

Helicopter simulators leave Hill

Two helicopter simulators, the only ones of their type in the Air Force, were airlifted from Hill AFB Tuesday, by a C-5 Galaxy for Kirtland AFB, N.M.

They will be used by the 1550th Aircrew Training and Test Wing to train helicopter pilots on the giant H-3 and H-53 helicopters.

The simulators, each costing about \$3 million, remained at Hill AFB when the 1550th was transferred from Hill to New Mexico more than a year ago.

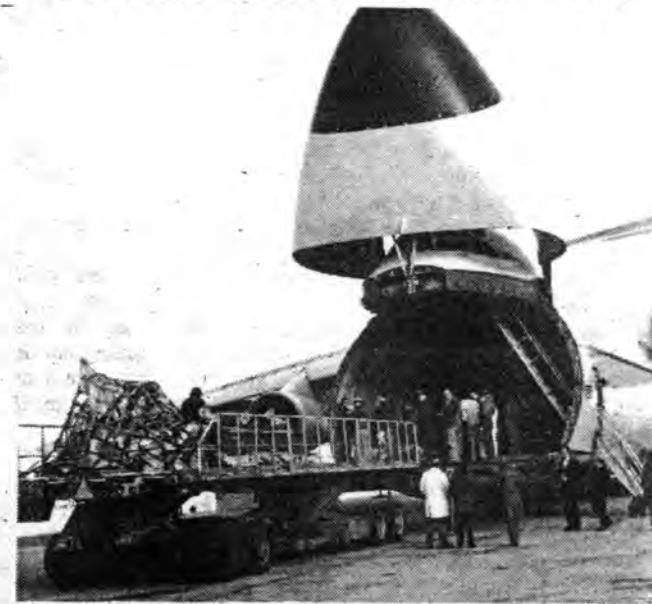
A small detachment of 1550th personnel remained at Hill AFB to operate the simulators. Meanwhile, facilities were built at Kirtland to house the training devices.

The simulators will be installed and ready for operation at Kirtland by March 1, said Capt. Lee Puckett, project officer at Hill AFB for the move.

Loading of the simulators aboard the C-5 began shortly after its arrival at Hill AFB about 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday. The huge four-engine aircraft was spotted near the air freight terminal and opened its cargo doors to receive 128,000 pounds of cargo, which comprised the simulators and its supporting equipment.

The loading was completed, that afternoon the C-5 took off for its trip to Kirtland AFB.

More than 2,000 students were trained in the simulators at Hill AFB. A student spent about 30 hours of flight in a simulator. A refresher course



Like "Jaws", an Air Force C-5 swallows a truckload of Helicopter simulator training equipment. The giant plane was at Hill last Tuesday to pick up two of the \$3 million simulators for transport to the 1550th Aircrew Training and Test Wing at Kirtland AFB, N.M. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

required 15 hours of additional training.

International in scope, the trainers were used by students from Israel, Korea, Sweden, Great Britain, Australia, Taiwan, and New Zealand.

The simulators perform such helicopter functions as starting, pre-flight procedures, landing, take-off and other normal and emergency activities.

Students commented that the simulators were nearly identical to the real aircraft, including the cockpit noise

and vibration.

Captain Puckett was responsible for the teardown of the simulators, their shipment, installation at Kirtland as well as alignment and calibration there. He is a simulator systems engineer in the Materiel Management Directorate at Hill.

The building at Hill AFB used to house the devices will be turned over to the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing at the base to house F-4 aircraft simulators.