

Directory: world air forces

Bell 212ASW	7	3	
Heli-Dyne Bell 412EP	6		
SAR TRAINING HELICOPTERS			
TH-57A/206B	2/1		

EJERCITO VENEZOLANA (ARMY AIR ARM)

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
TRANSPORT			
IAI-201/202 Arava	3		
BN-2A Islander		1	
Queen Air B80/A65	1/1		
King Air 90/Super	1/1		
Cessna TU206G/207	2/1		
Cessna 172	1		
M-28 Skytruck	12		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
AS-61A		4	
UH-1H/Bell 205A	6/1	2	
Bell 412SP/EP	2/4		
Bell 206B/206L1	1/1		
A109A-2/AM	2/7		
UH-60			/6
TRAINING AIRCRAFT			
Cessna 182	2		

NATIONAL GUARD

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
TRANSPORT			
IAI-201 Arava	3		
M-28 Skytruck	12		
Beech E90	2		
King Air/Super King Air	1/1		
Queen Air 80	2		
BN-2A Islander		1	
Cessna U206	2		
Cessna 402C	1		
Cessna 182/172/152/337	1/2/3/2		
COMBAT HELICOPTER			
Bell 412/SP/EP	5/1/8		
AS365F Ecureil	7	2	
Bell 206B/L1	13/1		
A109A	4		
TRAINING HELICOPTERS			
Enstrom F280FX	4		

VIETNAM

KON QUAN NHAM DAN VIETNAM (VIETNAM PEOPLE'S ARMY AIR FORCE)

Vietnam's rapid economic development is opening the country to foreign investment and has resulted in Hanoi contemplating moving away from its traditional arms suppliers in China and Russia. The Vietnamese air force is considered efficient but financial problems mean it will be unable to replace its 1960s and 1970s vintage aircraft in significant numbers for many years.

Operational activity

Soviet troops left Vietnam in 2002 and since then the country has been solely responsible for its own defence. Vietnam has been at peace with its neighbours for over a decade.

Procurement

It plans to double the number of Su-27s in service and has been linked with the Su-30MK. It has also secured spares packages for its large fleet of MiG-21s. Vietnam is in talks with Sukhoi for a Su-22 upgrade. Four PZL An-2s were delivered in early 2002, followed by 10 L-39Cs from the Czech Republic in 2004 and two Mi-17s from Russia. More trainers are required.

Fleet review

Almost all of the surplus US inventory has now been sold off or scrapped.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
Su-27P/UB	9/1		
MI-G-21bis/UM	120/19		
Su-22	35		
MiG-23	3		
TRANSPORT			
An-26	22		
An-30	2		
An-2	4		
Yak-40	5		

COMBAT HELICOPTER

Mi-24	30
Ka-25	5
Ka-28/Ka-32	6/2
Mi-8/17	61
Mi-6	7

TRAINING AIRCRAFT

Yak-18 Max/BT-6	20
L-39C	34
Yak-52	?

YEMEN

UNIFIED YEMEN AIR FORCE

North and South Yemen merged in 1990 and the air forces of the two countries were amalgamated. It experienced a civil war in 1994 and sporadic fighting continues. Since 2002 Yemen has allied itself with the USA in the global war on terrorism. In return it has received military aid and US advisers have conducted training in the country.

Operational activity

Throughout mid-2004 government troops, backed by Mi-8 and Mi-24 helicopters were engaged in several sweeps in the mountainous regions against rebel tribes and supporters of Islamic fundamentalist clerics.

Procurement

In 2001, it ordered another 24 MiG-29s, including at least 10 SMT versions from RSK MiG in a deal that also includes an upgrade of an undisclosed number of MiG-21s. Deliveries were due to begin in mid-2004. Interest has been expressed in Kamov's Ka-52 attack helicopters and Yemen is considering the acquisition of surveillance-configured CN-235s from Indonesian Aerospace to patrol vast desert expanses, which the USA claims are home to Al Qaeda training camps.

Fleet review

The bulk of the Yemeni air force is based at Aden. Serviceability rates are poor, particularly among the older types.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
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COMBAT AIRCRAFT			
Su-27/UB	10/2		
MiG-23BN/UM	25		
MiG-21MF/bis/UM	20	38/12	
MiG-29A/UJ	8/2		24 SMT/12
F-5E/F-5B	11/2		
F-7	6		
Su-22BKL/M-2/UJ	35		

TRANSPORT

An-12B	3
An-2	1
An-24	5
An-26	7
C-130H	2
Il-76	3
SC7 Skyvan	2

COMBAT HELICOPTER

Mi-24	15
Mi-8	49
AB206B JetRanger	6
AB212/AB212	5/1
AB204B	2

TRAINING AIRCRAFT

L-39C	12
Yak-11	18
Zlin 242L	11

ZAMBIA

AIR FORCE AND AIR DEFENCE COMMAND

Zambia faces no external threats and its armed forces have increasingly been involved in African peacekeeping missions.

Operational activity

No major operational activity occurred over the past year involving the air force.

Procurement

There are reports that the MiG-21s were upgraded in Israel in the late 1990s. Zambia's latest purchase is eight K-8 trainers acquired from China in 1999; the two countries have increasingly close defence ties.

Fleet review

The K-8s also have a light ground-attack capability. Many of the older aircraft, including the F-6s, Mi-8s and Jastrebs, are thought to be unserviceable.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
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COMBAT AIRCRAFT

MiG-21MF		16	
Shenyang F-6 (MiG-19) 8		4	
J1E Jastreb		2	

TRANSPORT

An-26		4	
DHC-5D Buffalo	5		
Y-12 (II)	4		
BAe 748 Srs2A	1		
Yak-40	1		
Dornier 28 Sky Servant	10		
King Air 90	1		
Canadair CL-601	2		

COMBAT HELICOPTER

AB47G		12	
AB212	2		
AB205	12		
Mi-8/17		8/2	

TRAINING AIRCRAFT

MB326GB		16	
Saab MF17	14		
SF260M/TP	6/2		
K-8	7		
Nanchang BT6	10		

ZIMBABWE

AIR FORCE OF ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's international isolation continues and this has severely limited the ability of the country's armed forces to acquire new equipment and spares for existing aircraft.

Operational activity

Zimbabwe pulled its troops out of the Democratic Republic of Congo in late 2002 and has since then concentrated on internal security tasks.

Procurement

Reports that Zimbabwe had bought 12 new fighters for \$240 million during in mid-2004 have yet to be confirmed, with China, the alleged supplier, denying involvement. Some reports also suggest Zimbabwe is about to acquire 14 MiG-29s from Russia. China is believed to have supplied five replacement F-7s, and Libya to have delivered three MiG-23s, at nominal cost, as well as making a gift of two Mi-24s and a similar number of Mi-8s.

Fleet review

Zimbabwe's air force uses Chinese MiG-21 copies as the basis of its combat fleet, supported by elderly UK-built Hunters and various armed trainers and counter-insurgency aircraft. The O-2s, donated by the USAF, have an anti-poaching role over the country's extensive national parks.

Upheaval in the country and its dramatically reduced income mean that much of the fleet is unserviceable.

Type	Active	Stored	Order/Req
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COMBAT AIRCRAFT

F-7II/FT-7B2	5/2		
MiG-23	3		
Hunter FGA9/Hunter T81		10/1	
Hawk 60/60A		10	

ISTAR/SPECIAL MISSION

FTB337G Lynx/O-2	14/2
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TRANSPORT

C-212	9	2
BN-2A Islander	5	

COMBAT HELICOPTER

Mi-24/Mi-35	8-10	
Mi-8	2	
AB412	7	
SA319 Alouette III	27	
AB205		8
AS532UL Cougar	2	

TRAINING AIRCRAFT

SF260TP	6
SF260M/W/SF260F	17/6