

Press Release

First Tiger HAD retrofit delivered to the French Army Aviation

The first of 36 retrofits ordered by the French Ministry of Defence

Marignane, 21 December 2017 - Airbus Helicopters has delivered the first Tiger retrofitted into the HAD version to the French Army Aviation, after having previously completed its formal acceptance process with the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA).

This retrofit from the HAP to the HAD version involves performing over 100 airframe modifications and installing over 1500 new parts and 250 electrical cables.

Compared with the previous HAP version, the HAD Tiger benefits from an increased maximum take-off weight (MTOW), and is equipped with two new enhanced MTR 390 E engines and with a new STRIX roof mounted sight system complete with a laser designator that allows the Hellfire II air-to-ground missile to be fired.

This retrofit is the first of 36 retrofits from HAP to HAD ordered by the French Ministry of Defence.

For this Tiger retrofit program, Airbus Helicopters has set up a new industrial organization, combining both teams from its Military Support Center France and from its Tiger serial production Final Assembly Line.

“This retrofit is considered a priority for the French Army and will allow us to have a perfected weapon system and a homogenous fleet. The first HAD Tigers have been combat-proven since 2014 and have shown their wide range of capabilities daily in demanding theatres of operation” said the French Army Aviation Command.

“We are pleased to have achieved this first delivery in accordance with the specifications of our customer” said Alexandra Cros, head of governmental affairs France at Airbus Helicopters. “This Tiger retrofit program will give the French Army Aviation the additional capabilities they require in order to perform their most demanding operational missions”, she added.

The Tiger HAD is Airbus Helicopters’ multi-role attack helicopter. It is designed to perform armed reconnaissance, air or ground escort, air-to-air combat, ground firing support, destruction and anti-tank warfare, day or night and in adverse conditions.

The Tiger attack helicopter has proven its capabilities during operational deployments in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Libya and Mali. In service with the armed forces of France, Germany, Spain and Australia, the global Tiger fleet has logged over 92,000 flight hours to date.

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About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2016 it generated revenues of €67 billion and employed a workforce of around 134,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners from 100 to more than 600 seats and business aviation products. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

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