

# UH-72 Fleet Modernization

Army National Guard

Fiscal Year 2024 Requirements for the Army National Guard



# NGAUS



## The Issue

Army National Guard Security and Support Battalions (S&S) conduct critical Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) using the UH-72 Lakota. Missions include reconnaissance, air movement, casualty evacuation, search and rescue, and command and control in support of local, state, and federal agencies. While the current UH-72A performs well, an opportunity exists to leverage ongoing production of the upgraded UH-72B to modernize the ARNG fleet and cascade low-time displaced UH-72A aircraft to the Army's enduring UH-72A TDA fleets. Establishing a modernization and sustainment program mitigates the effects of a maturing fleet while introducing technology and capability improvements to Army National Guard units.

A National Guard Lakota crew from CO as part conducts high-altitude rescue of an injured hiker using the newly fielded UH-72B.

## Background

The Army National Guard operates 212 UH-72s across 46 States and Territories. They are primarily organized under 6 MTOE S&S Battalions. The Lakota represents the Army's third largest fleet at 479 aircraft. It has served the ARNG and Army since 2006 posting superb readiness, but after 17 years since program inception, Lakota lacks a plan for block upgrade or modernization. With the online production of the civil H145D3 (UH-72B) the ARNG can modernize the existing ARNG MTOE fleet and cascade displaced low-time UH-72A aircraft to the Army's enduring UH-72A TDA fleets through a systematic, measured, and appropriate process.

Modernization of the ARNG MTOE fleet enables improved performance, insertion of technologies, and reduces fleet operating cost over the life cycle. A strategy that infuses new aircraft into ARNG units, cascades low time UH-72As to the training fleet, and harvests serviceable components for reuse, mitigates the effects of a maturing fleet while ensuring the ARNG is prepared for the future. The UH-72B incorporates materiel improvements that add capacity for new systems, improve safety, and reduce maintenance burden. Adding funding for 12 new UH-72B helicopters enables implementation of a long-term Lakota Modernization and Sustainment Plan.

The Army National Guard must remain both ready and modernized to respond to domestic emergencies. Modernizing the Army National Guard with UH-72B ensures Lakota fleet viability over time and provides the long-term best value for the US Army's Light Utility Helicopter program.

## Recommendation

### ARNG Designation



Designating 12 additional UH-72B aircraft for the Army National guard within defense appropriations legislation



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