



Escuadrón Aéreo No. 7

On 5 December 1998 Uruguay took delivery of 10 newly-built U-206H Stationairs at Cessna's independence plant in Kansas. The FAU had awarded this US\$ million contract in November, over offers from Raytheon, Piper and a Brazilian manufacturer. The Stationair can seat up to six and features the new 300-hp (224-kW) Textron Lycoming IO-580-A1A engine, a key factor in Uruguay's decision to accept the Cessna bid. On 22 December, all 10 aircraft arrived at Montevideo Carrasco IAP after a 14-day ferry flight. The newly established Escuadrón Aéreo No. 7 at Melilla (Brigada Aérea III) received six of the Stationairs (above), operating them alongside the four Cessna T-41D Mescaleros the unit had adopted from the EMA (right). The U-206s can be fitted with an optional ventral cargo panner.



Escuadrilla de Enlace

Created within Brigada Aérea II at Durazno, the Escuadrilla de Enlace began operations with four Cessna U-17As (1B5C) and single examples of the Cessna 206, Cessna 210 Centurion and Piper L-21 Super Cub. The unit's varied tasks include medical evacuation, transport of organs, VIP and staff transport, border and coastal surveillance, and general liaison duties.

On 31 December 1999 the unit received four new Cessna 206Hs (U-206), which replaced the last of the U-17As. The L-21 is still flown by the unit, retained in immaculate condition (left). It is the oldest aircraft in the FAU inventory.



Escuadrón de Vuelo Avanzado (EVA)

Formerly known as the Centro de Instrucción y Entrenamiento de Vuelo Avanzado (CIEVA), the advanced training school at Durazno took delivery of six Piatus PC-7U5 (AT-92) in 1992, at which time the unit's Mentors were transferred to the EMA. The advanced school was renamed Escuadrón de Vuelo Avanzado, and provides graduates from EMA with a comprehensive advanced syllabus including IFR and night flying instruction, plus tactical training. For the latter the PC-7s can be fitted with rocket pods and guns under the wings for exercises at the nearby La Carolina range, located some 40 km (25 miles) north of the base.