



Backgrounder

Boeing Integrated Defense Systems
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U.S. Army Special Operations Command MH-47G Special Operations Chinook

The MH-47G is the seventh and most capable iteration of the world's most advanced heavy lift helicopter. Boeing is currently under contract to produce at least 37 G-models, which will significantly increase the inventory of Special Operations Chinooks. Under the U.S. Army's Cargo Helicopter Modernization Program, plans call for Boeing to remanufacture and deliver 61 MH-47Gs by 2011 to help meet urgent Special Operations requirements.

The MH-47G features a number of upgrades over earlier Chinook models, including more efficient T55-GA-714A engines with Full Authority Digital Engine Control, improved avionics, improved airframe structure which significantly reduces interior vibration, and improved air transportability. Also, the aircraft's fully integrated digital Common Avionics Architecture System (CAAS) will enable Special Operations aviators to integrate global communications, navigation, survivability and situational awareness capabilities.

When fielded, the MH-47G will have the same functionality of the MH-47E with improvements. This includes, but is not limited to M-134 Gatling "miniguns" and M-240D machine guns for increased defensive firepower; Mission Management; Aircraft Performance; Multi-Mode Radar Operation; Digital Map; Aircraft Survivability Equipment Control; and Dual Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Unit (INU) (EGI). A second EGI is being integrated to provide better navigation accuracy and a more reliable redundant navigator. This second EGI replaces the current Aircraft Heading Reference System (AHRS) that is obsolete and becoming unsupportable. All Army Special Operations Aircraft must have the capability of receiving and displaying Near Real Time Intelligence Data (NRTID) to provide the crew and customers with up to the minute situational awareness.

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command uses its current fleet of 34 Special Operations Chinooks—23 MH-47Es and 11 MH-47Ds—to complete clandestine exfiltration and infiltration missions at low level, day or night, in all weather conditions. The Army plans to modernize these aircraft to the G-model configuration to better support its Special Operations mission.

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