H-1 Upgrade (UH-1Y/AH-1Z) Program

DESCRIPTION

The H-1 Upgrade (UH-1Y/AH-1Z) program replaces the current two-bladed rotor system on the UH-1N and AH-1W aircraft with a new four-bladed, all-composite rotor system coupled with a sophisticated, fully integrated, state-of the-art cockpit. In addition to the new rotor system and cockpit, the UH-1Y and AH-1Z will incorporate a new performance-matched transmission, a four-bladed tail rotor and drive system, and upgraded landing gear for both aircraft. Additionally, structural modifications to the AH-1Z will increase the number of weapon stations to six. The advanced cockpit, common to both aircraft, reduces operator workload, improves situational awareness, and provides growth potential for future weapons and joint interoperability. The cockpit integrates on-board planning, communications, digital fire control, self-contained navigation, night targeting, and weapons systems in mirror-imaged crew stations. The UH-1Y and AH-1Z are approximately 84% common throughout the aircraft, which significantly benefits the MAGTF's ability to support both aircraft. Ongoing developmental testing of the UH-1Y and AH-1Z has demonstrated a marked increase in aircraft agility, maximum continuous speed, and payload.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The H-1 Upgrade (UH-1Y/AH-1Z) program is designed to resolve existing safety deficiencies, significantly improve operational capabilities, and reduce life-cycle costs. Commonality between aircraft will greatly enhance the maintainability and deployability, allowing the Marine Corps to support and operate both aircraft within the same squadron structure.

PROGRAM STATUS

The H-1 Upgrade (UH-1Y/AH-1Z) program continues in the engineering, manufacturing, and development (EMD) Phase. The H-1 Upgrades will enter the first phase of operational testing during the second quarter of FY 2003. During the summer of 2002, the Marine Corps delivered seven UH-1N's to Bell Helicopter to prepare them to enter the LRIP phase. The total program buy is for 100 UH-1Y's and 180 AH-1Z's for the Marine Corps.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY03	FY04
Quantity:	*0*	*9*

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., Fort Worth, TX
Integrated Cockpit: Northrop Grumman, Woodland Hills, CA
CAAH-1Z Target Sight System: Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL