



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Airbus Helicopters EC120

FACT SHEET



The Airbus Helicopters EC120 aircraft is a medium-range, turbine-powered helicopter used by CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) primarily as a Light Observation Helicopter.

AMO's EC120, flying with a single-pilot crew, provides a highly-effective aerial surveillance platform in the border desert areas where terrain can be difficult to traverse on foot. This helicopter is often used to assist CBP ground personnel in sign-cutting, which is the skill of detecting and interpreting the traces of activity people or animals may have left behind. The EC120 also has a low sound profile, excellent flight deck visibility, and exceptional maneuverability.

The EC120 design offers AMO the ability to conduct maintenance tasks with a limited need for specific tools, which significantly reduces the aircraft's operating costs. A new design for the main blades makes them resistant to impact and corrosion free. In addition, the helicopter is equipped with energy absorbing seats for pilot, and passengers.

Performance and Weights:

- **Fast Cruise Speed**
120 knots (138 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
20,000 feet
- **Range**
383 nautical miles (440 miles)
- **Endurance**
3 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
3,781 pounds