

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Assigns First C-27J Spartan To Air Station Sacramento

April 7, 2016

The Coast Guard assigned its first operational C-27J medium range surveillance aircraft, CGNR 2707, to Air Station Sacramento, California, April 1.

The C-27J was first employed to stand watch at the air station on April 4. Immediately upon assuming the duty, Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Paszkiewicz, pilot-in-command; Lt. Justin Aaronson, copilot; Petty Officer 2nd Class Chad Chapman, drop master; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Bryce Shipley, basic aircrewman, embarked on a search and rescue mission involving an overdue sailing vessel off the coast of San Francisco.



The first operational C-27J Spartan assigned to Air Station Sacramento readies for its first watch April 4. The C-27J medium range surveillance aircraft are replacing older HC-130H aircraft (in background) currently assigned to the air station. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. Scott Handlin.

“Today marks the beginning of a new chapter,” Paszkiewicz said. “This is an exciting time to be at Air Station Sacramento. The C-27J is a technological leap forward that will enable our unit to continue to excel in the execution of search and rescue and maritime law enforcement missions.”

Three more C-27J aircraft will be assigned to Sacramento by mid-2016 as the station works to achieve initial operating capability. Sacramento will have six aircraft at full capacity, with the remaining two scheduled for delivery in fiscal year 2017.

The HC-27J Asset Project Office in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, is assisting with the transition from the HC-130H Hercules aircraft to the C-27J Spartan by providing pilot, aircrew and maintenance technician instructors and a forward-deployable maintenance team.

As part of the Coast Guard’s acquisition of 14 C-27Js divested by the U.S. Air Force, the service has completed regeneration of five of the 14 Spartans. The C-27Js will join the Coast Guard’s fleet of HC-144s in providing medium range air capability for the Coast Guard’s maritime patrol, drug and migrant interdiction, disaster response, and search and rescue missions.