

Directory: world air forces

from the national carrier, Air Maldives. It also has an Mi-8 on loan from the Indian air force.

MALI

FORCE AERIENNE DE LA REPUBLIC DU MALI (MALIAN REPUBLIC AIR FORCE)

France and the USA have increased military contacts in a bid to counter Islamic influences.

Operational activity

Clashes occurred with Islamic militants in April 2004 and the Mali army conducted counter-insurgency operations.

Procurement

In December 2000, Taiwan donated two AS365 Dauphins to Mali, the country's first receipt of military aircraft in years. No future procurement is planned.

Fleet review

It is doubtful that the MiG-21s or many of the trainers are operational.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
MiG-21MF/U		10/1	
TRANSPORT			
Basler Turbo 67	2		
An-26	2		
An-24	1		
An-2	2		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
AS350B	1		
Mi-8	2		
AS365 Dauphin	2		
TRAINING AIRCRAFT			
L-29 Delfin	6		
Yak-18	2		
Yak-11	4		

MALTA

ARMED FORCES OF MALTA AIR SQUADRON

Malta joined the EU during 2004. It has strong defence and security ties with Italy.

Operational activity

The Italian military mission attached to the armed forces of Malta operates two AB212 helicopters, manned by Italian and Maltese crews on SAR duties.

Procurement

The Bell 47s need replacing.

Fleet review

Malta's fixed-wing aircraft are all relatively modern and its air squadron achieves high levels of serviceability.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION			
BN-2B Islander	2		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
Bell 47G-2	2		
Hughes M500M	1	3	
SA316B/SE3160	4	1	
TRAINING AIRCRAFT			
Bulldog T1	5		

MAURITANIA

FORCE AERIENNE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE (MAURITANIAN ISLAMIC AIR FORCE)

A military coup attempt in September 2004 in this west African country was thwarted by loyalist forces.

Operational activity

No major operational activity involved the country's air force.

Procurement

No major procurement is planned.

Fleet review

The air force is dedicated to support the Mauritanian army and to conduct coastal patrols.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION			
PA-31 Cheyenne II	2		
BN-2A Defender	6		
Cessna FTB337F	4		
TRANSPORT			
Harbin Y-12 (II)	1		
Basler Turbo 67	1		
Yak-40	1		
727	1		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			

Alouette II	1		
TRAINING AIRCRAFT			
SF260E	5		
AL60B2C	1		

MAURITIUS

MAURITIUS COAST GUARD

The Mauritius coastguard undertakes maritime surveillance and patrols the EEZ. A police wing operates two SA316B Alouette IIIs.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION			
Dornier 228	1		
BN-2T Defender	1		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
SA316B	2		
AS555SN	1		

MEXICO

FUERZA AEREA MEXICANA (AIR FORCE)

The main focus of the Mexican armed forces is the support of law enforcement agencies engaged in counter-drug activity.

Operational activity

Air and maritime patrol operations are now co-ordinated by AEW aircraft, which have significantly enhanced the ability of Mexico to detect and intercept drug running ships and aircraft crossing its territory and territorial waters.

Procurement

Mexico's most ambitious procurement plan is the acquisition of an Embraer EMB-145 for AEW and two further examples for maritime patrol. Deliveries began in 2004. L-3 was selected in late 2001 to supply the mission system, which will include the Raytheon SeaVue radar, FLIR, and COMINT sensors. Four more EMB-145s could be acquired at a later date. The country has attempted to replenish its F-5E fleet with the purchase of 14-24 second hand aircraft from Switzerland but a deal has yet to be concluded. The country was also reported to be negotiating to buy ex-Israeli CH-53 Yasur 2000 heavy-lift helicopters. A replacement for the PC-7 fleet is also required.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
F-5E/F-5F	8/2		
AT-33A	10	20	
IAI201 Arava	11		
ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION			
EMB-145SA/MP	2		1/
C-26	2		
TRANSPORT			
C-130A/K/E/L100-30	7/4/2/1		
An-32	4		
727	6		
737	1		
757-225	1		
Gulfstream III	2		
Jetstar	2		
DC-9	1		
Merlin II/III/IV	6		
Conair 580	1		
T-39 Sabreliner	9		
Skyvan 3M	1		
Commander 5005	10		
Turbo Commander 500/680	6		
King Air C90/Super King Air 4/1	4/1		
Beech H19A	23		
Cessna 210/206/310	3/4/1		
Queen Air	3		
PC-6B Turbo Porter	4		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
SA 2-37A	2		
AS332L Super Puma	3		
S-70A/UH-60L	2/9		
SA330F Puma	2		
AS355F Ecureuil	2		
Mi-26	2		
Mi-17	24		
Mi-2	4		
Bell 206/206L-3	15		
Bell 212	15		
UH-1H	26	34	

MD530F/MD530	24		
Bell 412EP	4		
UH-1V	11		
TRAINING AIRCRAFT			
PC-7	75		
F33 Bonanza	29		
Maule MX-7-180	8		
SIAl-260E	28		
Cessna 182S	23		4/6/

AVIACION DE LA ARMADA DE MEXICO (NAVAL AIR ARM)

Mexico's naval air arm is predominately a land-based force which specialises in transport, coastal patrol and SAR work. Rivalry with the air force is intense and the navy is keen to expand its counter-drug capabilities.

Procurement

In 2003 the service proposed an ambitious modernisation plan to counter-drug trafficking, including the purchase of four ex-Israeli E-2Cs, deliveries of which started earlier this year, two Mi-17Vs, 12 Schweizer 330Cs, eight L-39A strike jets, 10 AS565 Panthers, two MD902CEs and possibly Mi-24 attack helicopters. Existing Mi-8s and BO105s are also proposed to be upgraded. The navy also signed a deal with EADS Casa to fit its Fully Integrated Tactical System to two C-212s, with the other six to be fitted with the system by the navy. The upgrade will include radar, FLIR, navigation sensors and a datalink.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
TP-90 Redigo	10		
L-39			/8
ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION			
E-2C	4		
C-212-200 Aviocar	8		
PA-23 Aztec	4		
PA-31 Navajo	1		
Cessna 150/153	4/3		
Cessna 210	1		
Cessna 205/6	1/1		
Cessna 337G	2		
Cessna 402/404/421	4/3/2		
Tonatiuh MX-1	5		
TRANSPORT			
Learjet 24D	2		
Mu-2F	1		
Commander	3		
Dash 8Q200	1		/1
King Air 90	1		
DHC-5D Buffalo	1		
An-32	12		
Gulfstream 1000	7		
F-27	3		
Sabreliner 60	4		
UH-12E Raven	1		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
AS365 Dauphin	1		
UH-1H	2		
BO105C/BO105CB	10		
Alouette III	3		
AS550 Fennec	3		
Mi-8MTV	26		
M-17V			/2
Schweizer 330Cs			/12
MD900/Combat Explorer	4/6		
AS565 Panther			/10
TRAINING AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTERS			
Maule MX-7-180	4		
Lancair IV-P/Super ES	3		/7
Zlin 242L	10		
F-33C Bonanza	16		
FH227	1		
B55 Baron	3		
MD500E	4		
Rotorway Exec162F	2		
Mi-2	5		
R22/R44	2/2		

MOLDOVA

MOLDOVAN AIR FORCE

The former Soviet republic is one of Europe's poorest countries and its armed forces are underfunded and