

# Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Pilots Train To Operate C-27J Aircraft

Aug. 20, 2015

The Coast Guard HC-27J Asset Project Office Standardization Branch has launched a three-month pilot transition course to train aviators to fly the C-27J medium range surveillance aircraft on Coast Guard missions. The training covers standardization and instrument and night procedures as well as basic search and rescue qualification.

The first week of ground school is conducted at Aviation Training Center Mobile, Alabama, where students complete an instrument flight rules refresher, a crew resource management course and Coast Guard Air Operations Manual lectures alongside students from other Coast Guard airframes. Pilots under instruction also are introduced to C-27J major systems and flight capabilities.



Coast Guard pilots cross-check each other on component functions and locations during the three-month C-27J pilot transition course at the HC-27J Asset Project Office in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. Matthew Hunt.

Training then moves to the APO in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, where students spend two weeks on the academic, cockpit procedure and contact phases of the curriculum. Students must attain proficiency in the first two phases, which focus on normal procedures, checklists and process flows, before proceeding to the contact, or initial flight phase, to learn basic pattern work.

Emergency procedures training is done at a C-27 simulator in Pisa, Italy. The pilot transition course closes with instrument and night flight phases in Elizabeth City. Successful completion results in a co-pilot designation.

Once training is complete, the students will continue to build experience in the C-27J airframe and contribute to the shaping of operational procedures, which will ultimately serve the Coast Guard's overall aviation mission. Pilot upgrades and additional qualification training follow the normal pilot progression beginning with first pilot, then aircraft commander and flight instructor/examiner.

The Coast Guard's 14 C-27J aircraft were owned by the U.S. Air Force until their transfer under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014, so the curriculum is based on a training systems requirements analysis done by L-3 Communications Corp. for the Department of Defense. Adjustments to the program of instruction were made to deliver the training concepts required for Coast Guard-specific missions and performance using various media and training devices. Each class is limited to four students. Coast Guard pilots also must meet requirements outlined in the Air Operations Manual before being cleared to perform missions.