF411C/F411G	17/4/15	strike/recon

F-18A/B Hornet	71	FGA/air defence
P-3C Orion	19	MR/ASW
MB.326M	28	trng
PC-9 Turbo-Trainer	61/4	trng/forward air control
C-130E/H Hercules	12/12	trans
Boeing 707-320C	5	VIP/tanker
DHC-4 Caribou	14	trans
Falcon 900	5	VIP
HS.748	8/2	nav trng/VIP
C-47	4	R&D

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY (RAN)

The Navy selected the Kaman SH-2G Super SeaSprite in preference to the Westland Super Lynx in mid-1997 to meet its future shipborne-helicopter requirement. Options are being examined for suitable helicopters for new ANZAC frigates and new off-shore patrol vessels. Helicopter Sqdn (HS) 816 operates 12 S-70B Seahawks, of which five are dedicated to frigate flights. A further four attrition aircraft are in storage. The seven Westland Sea King helicopters of HS 817 will undergo an upgrade programme to extend their service life to 2010. HS 817 has one aircraft permanently embarked in HMAS Success. HC 723 operates the remaining aircraft, with one AS350 embarked on a frigate and a Bell 206 embarked on HMAS Moresby.

Type	No	Role
SH-2G Super SeaSprite	11*	ASW/ASuW
S-70B-2 Seahawk	12/4	ASW/OTHT/utility
Westland Sea King 50/50A	7	utility/ASW
AS350B Squirrel	6	OTHT/utility/trng
Bell 206B-1 Kiowa	3	survey/suppt/utility
HS.748	2	EW trng/trans

\* on order

### AUSTRALIAN ARMY AVIATION

Structured into two operational units and two training schools, army aviation operates in surveillance, reconnaissance, air-mobility, operational-support and training roles. The operational units are 1 Aviation Regiment, with Kiowa and UH-1H helicopters and 5 Aviation Regiment, with S-70A Black Hawks and UH-1H gunships. The GAF Nomads of 1 Aviation Regiment have been disposed of.

Type	No	Role
S-70A-9 Black Hawk	38	tactical trans
UH-1H Iroquois	25	gunship/op suppt
Bell 206B-1 Kiowa	24	recon
AS350B Squirrel	18	trng

## AUSTRIA

### ÖSTERREICHISCHE LUFTSTREITKRAFTE (AIR FORCE)

Part of the federal army, the Austrian air force consists of

three aviation and three air-defence regiments, with a total strength of some 170 aircraft and several fixed and mobile radar stations. Additional air-defence radars (low-level surveillance) have been ordered. Some 24 cannon- and AIM-9 Sidewinder-armed Draken interceptors equip a surveillance wing responsible for the defence of Austrian airspace.

An ambitious fleet-replacement plan includes the procurement of a fighter to replace the Draken fleet by 2000, along with combat helicopters, transport aircraft and transport helicopters. Contenders to replace the Draken include the F-16, F-18, Gripen and Mirage 2000-5.

Type	No	Role
J350E Draken	24	AD
Saab 1050E	29	AD/FGA/trng
PC-7 Turbo-Trainer	16	trng
OE-1E Bird Dog	5	FAC
Cessna L-19	12	liaison
Skyvan 3M	2	trans
PC-6 Turbo-Porter	12	trans/casevac
AB212	23	utility/armed liaison
AB204B	8/13	utility/stored
AB206A JetRanger	11	trng/liaison
OH-58B Kiowa	11	AOP/armed liaison
Alouette III	24	SAR/liaison

## AZERBAIJAN (CIS REPUBLIC)

Azerbaijan seized 11 Su-24 attack and five MiG-25RB reconnaissance/bomber aircraft, most of them not in a flyable condition, when CIS forces left the country. Several MiG-25PD interceptors were stranded at Nasosnaya base after the evacuation of the air-defence unit. During clashes with Armenia over disputed territory, Armenian forces have shot down several Azeri aircraft and seized two mercenary pilots. Three MiG-21s are reported to be operational, as well as four Mi-24 Hind gunships.

## BAHAMAS

### ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE (RBDFF)

The major missions of the Airwing are reconnaissance and maritime patrol of the 161,000km<sup>2</sup> (62,000 miles<sup>2</sup>) of sea around the Bahamas. Aircraft provide surveillance of large areas and allow for the strategic deployment of surface craft.

Type	No	Role
Cessna 421C	1	recon/trans
Cessna 404	1	recon/trans

## BAHRAIN

### BAHRAIN AMIRI AIR FORCE

Established in the mid-1980s, Bahrain's military has grown rapidly. The country supported the US military during the 1991 Gulf War and is now eligible buy US equipment at reduced cost. Despite this, Bahrain has experienced difficulties in obtaining surplus armaments from the USA, but the air force is now being offered 20 updated, ex-USAF, F-16A/Bs or ten new-build F-16C/Ds, to join GE F110-powered F-16s delivered in 1990 to supplement a squadron of F-5E/F Tiger IIs which have been in service since 1986/7.

Type	No	Role
F-16C/D Falcon	8/4	int/trng
F-5E/F Tiger II	8/4	int/trng
AH-1E Cobra	14	anti-armour
B0105	3	comms/VIP
B0105	2	ASW
S-70A Black Hawk	1	VIP

## BANGLADESH

### BANGLADESH AIR FORCE

An independent element of the tri-service Bangladesh defence forces, the air force has tended in recent years to procure its front-line combat aircraft from China. Shenyang F-6s are used in combat and training roles. A squadron of MiG-21MF Fishbeds, originally 12-strong, generally has about nine serviceable machines. Russia is trying to interest Bangladesh in new MiG-29s.