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Helicopter training Rheinmetall-style: Teaching flight crews to keep their heads

Piloting a helicopter is one of the most demanding forms of flying – especially when it comes to complex military missions. Rheinmetall's full mission simulator is the optimum system for training flight crews and keeping them in top form.

Placing its trust in Rheinmetall's expertise, the Royal Thai Army Aviation has recently ordered a full mission simulator for its Bell 212 helicopters from Rheinmetall's Simulation and Training business unit.

The system consists of a large electric motion system, a six-metre diameter projection dome and a detailed replica of the original cockpit. It is based on Rheinmetall's full flight simulator concept, which was specifically developed for military training requirements.

In addition, the large-scale digital visualization system realistically recreates even the most difficult operating conditions. This means that the crew can do much more than just practise take-offs, the flight phase and landing. Specific missions, including combat operations, can be safely rehearsed, followed by detailed post-op evaluation.

Rheinmetall: An expert for helicopter flight simulators

Rheinmetall is a longstanding supplier of innovative, advanced technologies for flight training. The company is taking part in many European multi-national flight training programmes, including the NH-90, the Tiger attack helicopter, the Eurofighter and the A400M. In all these projects Rheinmetall Defence provides solutions ranging from desktop PC-based training, part-task and system trainers to cockpit procedure and maintenance trainers to full mission simulators.

In cooperation with Thales Training & Simulation Ltd., Rheinmetall is supplying Tiger attack helicopter simulators for the Franco-German training centre at Le Luc in Southern France. These simulators will enable crews to master the helicopter in its various configurations perfectly. A variety of different mission scenarios can be practised, featuring every detail of a combat engagement. Moreover, the simulators can be readily modified to cover the wide spectrum of helicopter designs and training situations. During the flight training course, student pilots will spend some 70 percent of their time in the simulator.

Under the Bundeswehr's first privately financed pilot training project, Helicopter Flight Training Services GmbH –a joint venture in which Rheinmetall Defence Electronics is participating– will be responsible for training the crews of Germany's new multi-mission NH90 helicopters. Training will take place in privately run facilities. HFTS will be supplying four full-mission simulators, in which NH90 pilots will not only undergo flight training but also prepare for a comprehensive range of operational scenarios, including combat situations. The helicopter simulators will be used for initial flight training as well as regular refresher courses.

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