

HH-60W Combat Rescue Helicopter

Air National Guard



NGAUS

Fiscal Year 2023 Requirements for the Air National Guard



The Issue

The Air National Guard HH-60G Pave Hawk fleet of helicopters performs critical combat search and rescue and personnel recovery operations for all DoD and Coalition forces around the world. These helicopters conduct collateral Personnel Recovery missions to include support to state and civil authorities, civil search and rescue, and emergency aeromedical evacuation. The HH-60G fleet is beyond the end of its useful life due to the high operations tempo of over two and a half decades of conflict. The HH-60W aircraft will provide Air Force combat rescue warriors with the best platform and capability to perform their mission.



An HH-60G Pave Hawk of the Alaska National Guard conducts personnel recovery operation training.

Background

The HH-60G fleet has sustained an extreme operational tempo which resulted in significant combat and training aircraft and personnel losses. As a result of losses and overuse, the fleet is currently experiencing readiness rates less than half of specified, far below what is needed to support combat operations safely. The risk of low readiness is being borne directly by the Airmen asked to deploy, who at times have no home-station aircraft with which to train and respond to state emergencies such as fires, floods, and rescue of injured citizens who require assistance.

The Air National Guard currently operates the oldest HH-60Gs in the Air Force that are beyond their expected useful life. The Air Force is also retiring active HH-60G significantly faster than current procurement of the HH-60W. In addition, the planned FY23 HH-60W procurement funding has been cut in half from 20 down to 10. Air National Guard units need these aircraft on the ramp sooner to replace its old, worn out HH-60Gs.

Recommendation

Air National Guard



Designating 10 additional HH-60W Combat Rescue Helicopters for the Air National Guard for a total of 20 HH-60W Combat Rescue helicopters. These helicopters will provide mission essential modernized aircraft to the Air National Guard and enable the Air Force to keep the program on schedule.



Learn more at ngaus.org

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