

# The Marina Militare

## Training Italian Navy Aviators

The main roles of *Maristaeli Luni* are to provide logistical support, training and standardisation of crews for the two *Gruppo Elicoterri*. In addition, they support ship-embarked aircraft and those deployed in operational theatres. The main tasks of the two *Gruppo Elicoterri* are to maintain the operational readiness of air and maintenance crews and their aircraft, operating primarily in the anti-surface and anti-submarine roles. The units also support the 1<sup>st</sup> San Marco Regiment, an amphibious unit of the Italian Navy.

The MMI operates a total of 18 EH-101s in three versions. Six are in the Anti-Surface/Submarine Warfare (ASuW/ASW) configuration, locally designated SH-101A. Four are in the Airborne Early Warning (AEW) configuration and are locally known as the EH-101A, some eight airframes in the Amphibious Support Helicopter (ASH) configuration, and known as the UH-101A.

In 2000, the MMI placed an order for 46 NFH90 and 10 NH90TTH helicopters to replace the Agusta-Bell AB-212 in service with the Italian Navy since April 1976. Designated the SH-90A and MH-90A,

these state-of-the-art helicopters boasted capabilities of the Italian Navy.

### Navy training

Delivered in 2011, the Full Mission Flight Simulator (FMFS) and Rear Crew Trainer (RCT) provide complete training environment for EH-101 crews of all

versions, enabling both student pilots and experienced crews to familiarise and maintain efficiency with the aircraft. In addition, it allows crews to practice emergency cockpit procedures, night-vision goggle training, ship deck landings and tactical mission training. The RCT part of the simulator replicates rear cabin of

