



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Aircraft:** Swearingen - Fairchild Aircraft**Length:** 12,85 m**Wingspan:** 14,10 m**Height:** 5,13 m**Max take-off weight:** 6.000 kg**Speed :** 556 km/hr or 300 knots**Autonomy:** 6,30 hrs

OVERVIEW

The Merlin was an evolution of earlier modification programmes performed by Swearingen Aircraft.

Ed Swearingen started the developments that led to the Merlin through gradual modifications to the Beechcraft Twin Bonanza and Queen Air business aircraft which he dubbed Excalibur. Then hybrid aircraft was developed, with a new fuselage and vertical fin, mated to salvaged and modified (wet) Queen Air wings and horizontal tails, and Twin Bonanza landing gear.

The MPRA Detachment's Swearingen SW3C Merlin maritime surveillance aircraft have operated out of Seychelles International Airport since 2009 as part of the EU's wider effort to combat piracy off Somalia and the surrounding region (EUNAVFOR Somalia - Operation Atalanta).



Contact details

European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation Sophia
Media and Public information office

Tel: +39 06 4691 9442 ; +39 06 46919451 (IT Office hours)

Mobile: +39 334 6891930 (Silent hours and weekend)

Email: spokesperson@euohq.difesa.it ; eunavformed.pi@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.operationsophia.eu

