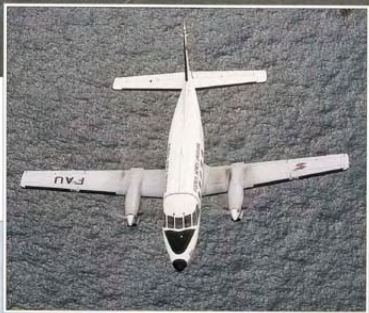




FAU *Fuerza Aérea Uruguaya*

Photographed by Marnix Sap/MIAS

In 2003 Uruguay celebrates both the 90th anniversary of military aviation in the country (establishment of the Escuela de Aviación Militar on 17 March 1913) and the 50th anniversary of the air force as an independent service (27 November 1953). In recent years the FAU has emerged from a period of stagnation with a gradual modernisation of its inventory.



Above: The three Bandeirantes are among the hardest-working of the FAU's transport fleet, being mainly used on the TAMU civilian network. TAMU fulfils a vital task, operating as a scheduled airline to serve remote destinations within Uruguay.



Left: The FAU received two C-130Bs (591 and 592) in 1992 to greatly enhance the air force's transport capability. A third aircraft (593) was delivered in 1994, but was only used as a spare source. The two airworthy aircraft are worked hard from their base at Carrasco, and are heavily involved in resupply flights to the Uruguayan scientific research station in Antarctica.