

Colombia acquires two more Kfirs



Above: This year's F-AIR (Feria Aeronáutica Internacional) Colombia show at Rionegro Airport from July 13-16 included various FAC aircraft displayed with special colour schemes incorporating an eagle motif. These included single-seat Kfir C10 FAC 3060 operated by Escuadrón de Combate 111. Raymond van Dijkhuizen

THE FUERZA Aérea Colombiana (FAC, Colombian Air Force) has acquired a pair of two-seat Kfir TC12 combat trainers from Israel. Serials FAC 3008 and

FAC 3009 will serve with Escuadrón de Combate 111 at Olano Alemán air base, better known as Palanquero. Previously the FAC had contemplated returning to service the

Mirage 5CODM fleet, which was retired in 2010. However, it was determined the two Kfirs could be purchased for approximately the same cost. Following a

series of losses, the FAC was reduced to just one surviving two-seat Kfir TC12 in service, which was insufficient to keep pilots trained on the type. **Juan Carlos Cicales**

Uruguay receives Skymasters from Chile

THE AVIACIÓN Naval Uruguaya (ANU, Uruguayan Naval Aviation) has confirmed acceptance of three Cessna O-2A Skymaster observation aircraft offered by the Chilean Navy. The Uruguayan Navy has now begun obtaining approval for the transfer from the US government and, once achieved, the Uruguayan government will be formally able to accept the donation.

As a result of budget constraints the ANU is currently experiencing one of the most critical periods since its establishment, with just



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two Super King Air 200Ts available for patrol and search and rescue tasks, together with two T-34-C1

Turbo Mentors used as primary trainers with a limited attack capacity. Only two helicopters

remain in operation: one Bo105-PAH1 and one AS355-F2 Esquilo. **Juan Carlos Cicales**

Brazilian Navy to receive KC-2 in 2021

THE MARINHA do Brasil (Brazilian Navy) is due to receive four KC-2 Turbo Trader carrier on-board delivery (COD) and aerial refuelling aircraft in 2021. The first two are to be handed over between April and July 2021, followed by the remaining pair in October the same year.

Brazil acquired eight former US Navy C-1A Trader aircraft in 2010. Four are to be modernised and reconfigured by Elbit in the US, and a maiden flight is now planned for 2019, having slipped from November this year.

Argentina begins training on P2002JF



Tecnam

THE FUERZA Aérea Argentina (FAA, Argentine Air Force) has begun training cadets on the Tecnam P2002JF. A solo flight ceremony for the first 34 cadets trained on the new aircraft was staged on July 5 at the

Escuela de Aviación Militar (Military Aviation School) in Córdoba. The aircraft are supplied by Tecnam via Aerotec Argentina and provide the first step in pilot training on the Joint Basic Course of Military Aviator, which

includes candidates for the Argentine Air Force, Argentine Naval Aviation and Argentine Army Aviation. Early last year the FAA began studies to acquire a new basic training aircraft. In May last year, Aerotec

Argentina sent two P2002JFs to the Escuela de Aviación Militar for evaluation. The Tecnam type was selected in September, and the FAA confirmed a contract for lease with an option to purchase eight aircraft.

Upgraded Argentine Twin Otter delivered

A THIRD upgraded DHC-6 Twin Otter 200, T-89, was recently delivered by the Area Material Quilmes (AMQ, Quilmes Material Area) to the Fuerza Aérea Argentina (FAA, Argentine Air Force). Viking Air, which holds the Twin Otter's type certificate, has recognised AMQ as an authorised service centre for military Twin Otter 100, 200 and 300 series aircraft.

The upgrade includes more powerful 620shp (456kW) PT6A-27 engines, Rockwell Collins avionics, GPS, Garmin LCD screens, Bendix weather radar, new communication systems, Cleveland Wheel & Brake landing gear and braking systems (as used on the 400 series) and three-blade Hartzell 'paddle' propellers.

Previously, T-85 was upgraded at Viking Air's facilities in Canada, while AMQ upgraded T-82 and T-87 for the FAA and AE-106 for the Argentine Army. T-89 takes the AMQ work for the FAA to three aircraft. **Juan Carlos Cicales**