

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 It was reported that the type was withdrawn from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**