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HELICOPTERS.
French Air Force training in Alps.

With helicopters taking an ever-increasing role in modern warfare, pilots of the French Air Force are undergoing training in the Alps. Their training base is at a lonely military airport at Briancon, where expert ground staff keep the machines in tip-top condition before they face the hazards of wind and snow.

Variable mountain winds are 'copters pilot's biggest headaches. A bird's eye view of Fort Gondrand shows the fortifications built by the Italians during the war. Heavy guns used to shell Briancon from here. Gently the aircraft is brought in to land on the summit of Gondrand Peak, which stands about 8,500 feet high.

Helicopters have become a vital part of the Malayan and Indo-Chinese wars, and have proved their worth many times in mountain and sea rescue. There's no doubt these airborne egg-beaters have a big place in modern aviation - and the French Air Force are making certain that their pilots will be fully-trained for the future.