



Ghana's air force continues to acquire Mi-17-series helicopters to support peacekeeping duties

F-4F Phantom II	143	
Su-22M	17	
TANKER		
A310	1	3/
TRANSPORT		
C160	53	30
A310	3	
Challenger 601	6	
L-410	2	
A400M		60/
COMBAT HELICOPTER		
UH-1D	86	
AS532U2 Cougar	3	
NH90		30/24
TRAINING AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTERS		
Alpha Jet	9	
L390Z	3	
T-37B	35	
T-38A Talon	40	
NH90 TTH		30/

MARINEFLIEGER (NAVAL AIR ARM)

The German navy's air arm was the major victim of the cutbacks announced in March 2003, which included the merger of the service's Tornado wing into the Luftwaffe.

Operational activity

Atlantics are deployed regularly to Djibouti to support German naval vessels on anti-terrorist patrols in the Middle East.

Procurement

When the Netherlands decided to scrap its maritime patrol aircraft fleet Germany quickly offered to buy eight surplus P-3 Orions from 2005-6, and the deal was secured in 2004. The navy's 17 Lynx 88s are being brought up to an 88A standard, while seven new machines to the same specification have been acquired. The 88As are equivalent to the Super Lynx with 360° radar, improved navigation equipment, nose-mounted FLIR, composite main rotor blades and a reverse-direction tail rotor. The first two machines were delivered in 2002. NH90s will replace them around 2015, having first replaced the Sea Kings from 2007-8, but as yet a firm order has not been placed.

Fleet review

Four Atlantics are used for SIGINT and these could be replaced by a version of the Global Hawk UAV.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
Tornado IDS	47		
ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION			
Atlantic 1	11		
Atlantic 1 SIGINT	5		
P-3C			8/
TRANSPORT			
Dornier 228L/MLT	2/2		

COMBAT HELICOPTER

Sea King	41	21	
Lynx 88/88A	15/7		
NH90 NFH			/30
Mi-14	3		

HEERESFLIEGER (ARMY AVIATION)

The army is a transport and combat air arm equipped with medium and light helicopters in the shape of the CH-53G and the UH-1Ds and variants of the BO105 for anti-tank and observation work.

Operational activity

Three CH-53Gs are deployed to Kabul to support the German contingent in the NATO peacekeeping force in Afghanistan. Other CH-53Gs and UH-1D support German peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Procurement

German army aviation is poised for a major change as deliveries of the NH90 tactical transport begin in 2004. Given the funding problems it seems unlikely an option for 30 more NH90s will be taken up. A Tiger initial production contract, signed in 1999, covers delivery of 80 combat support variant Tigers to Germany from late 2003. Training at the joint French-German Tiger training base in southern France was due to begin in October 2004. Budget cuts have resulted in a projected purchase of 212 dropping to 120 at the most. Twenty CH-53s are receiving upgrades, including external long-range tanks, EW equipment and NVG-compatible cockpits to make the aircraft more suitable for NATO and UN operations. The type is to be replaced by a heavy transport helicopter from 2015-20. During 2004 the first six CH-53Gs received the AAR-60 Missile Launch Detection System. The EC635s – military EC135s – were ordered in 1997 to replace Alouette IIs in the training role.

Fleet review

The CH-53 and UH-1D fleets are plagued by serviceability problems and at any one time only about half are operational.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
Tiger UHU	5		75
NH90 TTH	2		48/30
CH-53G	95		
UH-1D	129		
BO105P/M (PAH-1)	193		
BO105M (VBH)	48	60	
TRAINING HELICOPTERS			
Alouette II	30		
EC135T	15		
UNMANNED AIR VEHICLES			
Luna			
CL-289			
Aladin			

GHANA

GHANA AIR FORCE

Ghana has supported UN and Organisation of African Unity missions with its air force.

Operational activity

Ghana sent peacekeeping troops to Liberia in September 2003 and a contingent has remained in the country.

Procurement

Four Mi-17s were purchased from Kazan in September 2003. Further purchases of Kazan helicopters are planned to support Ghana's peacekeeping contingents.

Fleet review

The Skyvans were withdrawn from service but were subsequently re-introduced following overhaul by Airwork in the UK.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
MB326KC/E/F		4/1/6	
MB339A	4		
TRANSPORT			
BN-2T Islander	4		
F27 400M/600	2/1		
F28-3000	1		
Skyvan 3M	4		
Cessna 172	3		
Gulfstream II	1		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
AB412	1		
SA319	5		
A109	2		
Mi-17	4		
AB212		2	
TRAINING AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTERS			
L-29	12		
L-390Z	2		

GREECE

ELLINIKI POLEMIKI AEROPORIA (HELLENIC AIR FORCE)

The Greek air force has benefitted from ongoing investment in new equipment for well over a decade.

Procurement was paused to fund the 2004 Olympic Games and the new government is now conducting a review of all major defence projects.

Operational activity

Most of the Greek air force was placed on high alert to provide security during the Olympics in Athens.

Procurement

The Greek air force launched a major modernisation and expansion programme in 1996. In 2000, it became the first international customer for the Eurofighter Typhoon, signalling a 60 aircraft order, with an option of 30 more. A deal was not signed, however, due to a 2001 spending freeze and the new government is reviewing the project.

During 1999, Greece finalised deals for four Embraer EMB-145s fitted with Ericsson Erieye AEW radars and with Raytheon for 45 T-6 Texan trainers. As an interim AEW capability, the air force operated two Swedish air force Saab 340-based Argus AEW systems to gain experience with the Erieye radar. The first of the EMB-145s was handed over in September 2001 and the last were due to enter service by the end of 2004, with the Saab 340s being returned. In March 2002, Greece selected the C-27J over the CN-235, C-295 and An-32 to meet a medium transport requirement. Greece ordered 12 aircraft and took options on another three: the deal also includes two C-130Hs and four G222s, all ex-Italian air force assets. A competition is under way for an advanced trainer – the Mako, Hawk, MB339, L-159, MiG-AT and AMX-T are in the running for a T-2 replacement.

The air force seeks a structural life extension and avionics upgrade for its 15 C-130s – L-3's Spar Aerospace will perform the avionics work.

Fleet review

The last Mirage F-1CGs were retired in July 2003, as the new Mirage 2000s and late batch F-16s arrived in large numbers.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
Mirage2000EG/EG/BG	28	15/4	