

Cyprus Unveils Cutting-Edge Airbus H145M Helicopters

On May 30, 2025, Cyprus showcased four newly delivered Airbus H145M helicopters at its main air base in Paphos, highlighting their advanced capabilities and key role in the modernization of the Cypriot National Guard.

Defense Minister Vassilis Palmas emphasized that the helicopters—already in use by Germany, the U.S., Belgium, Ireland, and Hungary—are cutting-edge, multi-role platforms tailored to meet 21st-century defense needs.

” With feelings of joy and pride, I am present today at the ceremony marking the induction of the new Airbus H145M helicopters into the National Guard.

From the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the completion of the procurement contract for this new weapons system acquired by our Armed Forces, which will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing their operational capability. Today, the National Guard is incorporating into its arsenal a modern aircraft that is also acquired and used by contemporary armies such as those of Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Ireland, and the United States.

More than 500 helicopters from the Airbus family are currently operational, with over 8 million flight hours, demonstrating the reliability, availability, and efficiency of this aircraft. This is a multi-role helicopter, designed to adapt and operate in the modern operational environment. It can easily be converted from a light attack helicopter into a platform for special operations, providing the National Guard with a powerful force multiplier.

Of particular importance is the helicopter's ability to integrate into network-centric operations through cooperation with both manned and unmanned systems, enhancing situational and operational awareness as well as response capabilities.

Recognizing that today's battlefield is not only conventional but also networked, multi-domain, and hybrid, the Republic of Cyprus is investing in assets that meet the demands of the evolving security landscape. This new helicopter is a versatile digital tool tailored to the requirements of the 21st century. Ladies and gentlemen, The modernization of the Air Command with these new helicopters is not an isolated development. It is part of a broader strategic framework that includes the continuous upgrade of the National Guard's equipment and operational capabilities, the training of personnel on new systems suited to the modern battlefield, and Cyprus' active participation in operational exercises in collaboration with modern armed forces of friendly nations.

I assure you that we will continue working in this direction, aiming to strengthen the National Guard on all fronts. Strengthening our defense is the foundation of our country's security and a guarantee for the progress and prosperity of our people.”

Airbus executive Daniela Dudek noted that Cyprus' version of the H145M is “even more advanced than what we currently have in Germany.” This is due to integrated digital systems, Israeli co-developed avionics, the H-Force weapons suite, and a unique battle management system allowing seamless coordination with ground and air forces—including allied nations. The aircraft also features robust electronic warfare and self-defense systems. Cyprus plans to receive two additional helicopters and may purchase more under the current contract. This procurement is part of Cyprus' broader defense overhaul aimed at phasing out outdated Soviet-era hardware and aligning its military capabilities with NATO and European standards.

