

ASSAULT SUPPORT

MV-22 Osprey

DESCRIPTION

The MV-22 Osprey is a tiltrotor, vertical/short takeoff and landing (V/STOL) aircraft designed to replace the current fleet of CH-46E and CH-53D aircraft. The MV-22 will join the AAV and LCAC as an integral part of the amphibious triad necessary to execute the concept of OMFTS. Specific missions include amphibious and land assault, raid operations, medium cargo lift, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP), fleet logistic support, and special warfare. The MV-22's design incorporates the advanced but mature technologies of composite materials, fly-by-wire flight controls, digital cockpits, airfoil design, and manufacturing. The MV-22 Osprey is capable of carrying 24 combat-equipped Marines or a 10,000 pound external load. It also has a strategic self-deployment capability with a 2,100 nautical mile range with a single aerial refueling. The MV-22's 38-foot rotor system and engine/transmission nacelle mounted on each wing tip allow it to operate as a helicopter for takeoff and landing. Once airborne, the nacelles rotate forward 90 degrees, converting the MV-22 into a high-speed, high-altitude, fuel-efficient turbo-prop aircraft. The MV-22 is a multi-mission aircraft originally designed for use by all the Services. The Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force have committed to fielding this unique aircraft. Procurement of the MV-22 remains the Marine Corps number one aviation acquisition priority.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY00	FY01
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>16</i>

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The MV-22 will be the cornerstone of Marine Corps assault support possessing the speed, endurance, and survivability needed to fight and win on tomorrow's battlefield. This combat multiplier represents a quantum improvement in strategic mobility and tactical flexibility for amphibious and prepositioned maritime forces.

PROGRAM STATUS

The MV-22 has completed developmental testing and the program is nearing the end of the EMD phase. Nineteen Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) aircraft have been procured in three lots to support MV-22 Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) and initial fleet fielding. The final LRIP lot of 11 aircraft will be procured in FY00. OPEVAL will determine the aircraft's effectiveness and suitability for the Marine Corps mission and support program entry into the final phase - production,

Fielding/Deployment and Operational Support. OPEVAL will require use of the first four LRIP aircraft. A Milestone III Full Rate Production decision is expected in October 2000. The total programmed buy for the Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force is projected at 458 aircraft. The Marine Corps requirement is for 360 aircraft.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Bell Helicopter Textron, Fort Worth, TX

The Boeing Company, Philadelphia, PA

