MH-65 SHORT RANGE RECOVERY HELICOPTER

Acquisition Directorate

MH-65D Dolphin

CHARACTERISTICS

Length (with rotor blades):	44 feet 5 inches
Rotor Diameter:	39 feet 2 inches
Height:	13 feet 3 inches
Maximum Weight:	9,480 pounds
Cruise Speed:	148 knots
Range:	290 nautical miles
Endurance:	three hours

FEATURES

- Enhanced and electro-optical/infrared sensors
- Capability to conduct sorties from a cutter flight deck
- Capability to mount a 7.62-mm machine gun and .50-caliber rifle to disable engines on noncompliant go-fast vessels and provide fire support for boarding teams
- Common avionics architecture system of digital glass cockpit instruments similar to those installed on the Coast Guard's upgraded MH-60T medium range recovery helicopter

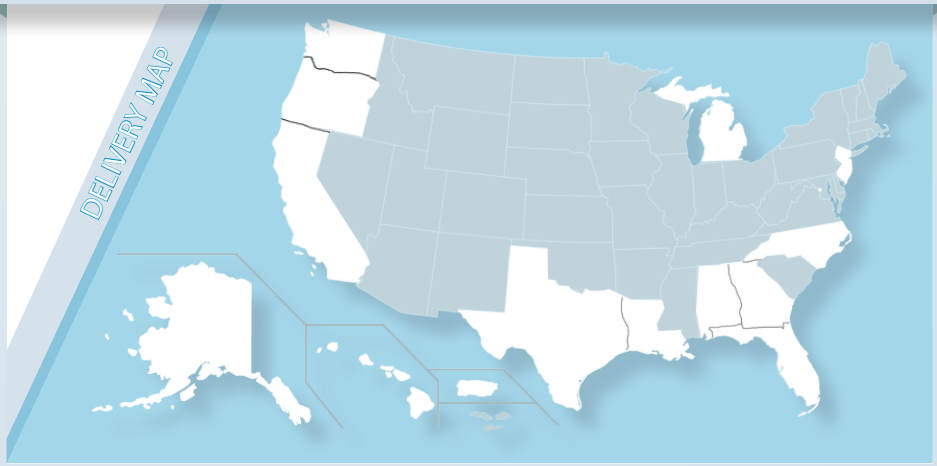
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Coast Guard is enhancing its MH-65 Dolphin short range recovery helicopter fleet through a series of incremental upgrades. The conversion and sustainment program is using digital technology to modernize the helicopters that have been in service since 1984.

The program is now in the final segment of the upgrade, which includes modernization of the remaining obsolete subsystems, including improving the automatic flight control system; installing new sensors including expanded electro-optical/infrared sensors and integrated weather radar; and installing digital cockpit architecture. After completing this segment, helicopters will be re-designated MH-65E. The first MH-65Es are expected to join the fleet in fiscal year 2017.

During the previous segment, upgrades were made to the GPS and inertial navigation systems, weather radar, and cockpit instruments. Obsolescence prevention efforts during that stage extended the Coast Guard's ashore and offshore capabilities for mission execution. In earlier stages the helicopters were outfitted with improved engines and airborne use of force capabilities.

Mission execution begins ***here***.



For updates on the MH-65, visit the program's website at http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/srr/

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