



A Right Royal visit for Rubb

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal commended the efforts of all those involved in helping to combat piracy in Seychelles during visits to meet representatives from EU NAVFOR and the Seychelles Coastguard at Rubb Buildings Ltd's latest installation.

Luxembourg based CAE Aviation commissioned the Expeditionary Forces Aircraft Shelter System hangar from Rubb to house two SA227 MERLIN IIIC aircraft on anti-piracy missions in the Somali basin.

The Luxembourg detachment in the Seychelles is part of the EU operation ATALANTA, steered by the European Union Naval Force (NAVFOR) Operation HQ in Northwood, UK.

The client saw Rubb hangars in action in Afghanistan and decided a 20.4m (66.9ft) EFASS with Trident doors at both ends would meet CAE's needs. The hangar was delivered and erected at Seychelles International Airport in Victoria in November, 2010.

Princess Anne visited the facility on Tuesday, November 30. Following the Royal Party's return from Praslin, where they met members of the local community and visited the Vallee de Mai, The Princess and Vice Admiral Laurence were accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs, Environment and Transport Mr Joel Morgan and the British High Commissioner Mr Matthew Forbes, to the new purpose built hangar.

"EU NAVFOR was very honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Laurence as part of their visit to Seychelles," said Lieutenant Commander Richard Sturman. "Seychelles is one of our most important partners in the region and we're proud of the work we're doing together to fight against the piracy threat in the Indian Ocean. I am working hand to hand with the Seychelles Coastguard, to ensure our forces operate jointly every day when in the vicinity of the Archipelago."

On arrival the Royal Party was given a briefing on EU NAVFOR's operations by Luc Audoore, Detachment Commander (EU NAVFOR Luxembourg Detachment), outlining the co-operation between the EU nations and Seychelles to combat piracy. The briefing included details of the joint EU NAVFOR/Seychelles operation to rescue seven Seychelles fishermen on November 19 and 20.

"We had the chance to visit the joint facilities at the airport that EU NAVFOR have and The Princess Royal had the opportunity to see for herself the types of work done and how the element of air surveillance contributes to the overall efforts against piracy. I think she has gained a greater understanding of the entire work done, which involves a very close partnership between the Seychelles Peoples Defence Forces and EU NAVFOR," said Minister Morgan.

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Luc Audoore, Detachment Commander and Deputy General Manager of CAE Aviation, said: “My personnel here are delighted by the new facilities which will make our work here so much easier, more comfortable and effective. The technicians can now do their work while being sheltered, and the aircrew no longer have to sit in a 55°C cockpit with all survival gear on during start-up. Assembly went very well, despite the very hot weather conditions. In four-and-a-half days the hangar was operational, thanks to the excellent support by Rubb technician David Cromarty. Rubb can be proud as a company to have such employees. We are really happy the way it is designed and works. We now use the facility for daily bed down of both aircraft and all maintenance inspections will also take place in it.”

CAE Aviation has been in the Seychelles since September 2009. Having flown over 1800 hours in 300+ sorties, CAE is quite unique as the only civilian asset in the EU, NATO and third party (Chinese, Japanese) anti-piracy forces.

Rubb EFASS Specifications

- **Span** **20.4m (66.9ft)**
- **Length** **30m (98.4)**
- **Leg height** **4.2m (13.8ft)**
- **Overall height** **8.3m (27.2ft)**
- **Door** **Trident door x2**
- **Frame** **Aluminium**
- **Membrane** **Insulated PVC**
- **Electrics** **Three Phase electrical kit and power distribution**

Notes to Editors

About Rubb Buildings Ltd

Rubb Buildings Ltd is a world leader in the design and manufacture of custom made relocatable engineered fabric structures.

Highlights include ground-breaking military buildings (aircraft hangars, shelters, storage facilities), specialist sports buildings and structures for a variety of sectors including aviation, ports, construction, bulk storage and environmental (waste and recycling).

All products are designed and manufactured at Rubb’s UK plant at the Team Valley Trading Estate in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. The company was founded in 1977 and has a proud history of delivering innovative and quality structures to a wide range of clients.

The Rubb Group has plants in the USA, Norway, Poland and China.

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