

es in the Austrian Alps in early 1999, the Austrian Government launched a programme to buy nine medium helicopters with the UH-60 ordered in late 2000 in a \$2.9 billion deal for nine machines and three options. Deliveries are due in mid-2002. The Skyvans are to be replaced by 7t transports, with the BAe 146, CN235 and C-27 being considered, although ultimately the purchase may be split with a larger aircraft such as the C-130. A CN235 was leased to the Austrian air force for six months in mid-2000. The lease has been extended by two years.

Type	No	Role
J350E Draken	24	AD
Saab 1050E	29	trng
PC-7 Turbo Trainer	16	trng
Skyvan 3M	2	trans
PC-6 Turbo Porter	12	trans
Bell 212	23	utility
UH-60L Black Hawk	9/3†	utility/SAR
Bell 206A JetRanger	11	trng/liaison
OH-58 Kiowa	11	AOP/liaison
SA316 Alouette III	23	SAR/liaison
CN235-300	1	trans

† options

AZERBAIJAN

AZERBAIJAN AIR FORCE

Azerbaijan, like many other nations that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, gathered its air force equipment after Russian/CIS armed forces pulled out of the country. Such acquisition means it is unlikely that many of the aircraft, particularly fixed-wing types, are serviceable. Azerbaijan's air force has seen action in fighting with Armenia, its western neighbour, over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave that is home to ethnic Armenians but controlled by Azerbaijan. A Russian-mediated ceasefire has maintained an uneasy peace since 1994.

Type	No	Role
MiG-25PD/RB/U Foxbat	8/14/6	int/recce/trng
MiG-21 Fishbed	5	int
Su-17M Fitter	4	attack
Su-24 Fencer	5	attack
Su-25 Frogfoot	2	attack
Mi-24 Hind	15	attack
Mi-8 Hip	13	assault trans
Mi-2 Hoplite	7	trans
L-29 Delfin	18	trng
L-39 Albatros	12	trng
An-12 Cub	1	trans
An-24 Coke	1	trans
Il-76 Candid	3	trans
Tu-134A Crusty	1	trans

BAHAMAS

ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE (RBDF)

The RBDF is predominantly a naval force supported by the small air wing. Its main roles are reconnaissance and maritime patrol. It operates a Cessna 421C and a Cessna 404.

BAHRAIN

BAHRAIN AMIRI AIR FORCE

In March 1998, Bahrain's air force ordered 10 additional F-16C/Ds, significantly boosting its capabilities. The aircraft were delivered from late 2000. Bahrain has also ordered a small batch of AMRAAM missiles for delivery in 2002. Its first F-16s were delivered in 1990, and these are to be upgraded with the APG-68(V)8 radar to bring them up to the same standard as the new fighters. It began to seek an upgrade for its AH-1s in early 2001. To help train pilots, Bahrain signed a deal with BAe Systems in July 2000 to establish a pilot academy based around the Hawk trainer. The naval arm, separate from the air force, operates two BO105CBS for SAR and other tasks.

Type	No	Role
F-16C/D Fighting Falcon	18/4	int/trng
F-5E/F Tiger II	8/4	int/trng
AH-1E Cobra	12	anti-armour
BO105C	2	trans
UH-60A/L Black Hawk	1/1	VIP
727	1	VIP

747SP	1	VIP
Gulfstream II/III	1/1	VIP
AB212/412SP/430	12/4/1	trans
Avro RJ85	1	trans

BAHRAIN AMIRI NAVY AIR ARM

BO105CBS	2	utility
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BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH BIMAN BAHINI (DEFENCE FORCE AIR WING)

Bangladesh ordered eight MiG-29s in a \$115 million deal in July 1999, the first time in many years that the country has bought from Russia rather than China. The aircraft were delivered in December 1999 and February 2000. This was followed in April 2001 by a follow-on \$210 million order for 16 MiG-29s. Four Lockheed Martin-upgraded ex-USAF C-130Bs were



Bangladesh operates the An-32 (above) alongside the older An-26s in the transport role

ordered in early 2000 with the first handed over the following September. The air wing, an independent element of the tri-service defence force, took delivery of three more tandem seat FT-7s in 1999 and eight F-7Ms in 2000. Bangladesh also received three Mi-17s in 1999. It continues to acquire L-39s at the rate of one a year to replace FT-6s.

Type	No	Role
MiG-29/UB Fulcrum	6/2	int/trng
C-130B Hercules	4	trans
F-7MG/F-7M/FT-7B	22/6†	int/FGA
A-5C Fantan	21	attack
FT-6 (MiG-19)	10	trng
CJ-6	36	trng
T-37B	12	trng
L-39ZA Albatros	9†	trng
Cessna 152/337F	4/2	trng/comms
An-26 Curl	3	trans
An-32 Cline	3	trans
Mi-17 Hip	15	trans
Bell 212	12	trans
Bell 206L	3	trng

† requirement 8 † requirement 12

BELARUS

VOYENNO-VOZDUSHNYYE SILY (MILITARY AIR FORCES)

Although it appeared to verge on ceasing to be a MiG-29 operator with the sale of Fulcrums to Peru and Algeria, Belarus ordered eight MiG-29s during the Moscow air show in 1999. These will supplement Su-27s in the air defence role. Its MiG-27s have been withdrawn from use to meet CFE treaty restrictions limiting it to 260 fixed-wing combat aircraft and 80 helicopters. Various transport aircraft are operated in civilian colours, but many of the inherited Il-76s are being stored and sold as they far exceed the country's requirements. The army's aviation units have been absorbed into the VVS.

Type	No	Role
Su-24MK/MR Fencer	30/12	strike/recce
Su-25/UB Frogfoot	87/10	strike/train
Su-27P/UB Flanker	21/4	int/train

MiG-23MLD/UB Flogger	31/6	int/train
MiG-29C/UB Fulcrum	57/8	int/train
Il-22 Coot	1	cmd pt
An-12 Cub	7	trans
An-26 Curl	9	trans
Il-76MD Candid	32	trans
An-24 Coke	1	trans
Tu-134 Crusty	1	opktrans/VIP
Tu-154 Careless	1	trans/VIP
Yak-40 Codling	1	trans/VIP
Mi-24	76	attack
Mi-8	113/12/2	trans/EW/cmd pt
Mi-6 Hook	9/2	trans/cmd pt
Mi-26 Halo	15	trans

BELGIUM

FORCE AERIENNE BELGE/BELGISCHE LUCHTMACHT (AIR FORCE)

Belgium announced in May 2000 that it is to merge its independent army, air force and navy staffs into a single organisation. As part of the plan, it intends to improve its air mobility forces, and will acquire helicopters for the army and transports to support this aim. It plans to replace its F-16s in around 2015, probably acquiring 60 machines, allowing it to declare 48 fighters to NATO as opposed to today's 72. Seven A400M transports will be acquired to replace 11 C-130Hs, from around 2008.

It was announced in October 2000 that Embraer regional jets will replace HS748s and Merlins. Two ERJ-135 and two larger ERJ-145s have been bought, with the first arriving in June 2001. Belgium's F-16s are passing through the European MLU programme; 110 conversion kits have been acquired spread over four batches. Sixteen F-16s have received the necessary wiring and other equipment to use a similar number of Per Udsen-built reconnaissance pods. Eight of these are optimised for low-level and the others for medium altitudes.

Sabena Technics upgraded the C-130Hs under a 1992 contract, which equipped the aircraft with Honeywell EFIS cockpits, an enhanced navigation suite and a self-defence system. The Sea Kings received an upgrade in 1995 and an automatic flight control system in 1997, which will extend service life to around 2015. Alpha Jets are receiving new instrumentation and avionics to reduce maintenance.

Type	No	Role
F-16AM/BM	72/18	int/attack/trng
Alpha Jet	29	trng
SF260M/D	23/9	trng
C-130H Hercules	11	trans
A400M	7†	trans
A310-225	2	VIP/trans
Falcon 900	2	VIP trans
Falcon 20E	2	trans
ERJ-135/145	2/2†	VIP/comms
Merlin IIIA	5	trans/surv/calib
Sea King Mk48	5	SAR
Super Cub	5	trng