

CH-47F Block II Procurement

Army National Guard

Fiscal Year 2026 Requirements for the Army National Guard



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▲ A CH-47F Chinook transport helicopter from the 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment (General Support), Connecticut Army National Guard, flies over the runway of the Connecticut Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility, Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

The Issue

Despite the Army moving forward with Block II for both the conventional Army and the Special Operations Aviation Regiment, it is unclear when the Army National Guard CH-47F Fleet will be upgraded to Block II. The ARNG consistently deploys in support of overseas combat operations performing the same missions as the Active Component and provides domestic emergency response. As the Army acquires new equipment and weapons platforms, those systems must be fielded to Active Component and Reserve Component units simultaneously and proportionally to ensure a fully interoperable and lethal Total Force. With eyes on the recent positive Army decision to move forward with Production of CH-47F Block II, ARNG is eager to better understand the Army's acquisition and fielding plans for those modernized Chinooks.

Background

The ARNG has the oldest Chinook airframes in the Army fleet. Given the Army's renewed focus on Chinook Modernization with the advancement of Block II production, ARNG strongly recommends the Army designate procurement of at least 6 CH-47F Block II aircraft per year for the Army National Guard within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and defense appropriations bill, in addition to the procurement funding included for Army Aviation and SOCOM. With the vast majority of Army National Guard Chinook units consisting of six aircraft per state, this approach will ensure Army National Guard Chinook units are equipped simultaneously and proportionally to the Active Component for a modernized, fully interoperable, and lethal Total Force.

Recommendation

Advocate for procurement of at least 6 CH-47F Block II aircraft per year for the Army National Guard within the NDAA and defense appropriations bill to ensure Army National Guard Chinook units are equipped simultaneously and proportionally to the Active Component for a modernized, fully interoperable, and lethal Total Force. The CH-47 Block II program will ensure the CH-47F and MH-47G are Multi-Domain Operational (MDO) aircraft.



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