

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Readies Air Station Sacramento For C-27J Operations

Dec. 18, 2015

Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento is preparing to become the first permanent home of C-27J Spartan medium range surveillance aircraft, with operations expected to start in 2016.

The HC-27J Asset Project Office will assist with the transition by providing a forward-deployable maintenance team and pilot, aircrew and maintenance technician instructors, said Cmdr. Peter Beavis, APO executive officer. An aircraft to be used for training was repositioned to the air station Dec. 2.

Four aircraft will be transferred to the air station in fiscal year 2016, said Lt. Robert Hovanec, C-27J platform manager with the Office of Aviation Forces. Sacramento will have six aircraft at full capacity, with the remaining two arriving in 2017.

A \$1.5 million facilities improvement project has begun at the air station. Air Station Sacramento is the prototype for a new liquid oxygen program required to support the service's Spartans and HC-130J Super Hercules aircraft. LOX is used on these aircraft when flying at high altitudes and for emergency purposes.

Contractor logistics support during the early stages of the transition will allow training of air station personnel to become dedicated C-27J mechanics. Staffing at Air Station Sacramento will increase to about 200 – an increase of about 20 operational and support personnel – when it reaches full operating capability to meet the additional workload associated with the expansion from four HC-130H aircraft to six C-27Js, said Cmdr. Ian Bastek, chief of the Fixed Wing and Sensors Division of the Office of Aviation Forces.

The C-27J aircraft are equipped with secure communications, weather radar and navigation systems originally developed for the Air Force. Work to further missionize the C-27J aircraft with specialized components to enhance abilities to carry out the full range of Coast Guard missions has begun with the first aircraft modification expected in 2017. In the interim, crews will employ visual search techniques using night vision goggles when applicable, and the aircraft will be used to deliver dewatering pumps, rafts and survival kits to mariners in distress.

Capt. Doug Nash, commanding officer of Air Station Sacramento, is pleased with the progress of the transition. "Having the APO and the aircraft in Sacramento over the winter will allow our newly qualified crews to stay current and qualify new crews. We will be ready to receive the air station's first official C-27J and hit the ground running."



Capt. Douglas Nash (left), Air Station Sacramento commanding officer, welcomes pilot Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Paszkiewicz, who with copilot Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Plylar (not pictured) and Avionics Electrical Technician Micah Devries (right), flew the C-27J Spartan CGNR 2708 from the HC-27J Asset Project Office in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Dec. 2. The aircraft will be used for training as the air station makes its transition from being an HC-130H to an HC-27J unit. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. j.g. Scott Handlin.