



## All-Purpose Aircraft

### Sikorsky Celebrates UH-60M

In a rollout ceremony attended by hundreds of government officials, military personnel, and employees, Sikorsky Aircraft launched a new era with delivery of the U.S. Army's first production UH-60M BLACK HAWK helicopter.

With a new airframe, avionics and propulsion system, the UH-60M is the latest and most modern in a series of BLACK HAWK variants that Sikorsky has been delivering to the army since 1978.

"The UH-60M will provide reduced pilot workload, increased lift, better protection and enhanced survivability," Sikorsky President Jeffrey Pino told a gathering of hundreds of military personnel, government officials and employees at a festive ceremony in July.

"The new UH-60M BLACK HAWK is ideally suited for its mission and provides a safer, more responsive, deployable, versatile and effective weapon system for the army."

The army currently has more than 1,500 BLACK HAWK variants with more than 4.6 million combined flight hours in inventory, constituting the world's largest and most battle-tested BLACK HAWK fleet. The UH-60M variant is slated to replace older BLACK HAWKS and form the foundation of the army's future utility aircraft fleet.

"The BLACK HAWK is a great aircraft, the nation's battlefield transport of choice," Pino said. "With the UH-60M, the army and Sikorsky are ready to build upon that tradition and ensure the BLACK HAWK will continue in that role for generations to come."



*Sikorsky President Jeffrey Pino addresses the gathering of government officials, military personnel, and Sikorsky employees at the ceremony marking the delivery of the U.S. Army's first production UH-60M BLACK HAWK helicopter.*

The UH-60M is currently in Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP), the final phase in a defense acquisition program before a full-rate production decision is made. A decision by the Pentagon and army to enter full rate production of 1,200 or more UH-60M BLACK HAWKS is scheduled for 2007.

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## Sikorsky to Develop New Versatile BLACK HAWK Offerings

Sikorsky Aircraft plans to develop two new BLACK HAWK helicopter offerings for the global market that will provide additional firepower and mission flexibility while building upon the combat-proven heritage of the world's most successful medium lift utility rotorcraft.

The new BLACK HAWKs being planned are:

- An International BLACK HAWK helicopter produced with global partners and delivered from outside the United States. The International BLACK HAWK will provide multi-mission, 10-ton utility lift capability at a price comparable to helicopters in the 6-to-8 ton class.
- An Armed BATTLEHAWK™ helicopter with an integrated electronics warfare suite and full complement of armaments either as a new build aircraft or as a kit that can be retrofitted onto existing BLACK HAWK platforms. BATTLEHAWK will provide a combination of medium lift capability and firepower that cannot be duplicated by current dedicated utility or attack platforms

“The International BLACK HAWK and Armed BATTLEHAWK will incorporate new technologies, state-of-the-art systems and modern manufacturing techniques,” said Sikorsky President Jeffrey Pino. “These new models build upon the legacy of excellence and continuous improvement that has characterized the BLACK HAWK throughout its history. As technology has changed and improved, the BLACK HAWK platform has evolved so that it continues to set the standard for versatile multi-mission medium lift utility helicopters.”



Both helicopters will remain true to the BLACK HAWK's legendary combat-proven heritage.

The International BLACK HAWK will be designed with a modular platform that can be configured to meet specific customer requirements. Common elements will include a digital cockpit with four-axis advanced flight control systems, coupled flight director, active vibration controls, and dual pilot IFR.

The Armed BATTLEHAWK will come equipped with a full suite of armed reconnaissance and attack capabilities, including an integrated helmet display, C4I system, missiles, rockets, and a turreted gun. It will provide medium lift capability that can be used in either combat or peace time, including troop transport, search and rescue, and disaster relief. ☺



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Exact procurement numbers year-to-year and across the life of the program will be determined by budget authorizations and specific contract awards.

The UH-60M provides additional payload and range, advanced digital avionics, better handling qualities and situational awareness, active vibration control, improved survivability, and improved producibility.

The UH-60M BLACK HAWK will become an integral part of the Army's command and control system, providing brigade commanders with real time digital situational awareness and command and control options. UH-60M crews will benefit from reduced pilot workload and a new standard of protection.

The UH-60M's new composite spar wide-chord blade will provide 227 kg (500 lb) more lift than the current UH-60L blade. The new General Electric T700-GE-701D engine will add more horsepower and allow additional lift during external lift (sling load) operations.

The new cockpit contains four Rockwell Collins' multi-function displays providing primary flight, navigation, and tactical information including a fully integrated digital map, Blue Force Tracking, Stormscope lightning sensor, radar/laser warning system and a fully coupled autopilot. The narrower cockpit instrument panel will also significantly improve chin window visibility.

The UH-60M also will feature two Canadian Marconi (CMC) electronic flight management systems, dual Honeywell embedded global positioning/inertial navigation systems and an integrated vehicle health management system (IVHMS) from Goodrich. The IVHMS comprises a health and usage monitoring system (HUMS), crash-survivable cockpit voice and flight data recorder and a water-activated acoustic beacon, all contained within a single line replaceable unit. ☺