



AIR COMBAT COMMAND

PEOPLE FIRST - MISSION ALWAYS

HH-60G PAVE HAWK

Current as of February 3, 2023



MISSION

The primary mission of the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter is Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR).

HH-60Gs also execute personnel recovery missions across the spectrum of conflict and perform military operations other than war: civil search and rescue, medical evacuation, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, security cooperation/aviation advisory, NASA space flight support, rescue command and control.

FEATURES

The Pave Hawk is a highly modified version of the Black Hawk helicopter featuring upgraded communications and navigation systems including integrated inertial navigation/global positioning navigation systems, satellite communications, secure voice, HAVE QUICK II communications, and data link.

All HH-60Gs have an automatic flight control system, night vision goggles compatible lighting, and a forward looking infrared system enhancing night low-level operations. Additionally, Pave Hawks have color weather radar and an engine/rotor blade anti-ice system providing HH-60Gs adverse weather capability.

Pave Hawk mission equipment includes an in-flight refueling probe, internal auxiliary fuel tanks, two crew-served 7.62mm or .50 caliber machineguns, and an 8,000-pound capacity cargo hook. To improve air transportability and shipboard operations, all HH-60Gs have folding rotor blades.

Pave Hawk combat enhancements include a radar warning receiver, infrared jammer and a flare/chaff countermeasure dispensing system. HH-60G rescue equipment includes a 600-pound-capable hoist with 200 feet of cable, and a personnel locating system compatible with PRC-112 and PRQ-7 series survival radios. Pave Hawks are equipped with an over-the-horizon tactical data receiver capable of receiving near real-time mission update information.

BACKGROUND

The Pave Hawk is a twin-engine medium-lift helicopter operated by Air Combat Command, Pacific Air Forces, Air Education and Training Command, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command. Pave Hawks have a long history of use in contingencies, starting in Operation Just Cause. During Operation DESERT STORM they provided combat search and rescue coverage for coalition forces in western Iraq, coastal Kuwait, the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia. During Operation ALLIED FORCE, Pave Hawks provided continuous combat search and rescue coverage for NATO air forces, and successfully recovered two Air Force pilots isolated behind enemy lines.

HH-60Gs were heavily involved in combat rescue and Casualty Evacuation operations during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/FREEDOM SENTINEL in Afghanistan, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM/NEW DAWN, and provided sea-based Combat Search and Rescue Operations in support of Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR in Libya.

AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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For humanitarian relief missions, three Pave Hawks deployed in March 2000 to Mozambique, Africa, to support international flood relief operations. The HH-60s flew 240 missions in 17 days and delivered more than 160 tons of humanitarian relief supplies.

After Hurricane Katrina in September 2005, more than 20 active duty, Reserve, and National Guard Pave Hawks deployed to Jackson, Miss., in support of recovery operations in New Orleans and surrounding areas. Pave Hawk crews flew 24-hour operations for nearly a month, saving more than 4,300 Americans from post-hurricane devastation.

In 2011, within 24 hours of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, HH-60Gs deployed to support Operation Tomodachi providing search and rescue capability to the disaster relief effort. In 2019, 43 Bahamian lives were saved after Hurricane Dorian by HH-60G crews. In the last ten years HH-60G crews have saved hundreds of lives during Hurricane Disaster response in the United States and abroad.

Today, Pave Hawks continue to deploy in support of operations in Iraq, the Horn of Africa, and the Pacific Theater of Operations. HH-60 crews aided hundreds of American, coalition, and foreign-national personnel by conducting personnel recovery and medical evacuation missions under low visibility, low illumination conditions at all altitudes.



Characteristics

Primary Function: Personnel recovery in hostile conditions and military operations other than war in day, night or marginal weather

Contractor: Sikorsky (a Lockheed Martin Company)

Power Plant: Two General Electric T700-GE-701C engines

Thrust: 1,940 shaft horsepower, each engine

Rotor Diameter: 53 feet, 7 inches (14.1 meters)

Length: 64 feet, 8 inches (17.1 meters)

Height: 16 feet, 8 inches (4.4 meters)

Weight: 22,000 pounds (9,900 kilograms)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 22,000 pounds (9,900 kilograms)

Fuel Capacity: 4,500 pounds (2,041 kilograms)

Payload: mission dependent

Speed: 125 knots

Range: 504 nautical miles **Ceiling:** 14,000 feet (4,267 meters)

Armament: Two 7.62mm or .50 caliber machine guns

Crew: Two pilots, two special mission aviators

Unit Cost: \$40.1 million (FY11 dollars)

Initial operating capability: 1982

Inventory: Approximately 82 (total force)

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