

## MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopter

### Executive Summary

- MH-60R completed IOT&E on the baseline airframe in September 2005.
- Mission system complexity and software deficiencies increase operator workload significantly. However, a recent software configuration update and Pre-Planned Product Improvement (P3I) integration is expected to mitigate this burden.
- Combined MH-60R/S FOT&E (OT-III A) on P3I commenced in FY08 and is expected to continue into the latter half of FY09.
- The MH 60R is a covered system for purposes of LFT&E. P3I component integration is not expected to affect the approved LFT&E Strategy.

### System

The MH-60R is a ship-based helicopter designed to operate from Cruisers, Destroyers, Frigates, Littoral Combat Ships, or Aircraft Carriers. It is designed to replace the SH-60B and SH-60F.

- It incorporates dipping sonar and sonobuoy acoustic sensors, multi-mode radar, electronic warfare sensors, a forward looking infrared sensor with laser designator, and an advanced mission data processing system.
- It employs torpedoes, Hellfire air-to-surface missiles, and crew-served mounted machine guns.
- It has a three-man crew: two pilots and one sensor operator.

### Activity

- Combined MH-60R/S FOT&E (OT-III A) on P3I commenced in FY08. Operationally-led Integrated Testing combines OT&E and Carrier Strike Group training events until independent operational testing begins, scheduled to commence 2QFY09.
- The Navy conducted Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) systems testing at Eglin AFB, Florida, from May 17 to June 3, 2008, and Mk 54 Torpedo interface testing on the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center range, Andros Island, Bahamas, June 8-19, 2008.

### Assessment

- MH-60R is effective, suitable, and survivable for fleet operations according to the IOT&E in September 2005.
- Early results from P3I ESM testing indicated problems with bearing ambiguity and spurious false bearing lines generated



### Mission

The Maritime Component Commander employs the MH-60R from ships or shore stations to accomplish:

- Under Sea Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Area Surveillance, Combat Identification, and Naval Surface Fire Support missions that previously required two different (SH-60B or SH-60F) helicopters
- Support missions such as Search and Rescue at sea and (when outfitted with necessary armament) maritime force protection duties

### Prime Contractor

- Sikorsky

- on the display screen. A planned software upgrade scheduled prior to independent operational testing is expected to correct the problems.
- The H-60 aircraft has a demonstrated survivability record; however, the system could be enhanced by improvements in the fuel system, main transmission, and rotor dampener lines.

### Recommendations

- Status of Previous Recommendations. The Navy addressed two of the three previous recommendations. The recommendation regarding the correction of software deficiencies remains valid.
- FY08 Recommendations. None.

# NAVY PROGRAMS