

MAURITIUS

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius was granted independence by Great Britain and remains a member of the British Commonwealth. It has an area of 2545sq km and the capital Port Louis is on the west coast, with the airport at Plaisance, 45km from the capital.

POLICE HELICOPTER SQUADRON:

The Police Helicopter Squadron was formed in 1974 with one helicopter, a Chetak, which is the Alouette III built under licence by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) of India. Crew consisted of two French pilots and a small nucleus of technicians.

The Mauritius Police Force identified an urgent need to provide the Police with a means to detect and destroy gandice plants, and also to give assistance in rescue operations. The initial pilots were trained in France (1) and India (2), namely JR Dayal - France, and Messrs G.Munohur and S. Comaren - India.

The Government recognised the need to "Mauritianise" the helicopter squadron and accordingly in 1991 a process of selection was started and five cadet officers were identified. These cadets were put through a medical examination in the Indian Air Force (IAF) medical establishments, and checked for aptitude in flying at the IAF Service Selection Board. They did a Pre-flying Training Course in India and were given elementary training in flying related subjects and activities. The cadets returned to Mauritius in December 1992.

In September 1992 the Government gave the green light to the helicopter squadron to establish a training facility, attached to the squadron, known as the Helicopter Training School, under IAF supervision.

The cadets commenced lectures from 11 January 1993 and were scheduled to complete the course by June of the same year. The flying training was scheduled to commence in July 1993 and those successfully completing the course would receive their "wings" in July 1994.

It is interesting to note that the first pilot trained in France - Mr JR Dayal, became the Commissioner of Police.

The current Police Helicopter Squadron consists of five helicopters:

MPH-01	HAL Chetak	AH178	.74	ex Indian AF Z1802 cur
MPH-02	HAL Cheetah	CH ??	??	disposed of in 199?
MPH-03	HAL Chetak	AH289	??	cur
MPH-04	Alouette III	1691	??	cur
MPH-05	Eurocopter AS555 Fennec	5615	.98	cur
MPH-06	HAL Chetak	AH298		cur

COAST GUARD : MARITIME AIR SQUADRON

The Maritime Air Squadron was formed on 17 July 1990 and formed part of the organisational structure of the National Coast Guard. On this date a HAL built Dornier Do228 - 101 serial MP-CG-1 was commissioned. The Maritime Air Squadron had the following responsibilities:

- To prevent the entry by sea of any person or group of persons who threaten to undermine the security, or to violate the territorial integrity of the State of Mauritius.
- To prevent any activity which is likely to constitute a threat to the maritime zones, including the seabed, the flora, the reefs, the beach and the coastline.
- To undertake search and rescue operations in all situations of distress in the maritime zones.
- To monitor and control all seaborne activities within the maritime zone.

To compliment the Do228, the Government purchased a Pilatus Britten Norman BN2T Maritime Defender - MP-CG-02 and it was commissioned into service on 21 October 1992. The duties of the aircraft were split, with the Do228 being utilised for long distance patrols of the EEZ, and the Defender being deployed for coastal surveillance. The Defender is fitted with Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) thermal imaging equipment, which is ideally suited for the detection of surface contacts in bad weather or at night.

MP-CG-1	HAL/Dornier Do228-101	HAL 3020	17.07.90	ex-HAL
MP-CG-02	PBN BN-2T Maritime Defender	2238	19.08.92	ex G-BSPR
MP-CG-3	HAL/Dornier Do228-201	HAL 4074		ex-HAL

MPH-01

MPH-03

MP-CG 1

MPH-06



MP-CG 3