



Finnish Air Force



CASA C-295M

Photo: Finnish Air Force

The CASA C-295M is a Spanish twin-engined transport. The Finnish C-295Ms carry the military designation CC and are based at the Supporting Air Operations Squadron subordinated to Satakunta Air Command. They are primarily used to move Defense Forces materiel and personnel within Finland and abroad.

The C-295M is the Finnish Air Force's first purpose-built tactical transport. It is well suited for operations under harsh conditions encountered in many crisis areas and has the maximum range of 4,000 km with 2,000 kg payload.

An integral countermeasures system provides protection against shoulder-fired missiles and other threats. The aircraft can operate from extremely short and narrow runways. The minimum runway length required for takeoff and landing is 670 and 320 meters, respectively.

Bulky cargoes can be loaded into the almost 13 meters long by 1.9 meters high cabin via a wide rear ramp. The cabin can be quickly configured for mixed cargo and passenger transport or all-cargo or all-passenger operations.



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The C-295M's maximum payload of 8,000 kg may consist of cargo or sixty troops in addition to fuel. The Finnish Air Force typically operates its aircraft with two pilots and two flight engineers.

Among the aircraft's many advanced features is the Thales TopDeck avionics suite that utilizes large multifunction displays in a cockpit that closely matches the flight deck of modern airliners.

History and development:

The C-295M first flew in 1998. It is the stretched derivative of the 45-seat Spanish-Indonesian CASA/ITPN CN-235 airliner and military transport designed in the 1980s.

Its manufacturer, the Spanish CASA company established in 1923, is now a member of the Airbus Military division of the EADS aerospace and defence group.

The Finnish Air Force purchased C-295Ms to replace Fokker F.27 transports scheduled for progressive phase-out. Two aircraft were flown to Finland in the early spring of 2007. Over fifty C-295Ms are in service worldwide.

Alongside domestic air mobility missions, the Air Force's C-295Ms support Finland's crisis management effort by supplying troops in Chad, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. The aircraft are also used for paratrooper training and other tasks.

A medical evacuation kit can be installed in a matter of hours to enable the carriage of six to nine stretcher patients and medical personnel to a hospital even from small airfields.

Technical data

Wing span:	25.9 m
Length:	24.5 m
Height:	8.7 m
Empty weight:	15,200 kg
Maximum operating weight:	23,200 kg
Structure:	metal and composites
Ceiling:	9,144 m
Normal cruising speed:	470 km/h

Power plant: Two Pratt & Whitney Canada PW127G turboprops, each rated at 1,972 kW (2,645 shp)

Equipment: countermeasures suite with chaff and flare dispensers, air-to-air refuelling probe

In service with the Finnish Air Force: Three

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History and development

The Swiss Air Force received its Hawks in 1989–1991. Following a practise adopted by British Aerospace, the aircraft were given a customer designation Mk 66. Most of the aircraft were assembled in Switzerland.

In 2002, the Swiss Air Force elected to withdraw its Hawks from training use concurrently with the revamp of the service's flight training system, and the aircraft were stored.

After the purchase in 2007, the Mk 66s were trucked to Finland with the last shipment arriving in August 2008. They were inspected, restored to airworthy condition, and given the cockpit upgrades, and they also received other modifications.

Compared with the Mk 51 and Mk 51A, minor differences were discovered in the power plant and weapon systems. These need to be recognized during maintenance, but their effect on flight characteristics are negligible. Like the Mk 51, the Mk 66 can also carry air sampling pods.

Technical data

Wing span: 9.39 m

Length: 11.85 m

Height: 4.00 m

Empty weight: 3,635 kg

Maximum operating weight: 7,347 kg

Structure: All-metal

Power plant: One Rolls-Royce Turboméca Adour 861 bypass engine rated at 2,587 kp (25.35 kN) thrust

Maximum speed: 1,013 km/h

Ceiling: 14,000 m

Armament: 30 mm Aden gun in underfuselage pod, provision for infra-red missiles on wing pylons

Systems and equipment: Air sampling pods, glass cockpit with moving map display, mission planning and recording system.

In service with the Finnish Air Force: 16

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