Aerospatiale SA.330 Puma

The Aerospatiale SA.330 Puma was developed at a medium capacity transport helicopter for military use. It has been widely used in military and civil roles and improved versions remain in production.

The Aerospatiale Puma was designed as a medium transport helicopter for the French armed forced. Design began in 1963 and the prototype first flew on 15 April 1965. Aerospatiale manufactured 697 between 1968 and 1987 and over a hundred more were made in Roumania under licence. Improved versions, the Super Puma and Cougar remain in production.

The Puma has served with a large number of national military forces, most notably France, Britain and South Africa, and in many war zones. It has also been very popular in civil service and widely used in supporting off-shore drilling operations.

This model represents a Puma of EH 1/67, Armee de l'Air, in 1976.

Data: Medium utility helicopter. *Engines* two Turbomeca Turmo IVC turboshaft engines of 1.175kW each. *Main rotor diameter* 15m. *Length* 18.15m. *Maximum take off weight* 7.000kg. *Maximum speed* 257km/h. *Range* 580km. *Payload*, 16 passengers. *Crew* 2.

Airfix 1/72 kit with *Modeldelcal* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in April 2018.



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