



Three MH-60T Jayhawks – including one painted yellow to celebrate the Coast Guard’s aviation centennial – fly in formation in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, March 9, 2016. The Coast Guard completed the conversion of its HH-60J aircraft to MH-60Ts in February 2014 and has now completed the final software modification, the Block 2 Upgrade, scheduled before completing the transition to sustainment. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Dave Silva.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Completes MH-60T Block 2 Upgrade

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The Coast Guard completed installation of a software upgrade that marked the final phase of its MH-60T Jayhawk medium range recovery helicopter conversion efforts in August.

Personnel from the Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, completed the installation across the full fleet of 45 helicopters across eight units, ending with Air Station Clearwater, Florida. Installation began in spring 2015.

Called the Block 2 Upgrade (B2U), the software modification improved flight planning and navigation capabilities. B2U incorporated new global air traffic management requirements, improves the user interface and enhances operational safety. The upgrade also corrected discrepancies created during the conversion of the Coast Guard’s HH-60J helicopters to the current MH-60T configuration, which included modernization of the avionics system and installation of new sensors to achieve common avionics architecture for all Coast Guard rotary-wing aircraft.

The conversion and upgrade program began in 2002. The prototype MH-60T was inducted into the fleet in January 2007 and completed in January 2009; the service converted its last HH-60J to an MH-60T in February 2014. With the B2U installations complete, all scheduled acquisition activities under the medium range recovery helicopter

program have concluded, and the upgraded MH-60Ts will now transition to the sustainment community for continued operations and support.

The MH-60Ts are currently expected to remain in service through 2027.