

# European Union Naval Force – Mediterranean Operation SOPHIA Swearingen SW3 Merlin III

## Swearingen SW3 Merlin III

*Swearingen - Fairchild Aircraft*



<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>Swearingen - Fairchild Aircraft</b>
<b>Length</b>	<b>12.85 m</b>
<b>Wingspan:</b>	<b>14.10 m</b>
<b>Height:</b>	<b>5.13 m</b>
<b>Empty Weight:</b>	<b>3.696 Kg</b>
<b>Maximum mass:</b>	<b>6.001 Kg</b>
<b>speed:</b>	<b>556 km/hr or 300 knots</b>
<b>Ceiling:</b>	<b>27,000 feet</b>

## The Aircraft

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 Beech craft 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).

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