

## Mexican F-5s soldier on

THE SECOND edition of the Mexican FAMEX (Feria Aeroespacial México) show, held at Santa Lucía air base near Mexico City from April 26-29,

provided some details of the Fuerza Aérea Mexicana (FAM, Mexican Air Force) F-5E/F fleet. It was reported that the type was withdrawn from

service last September, but the F-5s remain operational. Out of the ten F-5s in service last year, two were donated to the Air

Force Museum at Santa Lucía. Of the remaining eight aircraft, four are still operational while the other four await refurbished

engines from RUAG. The Swiss company has confirmed the order but has not given details of timings and cost. **Arnold ten Pas**

*F-5E serial 4510 at Santa Lucía air base. It is one of four Tiger IIs currently still operational with Escuadrón Aéreo 401. Arnold ten Pas*



## AW169 for Argentine Gendarmerie

ARGENTINA'S SECURITY Ministry has funded the purchase of a Leonardo AW169 helicopter for the Gendarmería Nacional Argentina (GNA, Argentine National Gendarmerie). The cost of the acquisition is around \$10m. The GNA's current fleet is mainly configured for observation and therefore unable to perform fast air assaults. **Juan Carlos Cicales**

## Fifteenth Huey II for Argentine Army

THE BATALLÓN de Abastecimiento y Mantenimiento de Aeronaves 601 (601st Aircraft Supply and Maintenance Battalion) of Argentina's Army Aviation Management recently delivered the 15th Bell UH-1H upgraded to Huey II standard under the Hornero project. The helicopter, serial AE-473 (ex AE-449, c/n 12353, US serial 70-15743), is one of 20 being converted under



an agreement with Bell Textron. Together with facilities in Colombia, the 601st Battalion's workshop at Campo de Mayo Military Airfield in the province of Buenos

Aires is the only one certified to carry out the Huey II upgrade outside the United States. The five remaining aircraft are currently being rebuilt. **Juan Carlos Cicales**

## Texan IIs for Argentina

THE PENTAGON has disclosed the award of an \$88.2m Foreign Military Sales contract to Beechcraft for the delivery of four T-6C+ aircraft to the Fuerza Aérea Argentina (FAA, Argentine Air Force). According to a US Department of Defense announcement on April 25, the contract will also include maintenance and pilot training, and interim contractor support for maintenance. The aircraft will help replace the FAA's current training aircraft and enhance the FAA's surveillance and border security mission. Work will be performed at Wichita, Kansas, and is expected to be completed by April 30, 2018.

## Argentine Army Merlin retirement



**Above:** The Ejército Argentino (EA, Argentine Army) retired its four Fairchild Swearingen Merlin IIIA/IVA aircraft on May 9. These comprised SA-226T Merlin IIIA serials AE-176 (c/n T-275-148), AE-178 (c/n T-280-171) and AE-179 (c/n T-281-174) and SA-226-AT Merlin IVA serial AE-180 (c/n AT-071E-253). The aircraft were assigned to the Army Aviation Command, which introduced the Merlin IIIA in 1977 and the Merlin IVA in 1979. **Juan Carlos Cicales**



## Tejas test fires Derby AAM

A TEJAS Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has launched its first Israeli-supplied Derby beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (AAM). The weapon was fired in lock-on after launch mode. According to the Indian Ministry of Defence "the test was to assess Derby integration with aircraft systems including the aircraft avionics, fire-control radar, launchers and missile weapon delivery system and to verify its performance". The firing is an important step towards achieving final operational capability (FOC).

# F-15SG at Exercise Combat Hammer



**An F-15SG takes off from Mountain Home on May 2 carrying a 500lb-class JDAM.** USAF/SrA Jeremy L Mosier

THE 428TH Fighter Squadron, the Republic of Singapore Air Force's (RSAF's) flying training unit, took part in the week-long Combat Hammer exercise at Hill Air Force Base, Utah,

in early May. Combat Hammer is a weapons system evaluation that tests all procedure from loading to the delivery of the munitions. It was the first time the 428th FS had deployed its F-15SGs

with the 2,000lb (907kg) GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM).

Combat Hammer continued recent partnership building between the RSAF and US Air Force. Between

April 10 and May 11 the RSAF dispatched six F-15SGs and around 100 personnel from 142 Squadron to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to train with the US Pacific Air Forces.

## First AH-64E for Indonesia

BOEING HAS begun flight-testing of at least one of the eight AH-64Es ordered by the Tentara Nasional Indonesia-Angkatan Darat (TNI-AD - Indonesian Army). Testing was first noted in May.

The helicopters will be flown by Skadron Udara Angkatan Darat 13 Serbu at Achmad Yani Airport, Semarang, Java. The first three helicopters will join the unit in November. **Dave Allport**

## Colibri for RMAF training fleet



**THE ROYAL Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) is continuing to upgrade its training fleet. The RMAF has now retired its Alouette III helicopters and is replacing them with four Airbus Helicopters H120 Colibris, comprising serials M103-01 to M103-04.** Raymond van Dijkhuizen

## Japanese Orions not offered to RMAF

THE CHIEF of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) has denied reports that the service is planning to acquire surplus Kawasaki P-3C maritime patrol aircraft from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

At the LIMA 2017 exhibition in Malaysia, the Malaysian minister of defence, Hishammuddin Hussein, said he was "working with the

Japanese with regards to the P-3 Orions". (See *Intel Report - Patrolling hostile waters*, June 2017).

Since then, RMAF chief General Datuk Seri Affendi Buang has told media that reports claiming that the Japanese government will offer its P-3Cs free of charge are untrue. "It's probably just a rumour," he told reporters at RMAF Subang in May. "We have not received any offer or decision officially."

## Indonesian Su-35 procurement uncertain

THE INDONESIAN Ministry of Defence (MoD) has revealed a potential hurdle to procurement of the Su-35 fighter. In a statement the MoD confirmed that the delay in buying the *Flanker-E* was the result of concerns related to technology transfer. Officials from the MoD discussed the planned purchase with Rosoboronexport, the Russian military export agency, on May 3. A procurement team from the ministry is currently assessing the deal to determine whether it meets criteria for technology transfer and terms of financing.

## Final flight of last ROCAF S-2T

REPUBLIC OF China Air Force (ROCAF) S-2T Turbo Tracker 2214, the last remaining airworthy ROCAF example, has made its final flight. The aircraft departed from Pingtung Air Base on May 18 for Hsinchu AB, where it landed for the final time

at 1015hrs local time. It had previously been operated by the 34th Anti-Submarine Squadron at Pingtung, but will now be preserved at Hsinchu.

The S-2T had first entered ROCAF service in 1991, but as part of a reorganisation of the

Taiwanese military the type was transferred to the Republic of China Navy on July 1, 1999. However, following a reversal of this decision, on July 2, 2013, the 11 surviving S-2Ts were transferred back to ROCAF. **Dave Allport**



**The last operational ROCAF S-2T, 2214, which made its final flight on May 18 from Pingtung to Hsinchu.** ROCAF

## First Korean A330 MRTT begins conversion

THE FIRST Airbus Defence and Space A330-200 for the Republic of Korea Air Force (RoKAF) to be converted to Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) standard arrived at Getafe, Madrid, from Toulouse facility on May 19. The aircraft, MSN1787 (ex F-WWYO), was registered as EC-331 for the ferry flight. It is the first of four MRTTs ordered by South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) on June 30, 2015. Deliveries of the four aircraft to RoKAF are expected to be completed by 2019. **Roberto Yáñez**