

**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS****Helicopter:** Agusta Westland**Length:** 15.16 m**Height:** 3.6 m**Rotor diameter:** 12,80 m**Max take-off weight:** 4,763 kg**Speed :** 232 km/h**Ceiling:** 3200 m**OVERVIEW**

The Westland Lynx is a twin-engined light multi-role military helicopter produced by the British manufacturer Westland Helicopters, today AgustaWestland. The main roles include battlefield utility (troop transport, close air support), maritime surveillance, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare and search and rescue (SAR). The first German Navy Lynx, a Sea Lynx Mk88 model, was manufactured in 1981, a total of 19 were built. In 1996, the German Navy elected to purchase seven additional Super Lynx Mk88As; in 1998, the decision was taken to upgrade the existing Mk88 fleet, by then numbering a total of 17, to the improved Mk88A standard. In 2009, Germany was studying a limited upgrade program for their Super Lynx fleet, this reportedly included the replacement of the current anti-ship missile. In 2013, the German Defence Ministry signed a contract with Selex ES to integrate new electro-optical/infrared sensors onto the Super Lynx. Since 2012, German Lynx have been deployed routinely off the coast of Somalia to discourage and intervene against acts of piracy as a part of the multinational Operation Atalanta. In the long term, the German Navy is to retire the Super Lynx in favour of the larger and newer NHIndustries NH90. The German frigate Augsburg accommodates two 4.5t class helicopters, the Sea Lynx mk88 from Agusta Westland. The helicopters are equipped with AQS-18D dipping sonar from L-3 Communications - Ocean Systems and two torpedoes type mk46 or type DM4. Handling tests on the helicopters have been successfully carried out up to wind force 8. The hangar provides space, facilities and equipment for the maintenance of two helicopters. The flight deck is large enough for landing a Sea King type helicopter.

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