



Acquisition Directorate



# MH-65 SHORT RANGE RECOVERY HELICOPTER

## CHARACTERISTICS

**Length**

**(with rotor blades):**

44 feet 5 inches

**Rotor Diameter:**

39 feet 2 inches

**Height:**

13 feet 3 inches

**Maximum Weight:**

9,480 pounds

**Cruise Speed:**

148 knots

**Range:**

350 nautical miles

**Endurance:**

three hours

The Coast Guard is incrementally upgrading its H-65 Dolphin short range recovery helicopter fleet with avionics and other capabilities. The conversion and sustainment program is using digital technology to modernize the helicopters that have been in service since 1984. Mission-critical improvements are designed to extend the service life of the helicopter by 10,000 flight hours.

The program is now in the final phase of planned upgrades, which is the modernization of the obsolete subsystems, including improving the automatic flight control system; installing a new integrated weather radar; and installing digital cockpit architecture. After completing this segment, the helicopter will be re-designated as a MH-65E.

The Coast Guard also is executing a Service Life Extension Project to extend the service life of the H-65 airframe from 20,000 to 30,000 flight hours by replacing five of the H-65's major structural components: the nine degree frame, canopy, center console floor assembly, floor boards and side panels. Based on current programmed usage, the 10,000 flight hour extension per aircraft will provide a 50% increase in service life, or approximately 16 years.

## Dolphin Helicopter Locations

- MH-65 D
- MH-65 E
- Undergoing conversion



## FEATURES

- Enhanced radar and electro-optical/infrared sensors
- Capability to conduct sorties from a cutter flight deck
- Capability to mount a 7.62-mm machine gun and .50-caliber rifle to disable engines on noncompliant go-fast vessels and provide fire support for boarding teams
- Common avionics architecture system of digital glass cockpit instruments similar to those installed on the Coast Guard's upgraded MH-60T medium range recovery helicopter

For updates on the MH-65, visit the program's website at [www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition](http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition).