



GAF NOMAD

History

The Nomad aircraft was an Australian designed and built twin-engine utility aircraft specifically aimed at the Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) transport role. A total of 172 aircraft, N22 and N24 models, were produced by the Government Aircraft Factory (GAF).

The Army was the first customer for the Nomad in 1975, favoring the 12-seat, N22 version. An initial batch of 11 aircraft was delivered between October 1975 and August 1979 for operation by No. 173 (General Support) Squadron and the School of Army Aviation at Oakey. Two additional aircraft joined them in late 1982.

The Nomad, originally intended for military use, provided STOL capability with its strong overall construction and sturdy undercarriage. This enabled it to perform effectively on rough unprepared surfaces vital to Army operations.

The Nomad was also used by the Royal Flying Doctor service, and was provided as military aid to the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Papua New Guinea; some were also exported to America.

Variants to the original design included a floatplane, air ambulance, drug surveillance version and a N22SL Search-master L version for coastal surveillance, which included 360-degree search radar mounted under the nose.

Although Nomad production ceased in 1982, many of these aircraft remain in civil and military service in other countries.