

# Directory: world air forces

## Fleet review

The country's new air force suffered heavily from budget cuts and serviceability is reported to be very poor. A number of aircraft and helicopters have been transferred to the air force from the state security aviation unit. A large number of surplus aircraft were put up for sale during 2004, including five MiG-29s, one MiG-21, 11 J22s, two G-2s, two UTVA-66s, three An-26s, eight Mi-8s and six Gazelles.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
<b>COMBAT AIRCRAFT</b>			
MiG-29A/MiG-29B		5	
MiG-21bis/RUM	2	15	
IJ22/J22/NJ22 Orao	30		
SA342L Gazelle	45		
G4 Super Galeb	9		
G2 Galeb	1		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
An-26		11	
An-2TD	2		
Falcon 50	2		
Yak-40	1		
Learjet 25	4		
UTVA-66	15		
<b>COMBAT HELICOPTER</b>			
Mi-24	2		
Mi-8/17	36	8	
Gazelle		8	
<b>TRAINING AIRCRAFT</b>			
UTVA-75	30		
<b>UNMANNED AIR VEHICLES</b>			
VBL-1000			

## STATE SECURITY

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
<b>COMBAT AIRCRAFT</b>			
J-20 Kangaj	5		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
An-2	1		
UTVA-2	2		
<b>COMBAT HELICOPTER</b>			
Mi-17	2		
AB212	1		
AB206		2	

## SEYCHELLES

### SEYCHELLES COAST GUARD - AIR WING

The Seychelles People's Air Force has been renamed the Seychelles Coast Guard - Air Wing.

#### Operational activity

No operational activity involved the air wing over the past year.

#### Procurement

No new procurement is planned.

#### Fleet review

The air wing is tasked with maritime surveillance, SAR, logistics support and coastal defence around the republic's 112 islands.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
<b>ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION</b>			
BN-2A Islander	1		
Cessna 152	1		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
Beech 1900D	1		
Cessna F406	1		
Merlin IIIA	1		
Ralleye 235E	1		
Citation 560	1		

## SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone's air force has had a turbulent recent history as the country has been devastated by civil wars. The UK has several times deployed forces to the troubled country and some 8,000 UN troops remain.

#### Operational activity

The Sierra Leone army has gradually expanded its zone of control and replaced UN troops protecting the capital.

#### Procurement

No new procurement is planned.

#### Fleet review

Two Mi-24Vs were acquired from Ukraine in 1999; one was lost in October 2001. The helicopters are flown by

foreign mercenary air crews.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
<b>COMBAT HELICOPTER</b>			
Mi-24V	2-4		
Mi-17	2		

## SINGAPORE

### REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE (RSAF)

The South-East Asian island city state maintains a strong air arm and has ongoing plans to purchase further advanced air warfare equipment.

#### Operational activity

Monitoring Singapore's sea lanes and airspace are the main activities of the air force.

#### Procurement

In October 2003 the F-15T, Typhoon and Rafale were down-selected for the final phase of the contest to supply up to 20 aircraft, with a decision due early in 2005.

Singapore also participated in the concept definition phase of the JSF programme but it is understood to want to keep both procurement efforts going to keep Singapore's options open in case the JSF timeline falters.

A helicopter request for information was issued in May 2001 for six to eight multirole naval machines.

Meanwhile, the air force had issued a similar request to trainer manufacturers to replace its S211s but this was scrapped in 2003, along with a C-130 upgrade plan. The air force is also believed to be seeking an ELINT aircraft based on a business jet platform to supplement or replace a Fokker 50 with a limited ELINT capability.

Singapore signed a deal for eight AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters in 1999 and converted 12 options in 2001. Deliveries started in 2002. The KC-135s are due to receive two-crew cockpits and GPS/INS navigation systems. A replacement for the AS550 training helicopters has been launched with delivery due in 2006.

#### Fleet review

Singapore has limited space and the competitions include requirements for basing and training. The air force has F-16 and CH-47 training underway in the USA, plus 12 Super Pumas and a flying school equipped with S211 trainers in Australia. Some 18 Skyhawks are permanently based in France for training.

The KC-135 training detachment has returned to its home base from the USA. Singapore became a customer of the NFTC programme, sending six pilots each year for advanced and weapons training. The AS550s were re-rolled from attack to utility tasks during 2004.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
<b>COMBAT AIRCRAFT</b>			
J5F			TBC
F-16A/B	4/4		
F-16C/D	25/16		20/
F-5E/RF-5E/T	42/7/4		
A-4SU/TA-4SU	51/14		
<b>ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION</b>			
Fokker 50MPA/UTA-B	5/3/1		
E-2C Hawkeye	4		
C-130H	1		
<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
C-130B/H/	4/4		
<b>TANKER</b>			
KC-130H	1		
KC-135R Stratotanker	4		
<b>COMBAT HELICOPTER</b>			
AH-64D	8		12/
AS332M/AS332UL	21/12		
UH-1B/H/Bell 205	18	41	
CH-47D/CH-47SD	6		10/
<b>TRAINING AIRCRAFT/HELICOPTERS</b>			
S211	29		
AS550C-2/AS550A-2	10/10		
<b>UNMANNED AIR VEHICLES</b>			
IAI Searcher			

Czechoslovak Republic air force was split two to one in favour of the Czechs.

#### Operational activity

On entry to NATO, Slovakia became responsible for its own air defence. While Slovakian army troops have participated in peacekeeping missions, the air force has yet to embark on a major mission outside the country.

#### Procurement

Slovakia is struggling to find the funds to modernize its forces, although it is keen to acquire a squadron's worth of Western fighters around 2007. Belgium has already offered surplus MLU F-16s. Meanwhile, Slovakia has committed to a modest upgrade of 12 MiG-29s, returning the fighters to an airworthy state and fitting NATO-compatible IFF radios and other equipment. Only some 8-10 aircraft will be operational at any one time. RSK MiG won the deal and work was due for completion in 2004 but has since been cancelled. Two Mi-17s have already received NATO compatible systems for service with UN/NATO forces in Bosnia. Slovakia was one of four nations participating in the Visegrad Mi-24 upgrade programme but is now to upgrade 10 aircraft on its own after the deal collapsed.

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