

## **Interim Certification Granted for BERTHOLF's Aviation Facility**

On May 29, 2008, interim certification was granted for the BERTHOLF's aviation facility after meeting the performance requirements for aviation capabilities. It will expire when the cutter enters the post-shakedown availability.

Aviation facility certification is required for all Coast Guard flight deck-equipped cutters. Certification verifies that the facilities and equipment necessary for safe and efficient helicopter operations are installed, available, and operate according to approved plans and procedures. Certification is categorized by levels, classes, and types of aircraft to be operated. Currently, the installed flight deck is capable of providing tailored services for nine classes of helicopters (H65, H60, H46, H1, H3, H6, H47, H53, and H58).

As is typically seen in first-of-class cutters, there are some minor issues that need to be resolved in order to receive full certification.

The next step, which has already begun, is the operational testing and evaluation period. During this time, work will be done to resolve issues in order to obtain full certification by a third party, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR).