

Ukraine's Army Aviation

At the beginning of 1992, Ukraine Army Aviation could rely on nine regiments and seven helicopter squadrons subordinated to five armies, distributed over three Military Districts (MD) – Kiev, Odessa and the Carpathian MD. Thirteen years after gaining independence and following numerous restructuring programmes, three brigades of Army Aviation remain, while important new missions have been added to their normal task of national defence.



1994, some 12,000 officers moved out of Ukraine to other countries and more than 33,000 personnel returned to Ukraine.

On 8 February 1994, Ukraine was the first country within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to sign NATO's Partnership for Peace Program (PIP) Framework Document. Major restructuring followed, and by the end of 1996 more than 3,500 different military institutions were closed and 410,000 personnel were discharged. Also, the number of armament and defence technologies was decreased significantly, resulting in the number of combat aircraft being lowered by 600 units, helicopters by 250, and the fleet of tanks and combat-armed vehicles by 2,400 and 2,000, respectively.

Shortly after, in 1996, in accordance with the related Presidential Decree, the so-called State Programme for the Armed Forces Development until 2005 was developed.

It was created to determine priorities in the development of a national armed force, while balancing goals, organisation and strength with the potential military threats to Ukraine's national security and economic capability. It not only deals with strength reduction, but also

with re-organisation and improvement of all organisational and functional elements. It is linked to equipping forces with modern weapons and equipment, enabling the armed forces to maintain their combat potential at an appropriate level.

The core of Army Aviation is its fleet of 'Hips' and 'Hinds'. Large numbers have been retired in line with realigned threat levels, reduced budgets and a desire to release funds to modernise the younger aircraft in the fleet. The Mi-8MTV-2 and Mi-24s on this page fly with the 3rd Brigade at Brody. The 'Hip' is fitted with outriggers for six rocket pods.

