

# Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)

Conducts a variety of missions encompassing homeland security, civil search and rescue operations, damage assessment, test and training center support, MEDEVAC missions, and Continental United States (CONUS) counterdrug operations.

## INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



## Description & Specifications

The UH-72A Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) was procured as an FAA type certified Commercial/Non-Developmental Item (NDI) single pilot, IRF certified aircraft and entered the Army Acquisition timeline at Milestone C. The UH-72A aircraft will replace the aging OH-58 and UH-1 aircraft fleets and will allow tactical Blackhawk (UH-60) aircraft to be cascaded to Army National Guard (ARNG) units in support of critical wartime requirements. The aircraft will have NVG, day, night, IFR, VFR and external hoist capabilities. Each aircraft will be equipped with wire strike protection, crashworthy fuel systems and crashworthy seats in accordance with Federal Aviation regulations. The aircraft will be fully interoperable with civil, military and government agencies. The MEDEVAC version will be able to carry two NATO standard litters and one attendant. The primary users of the LUH are Active Army Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) units and ARNG

units. Three hundred twenty-two UH-72A aircraft will be procured and will be deployable only to permissive environments.

**Max gross weight:** 7,903 (pounds)

Cruise speed: 142 (knots)

**Max range:** 303 (nautical miles)

**Endurance:** 3.3 (hours)

**Engines (2 each):** Turbomeca Arriel 1E2

**External load:** 1,107 @ 4K ft/90 deg F (pounds)

**Internal load:** 6/1,107 @ 4K ft/90 deg F (passengers/pounds)

**Crew:** 11

## Program Status

- **3QFY05:** Concept development document approved
- **1QFY06:** Source selection activities began
- **2QFY06** LUH Program delegated to the Army by OSD
- **3QFY06** Milestone C/low rate initial production (LRIP) decision made; program designated ACAT 1C

- **3QFY06:** Contract awarded to EADS North America for an initial 8 aircraft
- **1QFY07:** Contract modified for an additional 34 aircraft to complete LRIP
- **1QFY07:** First aircraft delivered

## Projected Activities

- **2QFY07:** Conduct initial operational test
- **3QFY07:** First unit equipped; award full rate production decision

## ACQUISITION PHASE

Concept & Technology Development

System Development & Demonstration

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support



## Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)

### FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

### CONTRACTORS

EADS North America (Arlington, VA)  
 American Eurocopter (Columbus, MS;  
 Grand Prairie, TX)  
 CAE USA (Tampa, FL)  
 Sikorsky (Stratford, CT)  
 Westwind Technologies (Huntsville, AL)

