

# UH-60 Black Hawk Modernization

Army National Guard



# NGAUS

Fiscal Year 2023 Requirements for the Army National Guard



## The Issue

The Army National Guard UH-60/HH-60 Black Hawk fleet continues to age, with many units operating aircraft over 25 years old. This platform is required to perform missions in support of overseas contingency operations, homeland response and MEDEVAC transport. To ensure maximum lethality and readiness, it is critical to continue fielding the most advanced Black Hawk variant, the UH/HH-60M, to Army National Guard units.

Soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guard's B. Company, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, conduct air assault training in Kuwait in preparation deployment to Afghanistan.

## Background

The Black Hawk's mission flexibility makes it the Army National Guard's primary rotary wing aviation asset to support overseas contingency operations and to respond to state emergency mission requests. The Army National Guard operates more than 40% of the Total Army Black Hawk fleet (907 out of 2,135) and more than 150 Army National Guard Black Hawks are the oldest variant: the UH-60A. The Army National Guard is not currently projected to retire its last UH-60A until 2025, while the Active Component retired its last Alpha model in operational units in 2020.

Many Alpha model Black Hawks are over 35 years old, have accumulated more than 6,000 flight hours each, and are beyond the end of their expected useful lives. The UH-60A and L variants are significantly more expensive to operate today than the UH/HH-60M. The UH/HH60M provides a significant increase in capability, reduced crew workload, and lower sustainment costs which increases unit readiness.

Adding funding for 10 new UH-60M helicopters enables the Army National Guard to field an additional utility helicopter company, retire sooner its H-60 helicopters that are beyond their useful life, and continue to increase the readiness and capability of the Total Force.

The UH/HH-60M is a digital networked platform with greater range and lift to support Army National Guard domestic and overseas missions. In addition to supporting Combatant Commanders worldwide on overseas missions, the Army National Guard utilizes the HH-60M MEDEVAC Black Hawk here at home to save lives when natural disasters strike such as wildfires, snowstorms, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

The Army National Guard must remain both ready to deploy overseas as required, and be ready to respond to domestic emergencies. Modernizing Army National Guard UH/HH-60 Black Hawks will ensure the Army National Guard remains ready, lethal, and mission-relevant to the Total Force and in support of the National Defense Strategy.

## Recommendation

### ARNG Designation



Designating 10 additional UH-60M aircraft for the Army National Guard within defense appropriations legislation



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