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Sri Lanka Air Force

The two aircraft types used heavily in the air-to-ground campaign against the Tamil Tigers in one shot; the IAI Kfir (front) and the MiG-27M (back). (Katunayake, 9 February 2011, Stefan Goossens)

A visit to Sri Lanka by a group of enthusiasts, in February 2011, has yielded a lot of information on this Asian air force. Since the majority of the aircraft were seen during the visit, a lot of details have surfaced and we have not presented a complete rundown of this air force before, we decided it was time for a complete rundown of the aircraft types currently in use.

On 19 May 2009, the Sri Lankan government formally declared an end to the 25-year civil war in the country, after the army took control of the entire island and killed the leader of the Tamil Tigers. We will not get into too much detail on the conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers and their Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, but fact is that this conflict has helped shape the Sri Lankan Air Force as it currently is.

Order of Battle

Anuradhapura	6 Helicopter Squadron	Mi-17	Minneriya	7 Helicopter Squadron	Bell 206 Bell 212
China Bay	1 Flying Training Wing	Ce150L PT-6 K-8		9 Attack Helicopter Squadron	Mi-24P Mi-24V
Colombo-Katunayake	4 Helicopter Squadron	Bell 212 Bell 412(EP)	Ratmalana	2 Heavy Transport Squadron	An-32 C-130K Ce421C
	5 Jet Squadron	F-7BS F-7GS FT-7		8 Transport Squadron	Y 12 Beech 200(T)
	10 Fighter Squadron	Kfir C2 Kfir C7 Kfir TC2	Vavuniya	111 Air Surveillance Squadron	IAI Scout IAI Searcher
	12 Jet Squadron	MiG-27M MiG-23UB		112 Air Surveillance Squadron	Blue Horizon

The aircraft carry squadron specific coloured bars to the left and the right of the SLAF roundel. The K-8 Karakorum used to operate within 14 squadron, but this unit was disbanded after the K-8 operations moved to China Bay and operations were integrated in 1FTW. The air force is currently awaiting the delivery of two Xian MA60 transport aircraft. The aircraft are expected to arrive in 2011. There is a requirement for adding fourteen Mi-17s to the fleet of helicopters from 2012, but no order has actually been placed.

Aircraft rundown

From here we will present a rundown of all types that are currently in use with the Sri Lanka Air Force. The rundowns will contain all aircraft of a specific type that has been in service. The majority of the types have seen several losses, either to flying accidents or as a result of terrorist attacks. For several types, additional orders to the original one were placed in order to replace the aircraft that had been lost. After the war was over, all remaining aircraft of the air force were given a new serial. The new serial system consists of 3 letters (hinting the role of the aircraft type) and 4 numbers. Whenever the 4 digits of the serial add up to 13 the serial is not used (Bell 212 SUH-4108 for instance does not exist, since $4 + 1 + 0 + 8$ adds up to 13). The three always start with S (for Sri Lanka) and are then followed by the role. SCM = Sri Lanka Cargo Medium, SCL = Cargo Light, SBT = Basic Training, SMR = Maritime Reconnaissance, etc.

Antonov An-32

In 1995, Sri Lanka acquired the first three of a total of ten An-32Bs for transport duties. Of these ten aircraft, five have received new serials and are currently being operated by 2 squadron at Ratmalana. These five have also undergone rework in the Ukraine recently.

CR860	SCM-3301	An-32B	3501	2sq	feb11	
CR861		An-32B	3502	2sq		w/o 13sep95 into sea near Negombo (Sri Lanka), 75 people on board killed
CR862		An-32B	3503	2sq		w/o 22nov95 shot down at Jaffna peninsula (Sri Lanka), 63 people on board killed
CR863	SCM-3302	An-32B	3508	2sq	feb11	
CR864	SCM-3303	An-32B	3509	2sq	feb11	
CR865		An-32B	3510	2sq		w/o 21feb97 crashed at Ratmalana (Sri Lanka) following aborted take-off; 3 or 4 people on board killed, 45 injured and 10 OK. Cockpit used in monument at Ratmalana SLAF museum
CR866		An-32B	3601	2sq	nov96	According to the OKB wfu or w/o before 12mar07. Could be the one involved in a landing accident at Palaly on 14jun03
CR867		An-32B	3208	UR-48007	pres	Ratmalana SLAF museum, pres outside
CR868	SCM-3305	An-32B	3410	UR-48011	2sq	feb11
CR869	SCM-3304	An-32B	3504	UR-48025	2sq	feb11

Beechcraft Beech 200 Super King Air

The Beech 200s within the Sri Lanka Air Force have been used heavily in the war. CR842 was equipped for SigInt (Signals Intelligence) duties, and CR843 was able to use its radar for wide-area moving target indication, spot searches, sea surveillance etc. The two current aircraft are supposedly equipped with real time data links, for sea surveillance (of any trafficking; people, drugs, arms, etc.)

CR841	Beech 200T	BB-1185/BT-30	N6923L	rr	CR842	Built as Beech 200 with c/n BB-1185. Converted to Beech 200T. Reregistered; $8+4+1 = 13$, corrected by new serial CR842
CR842	Beech 200T	BB-1185/BT-30	CR841	8sq		w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)
CR843	SMR-2201	Beech 200T	BB-1314	N4277E	8sq	feb11 Built as Beech 1300. Converted to Beech 200T. Intended for Colombian Air Force as EC-120 but ntu, HISAR equipped (Hughes International Synthetic Aperture Radar). Grey c/s
	SMR-2202	Beech 200	BB-1900	N111LZ	8sq	feb11 White c/s.



Sri Lanka, basically uses three different types of aircraft for its transport duties. All three are seen in this picture. From front to back the Harbin Y12, the Antonov 32 and the C-130K Hercules. (Ratmalana, February 2011, Arnold ten Pas)



The Bell 212 is an extremely versatile chopper. Sri Lanka indeed uses it for a variety of roles. One is seen here while on a SAR mission during this year's floodings. (Anuradhapura, February 2011, Hans Rolink)

Bell 206 JetRanger

Introduction text. The Bell 206 has been serving the Sri Lanka Air Forces since 1968. From the original ten JetRangers, four are still in use for general supply duties and training. No information was found on the existence of a SHT-1101.

CH550	Bell 206A	307		pres Ratmalana	sep10	w/o 29mar07 during a hard landing by a student pilot. Now preserved SLAF museum and used as a travelling exhibit.
CH551	SHT-1102	310		7sq	feb11	
CH552	SHT-1103	311		7sq	feb11	
CH553	Bell 206A	704		rr CH559		Reregistered; 5+5+3 = 13, corrected by new serial CH559
CH554	Bell 206A	705		7sq		w/o 09nov92 shot down over Ampara (Sri Lanka), Flt Lt KAKI Perera killed
CH555	Bell 206A	706		7sq		w/o 30nov84 nr Kilaly (Sri Lanka) during night training flight, Flt Lt AM Dabare killed
CH556	Bell 206A	707		7sq		w/o 27may84 flew into lake nr Batticaloa (Sri Lanka), Sqn Ldr RP Athapattu and HMS Chandrasiri killed
CH557	SHT-1104	3451		7sq	nn	dam'd in accident on 26feb88 but repaired
CH558	SHT-1105	3491		7sq	feb11	
CH559	Bell 206A	704	CH553	7sq		w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)

Bell 212 Twin Huey

A total of eighteen Bell 212s have been delivered since 1983. The chopper is in use with 7 helicopter squadron at Minneriya-Hingurakgoda for general supply duties, proving air power, close air support and casevac-duties. We are not sure about the fate of four helicopters: CH540, CH541, CH542 and CH560. Two new serials, SUH-4109 and SUH-4110, lack a tie-up to two of these four. No information was found on the possible existence of a SUH-4101 and SUH-4107.

CH535	Bell 212	31198	N2134A	rr CH566		Reregistered; 5+3+5 = 13, corrected by new serial CH566
CH536	Bell 212	31208	N2206A	7sq		w/o 1991 took ground fire and crash-landed, bursting into flames.
CH537	SUH-4104	31217	N3897W	7sq	feb11	
CH538	Bell 212	31276	N32102	7sq		w/o 18feb00 shot down
CH539	Bell 212	31282	N3211G	7sq		w/o 22oct07 crashed nr Mehenthalaya Doramadawala (Sri Lanka) on its way to Anuradhapura to offer assistance after LTTE attack. Wg Cdr APJ Mohotti killed (and three others?). Probably shot down by friendly fire.
CH540	Bell 212	31283	N3211W	7sq	jan98	
CH541	Bell 212	31224	N4471M	7sq		w/o 28may84, being rebuilt?
CH542	Bell 212	31235	N4471N	7sq	feb05	
CH543	Bell 212	31239	N3189L	7sq		w/o 05may90 Sigiriya (Sri Lanka), Flt Lt RB Kulathunge, Sqn Ldr VBA De Mel, Flt Lt AP Peries + 1 more killed
CH544	Bell 212	31240	N3189K	rr CH565		Reregistered; 5+4+4 = 13, corrected by new serial CH565
CH545	Bell 212	31243	N3189N	7sq		w/o 03jun88 Kimbulapitiya (Sri Lanka), Flt Lt PK Kumaratunge killed
CH546	Bell 212	31258	N3192D	7sq		w/o 07dec96 force landed Jaffna (Sri Lanka) in territory controlled by LTTE due to technical problems. Crew and passengers were evacuated by another helicopter, while the aircraft was destroyed

CH547	SUH-4106	Bell 212	31236	N3189W	4sq	feb11
CH548	SUH-4103	Bell 212	31259	N3202A	7sq	feb11
CH560		Bell 212	35026	C-GAJR	7sq	apr03
CH561		Bell 212	35027	C-GAJN	7sq	

by Sri Lankan Army on the ground. Tail section of the aircraft was still present at Iranamadu in aug10.

w/o 25nov97 off Nainamadu-Puliyankulam (Sri Lanka) during a night casevac-mission, Sqn Ldr Dushantha Edirisinghe, Flt Lt Upul Thennakoon killed, along with two gunners, Sgt Samaraweera and another.

CH563	SUH-4111	Bell 212	35028	C-GADQ	7sq	feb11
CH564		Bell 212	35029	C-GADP	7sq	
CH565	SUH-4102	Bell 212	31240	CH544	7sq	feb11
CH566	SUH-4105	Bell 212	31198	CH535	7sq	feb11
	SUH-4109	Bell 212			7sq	nn
	SUH-4110	Bell 212			7sq	nn

w/o 02aug94 Palaly (Sri Lanka) shot by LTTE grenade and caught fire on ground, two people on the ground killed

Bell 412

Six Bell 412s were added to the inventory since 1985. The helicopter is in use as VIP-ride with 4 helicopter squadron. All six of these black choppers currently carry SUH-4201 as their serial externally. Duplicating (or more) serials was also done when the old serial system was still in use. By applying serials multiple times, terrorist have a hard time trying to find out which chopper is actually being used as the ride for a VIP. The crew are able to identify the individual aircraft.

CH522	SUH-4201	Bell 412	33096	N31828	4sq	feb11
CH523	SUH-4202	Bell 412	33097	N3195W	4sq	feb11
CH524	SUH-4203	Bell 412	33100		4sq	feb11
CH525	SUH-4204	Bell 412	33095	N3202A	4sq	feb11
CH527	SUH-4205	Bell 412EP	36225		4sq	feb11
CH528	SUH-4206	Bell 412EP	36249		4sq	feb11

Cessna Ce150

Soldiering on as basic trainers for almost four decades now are six Cessna 150 aircraft. All six are in use with the 1FTW at China Bay.

CT150	SBT-1201	Ce150L	150-73646	1FTW	feb11	FMS 72-1464
CT151	SBT-1202	Ce150L	150-73650	1FTW	feb11	FMS 72-1465
CT152	SBT-1203	Ce150L	150-73654	1FTW	feb11	FMS 72-1466
CT153	SBT-1204	Ce150L	150-73656	1FTW	feb11	FMS 72-1467
CT154	SBT-1205	Ce150L	150-73657	1FTW	feb11	FMS 72-1468
CT155	SBT-1206	Ce150L	150-73658	1FTW	feb11	FMS 72-1469

Cessna Ce421 Golden Eagle

A former Sri Lanka Survey Department Ce421 GoldenEagle joined the air force in the early eighties. It is used, by 2 squadron, for national survey and mapping activities.

CC660	SPR-2101	Ce421C	421C-0504	2sq	feb11	Ex Survey Dept. Dam'd 01jun95 wheels up landing but repaired
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Since the early seventies, SLAF has been operating six Cessna 150s for basic training. In 2011, all six are still serving the air force from China Bay. (Ratmalana, February 2011, Hans Rolink)



Jet training is performed by the 1 Flying Training Wing at China Bay. The unit currently uses a fleet of seven K-8 Karakorun jet trainers. (China Bay, February 2011, Frank Mink)

Harbin Y12

The first batch of six Harbin Y12 light transport aircraft was delivered between November 1986 and March 1987. The next three were handed over in December 1990. To compensate for the losses, two more aircraft, Mark IV versions, were delivered in 2010. Operating with No. 8 Light transport Squadron at Ratmalana, the Chinese transporter is also used by Heli Tours. Heli Tours is the service operated by the Sri Lanka Air Force to transport local people and tourists. The service operates a limited regular schedule, but also offers tailor made tours.

CR851	Y12 II	0013	8sq		w/o 20jan97 into sea off Palaly (Sri Lanka) while investigating suspect ship during LTTE gun runners patrol mission. The crew, consisting of Flt.Lt. Sudarashan Nanayakkara, Flt.Off. Prasanna Wettasinghe, Ld.Aircraftsman Wickremasinghe and Navy Lt. S. Ranaweera, went missing and were declared dead.	
CR852	SCL-3201	Y12 II	0014	8sq	feb11	
CR853	SCL-3204	Y12 II	0015	8sq	feb11	
CR854	SCL-3202	Y12 II	0018	8sq	feb11	
CR855	SCL-3203	Y12 II	0019	8sq	feb11	
CR856	Y12 II	0020	8sq		w/o 06mar97 destroyed on the ground at China Bay by LTTE mortar fire.	
CR857	SCL-3205	Y12 II	0021	8sq	feb11	
CR858	SCL-3206	Y12 II	0022	8sq	feb11	
CR859	SCL-3207	Y12 II	0027	8sq	feb11	
	SCL-3209	Y12 IV	037	B-1097L	8sq	feb11
	SCL-3210	Y12 IV	038	B-1098L	8sq	feb11

Hongdu K-8 Karakorun

The K-8 Karakorun was introduced in 2001, when the first six aircraft were delivered to the newly formed 14 squadron. They were acquired to be able to better train the new pilots to fly the growing fleet of fighters at that time. Of these six, three were destroyed soon after their introduction during an attack at Colombo-Katunayake. Three replacement aircraft were handed over four years later, on 25 July 2005. An additional order for two aircraft was placed in 2009 and these aircraft turned out to be second hand Chinese Air Force aircraft.

CTF740	SJT-1801	K-8	L83200219	1FTW	feb11
CTF741	K-8		L83200220	(14sq)	w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CTF743	K-8		L83200221	(14sq)	w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CTF744	SJT-1802	K-8	L83200222	1FTW	feb11
CTF745	K-8		L83200223	(14sq)	w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CTF746	SJT-1803	K-8	L83200224	1FTW	feb11

CTF747	K-8	L83200314?	14sq		w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)	
CTF748	SJT-1805	K-8	L83200315	1FTW	feb11	
CTF749	SJT-1806	K-8	L83200316	1FTW	feb11	
	SJT-1807	K-8	L83200205	CHN	1FTW	feb11
	SJT-1808	K-8	L83200206	CHN	1FTW	feb11

Israel Aircraft Industries Kfir

Israel helped Sri Lanka in acquiring their first real air-to-ground asset. In 1996 the first six IAI Kfirs were delivered (including one two-seater). The aircraft were introduced in 10 squadron and four more Kfir C2s were delivered in 2000. Another four, Kfir C7s this time, followed in 2001 and in 2004 another Kfir TC2 was added. The air force recently lost two aircraft in a mid-air collision, leaving them only eight Kfirs. Since there is no urgent need for lots of air-to-ground capacity at this moment, it is not expected that additional aircraft will be added.

CF710	SFT-1501	Kfir TC2	B11	ISR 301	10sq	feb11	
CF711	SFM-5201	Kfir C2	163	ISR 931	10sq		w/o 01mar11 collided over Yakkala in the Warana area not far from Colombo (Sri Lanka) with SFM-5202 at 0930hrs. The aircraft were practicing for the 60th anniversary parade of the SLAF. Flt Lt Monath Perera succumbed to his injuries as a result of the crash while Squadron Leader Vajira Jayakody who piloted the other Kfir received minor injuries.
CF712		Kfir C2	160	ISR 910	10sq		w/o 21jan97 crashed into the ground in the Negombo Laguna (Sri Lanka) due to technical difficulties, pilot Demel ejected.
CF713	SFM-5202	Kfir C2	161	ISR 909	10sq		w/o 01mar11 see SFM-5201
CF714	SFM-5203	Kfir C2	164	ISR 967	10sq	feb11	
CF716		Kfir C2	165	ISR 913	10sq		w/o ..jul09
CF717	SFM-5204	Kfir C2	111	ISR 894	10sq	feb11	
CF718	SFM-5205	Kfir C2	143	ISR 987	10sq	feb11	
CF719		Kfir C2	121	ISR 896	10sq		w/o 22oct02 16 miles NE of Katunayake (Sri Lanka) at 0851hrs local after an engine failure, pilot Flt Lt Sudil Gamage ejected safely.
CF720	SFM-5207	Kfir C2	142	ISR 961	10sq	feb11	
CF721	SFM-5208	Kfir C7	189	ISR 551	10sq	feb11	
CF722		Kfir C7	191	ISR 555	10sq		w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka). Tail preserved Ekala (feb11)
CF723		Kfir C7	172	ISR 516	10sq		w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CF725	SFM-5209	Kfir C7	184	ISR 541	10sq	feb11	
CF726	SFT-1502	Kfir TC2	B06	ISR 305	10sq	feb11	



Currently, of the fifteen Kfirs delivered, only eight remain. The type is being flown from Katunayake (the military part of Colombo - Bandaranaike airport) by No. 10 squadron. (Katunayake, February 2011, Arnold ten Pas)



Previously flown by Ukrainian fighter pilots, 12 squadron at Katunayake, now flies the MiG-27s with Sri Lankan pilots. One MiG-23UB with the squadron is in use for type conversion. (Katunayake, February 2011, Frank Noort)

Lockheed C-130 Hercules

Two former RAF C-130Ks, which were de-converted from being air-to-air refuelling aircraft by Marshalls of Cambridge, were supplied in a Defence Export Service Organisation (DESO) deal to the SLAF in 2000. They are used for heavy lift transport, often picking up arms from overseas.

CR880	SCH-3402	C-130K	4227	GBR XV203	2sq	feb11	Grey c/s
CR881	SCH-3401	C-130K	4240	GBR XV213	2sq	feb11	Off-White c/s
CR882		C-130K	4224	GBR XV202			Cancelled, refused because of poor state

Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-23/27

Six MiG-27Ms along with a sole MiG-23UB were delivered from Ukrainian stocks in 2000 entering service with 5 squadron at Katunayake, operating alongside the F7BS. By 2006 the number of MiG-27s had dropped to three, two aircraft crashed while a third was destroyed on the ground by LTTE insurgents. Four additional aircraft were therefore delivered in 2006. The aircraft proved invaluable during the war against the LTTE. During the final stages of the war some MiG-27s operated from China Bay. Initially the aircraft were piloted by Ukrainian pilots but this changed after Sri Lankan pilots converted to the type. In 2007 12 squadron was established to operate the MiGs. The aircraft is dubbed 'Slogger' in Sri Lankan service.

CF731	SFS-5301	MiG-27M	83712531385	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12500851
CF732		MiG-27M	83712534657	UKR	5sq?		w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CF734		MiG-27M	83712534709	UKR	5sq?		w/o 09jun04 into Negombo Lagoon (Sri Lanka), shortly after take-off from Colombo-Katunayake, Flt Lt Poojana Goonatilake ejected safely
CF735	SFS-5302	MiG-27M	83712538777	UKR	12sq	nn	
CF736		MiG-27M	83712522013	UKR	5sq?		w/o 18aug01 crashed into houses near the airport of Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka), pilot killed with seven people on the ground. It occurred during a celebration flight flown by two Ukrainian instructors who were flying to celebrate the Aviation day in Ukraine.
CF737	SFS-5303	MiG-27M	83712545237	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12501162
CF761	SFS-5304	MiG-27M	83712518009	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12500513
CF762	SFS-5306	MiG-27M	83712518022	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12500535
CF763	SFS-5307	MiG-27M	83712518044	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12500561
CF764	SFS-5308	MiG-27M	83712534688	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12501022
CTF730	SFT-1701	MiG-23UB	49065315	UKR	12sq	feb11	line number 12501181

Mil Mi-8/17/171

The Mil Mi-17 was introduced to the Sri Lanka Air Force in 1993. By 1996 a total of twelve helicopters had been delivered for tactical transport duties (six were Kazan produced Mi-8MTV1s/Mi-17s and six were Ulan Ude built Mi-171s). The type has been in use with 6 squadron from its introduction. The unit was established at Katunayake, then quickly moved to Vavuniya. Currently the unit is operating from Anuradhapura, although a number of their helicopters is at Katunayake to support 4 squadron in VIP transport. Two Mi-17V-5s were handed over on 4 July 2006, at that time entering service with 4 squadron. A further three examples have been noted that need clarification (CH585, CH586 and CH593). The same goes for SMH-4332 of which photos exist. It is rumoured that the Indian Air Force provided a number of helicopters during the conflict with the Tamil Tigers, although

this has never been confirmed. If this was the case, SMH-4332 may have been one of them and it may have been returned to India later on.

CH581	SMH-4308	Mi-17V-5	144M07	6sq	feb11	
CH582	SMH-4309	Mi-17V-5	144M08	6sq	feb11	
CH585		Mi-17		6sq	2006	
CH586		Mi-17		6sq	jan08	
CH587		Mi-17-1V		6sq		w/o 22jan96 crashed en route Palali to Vettilaikerni, probably shot down by LTTE, all 39 on board killed
CH588	SMH-4305	Mi-17-1V	96247	6sq	feb11	Stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11
CH589	SMH-4307	Mi-17-1V	96248	6sq	feb11	
CH590		Mi-8MTV-1	96071?	6sq		w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CH591		Mi-8MTV-1	96072	6sq		w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka). Tailboom preserved at Anuradhapura.
CH592		Mi-8MTV-1		6sq		w/o 20jul96? Alampil (Sri Lanka) shot down. An Mi-17 was shot down on this date and a well educated guess leads to CH592 being the one involved
CH593		Mi-17-1V		6sq	2008	
CH594		Mi-171		6sq		w/o 07jan98 damaged beyond repair by RPG- and mortar hits while attempting to evacuate 20 injured soldiers; 2 heavy- and 5 slightly injured
CH595	(SMH-4301)	Mi-171	59489611073	6sq	feb11	Stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11 as CH595
CH596	SMH-4302	Mi-171	59489611084	6sq	feb11	
CH597		Mi-171		6sq		w/o 24jul01 destroyed during LTTE attack at Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka)
CH598	(SMH-4303)	Mi-171	59489611103	6sq	feb11	Stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11 as CH598
CH599	SMH-4304	Mi-171	59489611112	6sq	feb11	
	<u>SMH-4332</u>	Mi-17		6sq	2009	

Mil Mi-24/35

In 1995 the first of, until now, 26 Mi-24 "Hind" helicopters was delivered to Sri Lanka. The first choppers of this type, in use with 9 Attack Helicopter Squadron, were leased from the Ukraine. Because of the role of the helicopter, as a battlefield gunship or 'flying battle tank', a large number of Mi-24s has been lost. Several additional orders for both new and second hand helicopters were placed, resulting in a several subtypes entering service with the Sri Lanka Air Force. In the following rundown the type-designations are used that the Sri Lanka Air Force itself uses. Officially there is no such type as a Mi-35V, the export version of the Mi-24V is simply known as the Mi-35. The Mi-35P is the export version of the Mi-24P. Those with construction numbers starting with 353242..., 353243... and 353462... are second hand, while those having six digit c/n's or c/n's starting with 340124030.. are new built ones.



Like many other countries, Sri Lanka uses the Mil Mi-17 for tactical transport duties. Some of 6 squadrons choppers were awaiting overhaul at the beginning of 2011. The country hopes to acquire fourteen extra Mi-17 in the future. (Anuradhapura, February 2011, Frank Mink)



When in need for a battlefield gunship, the Mi-24 is one of the obvious options. Sri Lanka chose to start operating the type in the mid-nineties. Since then, quite a large number has been delivered and lost. (Anuradhapura, February 2011, Patrick Dirksen)

CH610	Mi-24V	3532421622152	UKR	to Ukraine?		Leased from Ukraine and probably returned again
CH611	Mi-24V	3532421622373	UKR	to Ukraine		Leased from Ukraine and returned again
CH612	Mi-24V	3532421622429	UKR	to Ukraine		Leased from Ukraine and returned again
CH613	Mi-24V	3532421622143	UKR	9sq		w/o 23oct00 into sea nr Marble Beach, 16km SW of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), shot down by LTTE SAM, Gp. Capt. Jagath Rorigo (Commanding Officer of 9sq), Flt. Lt. Chamath Wijesekere and two gunners (Sgt Siriwardana RJ + Sgt Wickramasinghe WYMR) died wreck dumped Ratmalana (feb05)
CH614	Mi-24V	3532421622197	UKR	9sq		w/o 19mar97 into sea near Mullaitivu (Sri Lanka), during flight from Palaly to Hingarukgoda, 8 killed (3 Ukrainians, 5 SLAF personnel), the bodies of two gunners (Sgt Samarakoon PI + 1) were found in sea five days later, no evidence of the wreckage or the other victims, including Flt. Lt. Anurudda Malalasekera and Flt Lt PHA Senasinghe Wreckage never found, and rumoured to have fallen in the hands of the LTTE, but never confirmed
CH615	Mi-24V	3532421622231	UKR	pres Ratmalana	feb11	w/o Puliyankulam (Sri Lanka), 12 NM North of Vavuniya, shot down by LTTE with small arms, hit over enemy territory but managed to limp back to friendly territory (12 feet into friendly territory) and made a hard landing. Crew safe (Sqn Ldr Thilina Kaluarachchi and Flt Lt Bandu Edirisinghe). Now preserved SLAF museum
CH617	SAH-4401	Mi-24V	3532421521861	9sq	feb11	
CH618	Mi-24V			9sq		w/o 17dec99 1 NM East of Elephant Pass (Sri Lanka), came under enemy fire and crashed into lagoon whilst trying to force land, Wg. Cdr. Tyronne Silvapulle, Fg. Off. Chintake de Zoyza, Cpl WDA Thushara and one more killed
CH619	Mi-24V			9sq		w/o 10nov97 ditched into water of Kokilai lagoon (Sri Lanka), shot down by LTTE, pilot Wg Cdr Thilina Chandima Kaluarachchi (died trapped inside front cockpit) and co-pilot Flt Lt Danesh Thushara Goonasekera (managed to get out of rear cockpit but died as his MAE-vest failed) killed, both gunners escaped safely. The Hind was escorting three Mi-17s, one of which was hit by debris of the Hind and had to make a forced landing
CH620	Mi-24V			9sq		w/o 26jun98 Kachchankulam, 2 miles South of Vavuniya (Sri Lanka), shot down by LTTE SAM, Flt. Lt. Lasantha Kodituwakku, Fg. Off. Mohomad Aathique and two gunners (Cpl Perera RKL + Cpl Vitharana NA) killed in post crash fire LTTE claimed the helicopter to have been shot down, but SLAF sources credited the loss to technical problem
CH621	SAH-4402	Mi-35V	087352	9sq	feb11	
CH622	SAH-4403	Mi-35P	34012403018	i/a Minneriya	feb11	w/o 26apr07? crashed adjacent to Anuradhapura Air Base at 2255hrs, just after take-off from there to investigate reports of unidentified aircraft flying over the sea in the Puttalam area. Both pilots and the aircrew gunners on board escaped injury. Suspected to have been CH622, still reregistered as SAH-4403 afterwards and now in use as an i/a

CH623	SAH-4404	Mi-35P	34012403019	9sq	feb11	
CH624		Mi-35P	34012403014	9sq		w/o 24may00 nr Kodikamam, 14 NM East of Jaffna (Sri Lanka), came under fire and crash-landed while burning, Flt Lt Bandu Edirisinghe and Fg. Off. Thaslin Deen escaped with injuries, two gunners died after jumping from the burning airframe (DMAS Dissanayake and Sgt OAN Perera)
CH626	SAH-4406	Mi-35P	34012403015	pres	Minneriya	feb11 w/o 15jun01 Minneriya-Hingarukgoda (Sri Lanka), crash-landed after engine failure, Flt Lt Bandu Eirisinghe and Flt. Lt. Lasitha Sumanaweera safe. Reregistered as SAH-4406 afterwards and now preserved Minneriya-Hingarukgoda
CH627		Mi-24V		9sq		w/o 18oct00 nr Nagarkovil, 22 NM East of Jaffna (Sri Lanka), came under fire and crash-landed while burning, Fg Off Pradeep Piyaratne, Fg Off Riyancey Rajapakse and the gunner escaped with minor injuries
CH628	SAH-4407	Mi-35V	220991	9sq	feb11	
CH629	SAH-4408	Mi-24V	3534624511845	9sq	feb11	built as Mi-24R, probably de-modified to Mi-24V, stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11?
CH630	SAH-4409	Mi-24V	3534624511858	9sq	feb11	built as Mi-24R, probably de-modified to Mi-24V, stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11
CH631		Mi-24P	3532432521361	9sq		w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka). Still on 9sq list as CH631.
CH632	SAH-4410	Mi-24P	3532432521384	9sq	feb11	Stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11, but seen at Ratmalana feb11, probably for SLAF celebration activities
CH633	SAH-4411	Mi-24P	3532432622864	9sq	feb11	
CH635	SAH-4412	Mi-24P	3532431622597	9sq		w/o 27nov09 Buttala, near 'Rattaran Kivula' mountains in Buttala, about 240 kilometers from Colombo (Sri Lanka), Wg Cdr Esala Dodammaluwa, Sqn Ldr Rehan Fernando, Cpl SJ Sirisena and Cpl BMSCB Rathnayake killed. Crashed at 1330hrs after mechanical failure
CH636	SAH-4416	Mi-24P	3532432521254	9sq	feb11	
CH637	SAH-4413	Mi-24P	3532432622651	9sq	feb11	Stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11, dam'd 22oct07
CH638	SAH-4415	Mi-24P	3532433521729	9sq	feb11	Stored Engineering Wing Katunayake in feb11, dam'd 30sep05
...		Mi-24V	3532421521847	dump	Ratmalana	feb05 Wreck noted at Ratmalana crash compound

Nanchang PT-6

To add to the basic training capacity, ten Nanchang PT-6 trainer aircraft were ordered around the turn of the century. The first three entered service in April 2011 with 1FTW, then still at Anuradhapura. Two additional aircraft were added around ten years



China has supplied the majority of the trainers for Sri Lanka. Apart from the K-8, China has also provided the Nanchang PT-6 to Sri Lanka. (China Bay, February 2011, John van Golen)



For air defence duties, the air force is equipped with the Shenyang F-7. No 5 Jet Squadron operates the type from Katunayake, but also has hardened aircraft shelters for them at China Bay. (Katunayake, February 2011, Frank Noort)

later. All remaining aircraft still serve with 1FTW, now based at China Bay.

CT180	PT-6	6432023?	pres Ratmalana	feb11	w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka). Now preserved SLAF museum (parts of CT180 and CT183 used for one complete display and one fuselage in monument)
CT181	SBT-1601	PT-6	6432024	1FTW	feb11
CT182	SBT-1602	PT-6	6432025	1FTW	feb11
CT183	PT-6	6432026?	pres Ratmalana	feb11	w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka). Now preserved SLAF museum (parts of CT180 and CT183 used for one complete display and one fuselage in monument)
CT185	PT-6	6432027	1FTW		w/o 01mar07 Anuradhapura near the runway (Sri Lanka). Flt Lt Muthukumarana and Cadet Officer Ilangakoon killed. Fuselage dumped at Anuradhapura (feb11)
CT186	SBT-1603	PT-6	6432028	1FTW	feb11
CT187	SBT-1604	PT-6	6432029	1FTW	feb11
CT188	SBT-1605	PT-6	6432030	1FTW	feb11
CT189	SBT-1607	PT-6	6432031	1FTW	feb11
T190	PT-6	6432032?	1FTW		w/o 22oct07 destroyed during LTTE attack at Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)
	SBT-1608	PT-6	6832021	1FTW	feb11
	SBT-1609	PT-6	6832022	1FTW	feb11

Shenyang F-7/FT-7

Following the retirement of the MiG-17s in 1981 the Sri Lankan Air Force relied on its small fleet of SF260TPs for CAS missions and even its Y-12s were used to drop bombs. In an effort to regain a fast jet capability in its air force, four F7BS and one FT7 were ordered in China in 1991. The aircraft entered service in the CAS and, if required air defence, with the newly established 5 squadron at Katunayake. The aircraft were joined by two FT5s for basic jet training. The F7s relocated to China Bay in 1994 but this was reversed shortly afterwards. In 2008 the remaining three F7BS and the sole FT7 were joined by four new brand-new F7GS. Currently the F7BS is used for advanced jet training for pilots graduating on the K-8.

CF704	F-7BS	7BS2237	5sq		w/o 23jul00 Colombo-Katunayake (Sri Lanka) during touch-down on landing, pilot ejected safely
CF705	SFI-5101	F-7BS	7BS2238	5sq	feb11
CF707	SFI-5102	F-7BS	7BS2239	5sq	feb11
CF708	SFI-5103	F-7BS	7BS2240	5sq	feb11
CF780	SFI-5104	F-7GS	1112	5sq	feb11
CF781	SFI-5105	F-7GS	1113	5sq	feb11
CF782	SFI-5106	F-7GS	1114	5sq	feb11
CF783	SFI-5108	F-7GS	1115	5sq	feb11
CTF703	SFT-1401	FT-7	S0005	5sq	feb11