



Raytheon (Beech) King Air 350C

A single Beechcraft King Air 350C has been used for aerial survey and transport since May 1993. The aircraft wore a civil registration (HB-G11), but by early 2004 had been re-serialled as T-721. Wearing Swiss Air Force titles, it is jointly operated by the air force's Ressort Luftaufklärung (RLA) and the Flugdienst und Koordinationsstelle für Luftaufnahmen (KSL) of the Federal Office of Topography.

The aircraft can be equipped with two Leica RC-30 aerial camera systems or two Leica PAV-30 gyro-stabilised camera mounts with lenses of 15 cm, 21 cm and 30 cm focal length, plus a Trimble 4000ssi GPS receiver. Camera control is by the GIM system, which provides an interface between navigation and camera systems.



Pilatus PC-6 Turbo-Porter

The Swiss Air Force procured six PC-6-H2M Turbo-Porters in 1976, to join the 12 piston-engined Porters which had been operated since 1967. The latter underwent modifications to H2M standard (PC-6 retrofit) by the installation of PT6 turboprops, a programme completed in 1981. In 1997, the remaining fleet of Turbo-Porters underwent cockpit modifications. Today the Porter serves principally as a tactical transport for personnel and equipment, and is further utilised in scouting operations and for the dropping of paratroopers of Fallschirmaufklärer Kompanie 17 (left). In addition they can be transformed into fire-fighters. In the event of war the Porters would be incorporated into a utility aircraft squadron, Lufttransportstaffel 7. Some 16 remain in service and they are receiving a new camouflage scheme as they undergo depot-level maintenance.

