



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 has completed the incremental upgrade of its H-65 Dolphin short range recovery helicopter fleet. The conversion and sustainment program used digital technology to modernize the helicopters that have been in service since 1984. Mission-critical improvements also were completed to extend the service life of the helicopter by 10,000 flight hours.

The last phase of the program, completed in August 2024, modernized 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 was re-designated as an MH-65E.

The Coast Guard also completed a service life extension program 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. Continued operation of the MH-65E fleet is needed to maintain the Coast Guard's rotary wing capability while preparing for the eventual transition to an all MH-60T medium range helicopter fleet.

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

MH-65E Dolphin Helicopter Locations



For updates on the MH-65, visit the program's website at www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition.