



Creating a safe and secure world, together

CASE STUDY

COMPLETE FLYING TRAINING SYSTEM F-AIR 21

A world-class programme that provides a complete system to the French Air Force (FAF), delivering flying training to upcoming jet pilots and weapons systems officers.

At a glance

- › Partnered with Dassault Aviation
- › 11-year contract
- › Provision of 17 Pilatus PC-21 aircraft, three Part Task Trainers (PTT) and two Full Mission Simulators (FMS)
- › Delivering 11,000 flight and 6,500 simulator training hours per year
- › Supporting up to four sorties of 14 aircraft per day, plus a demanding night flying programme



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Together with our partner, Dassault Aviation, Babcock provides a modern training system to the French Air Force (FAF), combining state-of-the-art simulation environments with in-air training.

This world-class programme prepares upcoming jet pilots and weapons systems officers for today's increasingly sophisticated aircraft, using revolutionary technology to deliver military aviators while reducing overall training time and costs.

This programme is an important step in the FAF's plan to modernize the fighter crews' training syllabus, through the renewal of both



equipment and training methods.

The PC-21 aircraft Babcock owns and maintains on behalf of the FAF is a modern step up from their previous training aircraft, the TB30 Epsilon and Alphajet. The new PC-21s feature the latest integrated on-board simulation systems and devices (radar, air combat and weapons release) providing students with some of the best and safest flying training in the world. The cockpit systems can also be tailored to recreate aspects of the Rafale fighter's mission management and display systems.

In record time, Babcock designed and developed this modernised training system in collaboration with its main partner, Dassault Aviation, and its sub-contractors CAE and Pilatus. Only 21 months after the teams embarked on the project, the first two aircraft were delivered while related ground based training systems became operational in the following months. The programme received its first cohort of trainees in June 2019.

The contract had two key deliverables:

- › The purchase of 17 twin-seat turbo-propeller Pilatus PC-21 aircraft, together with the provision of a new suite of cockpit simulators (provided by CAE) and procedural trainers housed in a purpose built structure at Cognac airbase.
- › The provision of training support to operational units for a period of eight years after the mobilisation and 27-month transition phase had been completed.

At all times, the fleet availability is adapted to support up to four sorties of 14 aircraft per day, plus a demanding night flying programme. The symbiotic relationship between the EMAR M and EMAR 145 certified aircraft maintenance and integrated logistics services (simulators, single pilot resource management and computer based training) ensures Babcock can meet the required 100% availability rate.

While Babcock manages the programme itself, the FAF will provide its own instructors.



Services



Classroom training



Simulator training



In-air training



Maintenance of SPRM and CBT, including their network



EMAR M and EMAR 145 certified aircraft maintenance