

CH-53X PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION

The CH-53X is three-engine, long-range, heavy-lift helicopter that supports the assault support function of Marine Aviation. The CH-53X is included in the Marine Corps Aviation Implementation



Plan that describes an aviation “neck-down” strategy through the year 2025, but it will require a comprehensive upgrade to meet the Marine Corps’ heavy-lift and MAGTF warfighting requirements until then. Areas of focus for this upgrade include: upgraded engines, improved main rotor blades, improved cargo hook system, elastomeric rotor head system, common cockpit, service life extension, and combat survivability.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

CH-53 will continue to provide the assault support function in support of Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare. The CH-53X program will improve the aircraft’s operational capabilities and reduce its life-cycle costs. The CH-53X’s commonality with other Marine Corps aircraft in terms of engines and avionics will greatly enhance the maintainability and deployability of the aircraft within the ACE.

PROGRAM STATUS

An Operational Requirements Document (ORD) has been submitted to the Joint Staff for department-wide staffing. The Marine Corps completed the required Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) in September 2003, which determined that a new build airframe was the most cost-effective course of action.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY04	FY05
Quantity:	0	0
DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER		
TBD		