

Navy's Presidential Helicopter Program Approved for Production of Six Aircraft

Posted by [TBN\(Staff\)](#) On 06/12/2019

Patuxent River, MD - June 12, 2019 The Navy's Presidential helicopter program awarded a [\\$542 million contract](#) to Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company, June 10, 2019 to build six VH-92A aircraft, spares and support equipment.

"The team has efficiently leveraged a proven platform with cutting edge government mission systems for rapid agile development of the next helicopters to fly Presidential missions," said the Honorable James F. Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition. "Optimizing commercial practices, the VH-92A will provide safe, reliable and timely transportation with mission-critical communications that will support the security of our Nation. I am proud of the combined government and contractor team who has worked so hard to transition this program into initial production and did so at over \$1 billion less than the program's cost baseline."

"The Presidential lift mission is a no-fail mission for the Marine Corps," said Lt. Gen Steven Rudder, the deputy commandant for Marine Corps aviation. "We deliver helicopter and MV-22 transportation across the globe to support the requirements of the Presidency. The authorization to move forward with procurement of the VH-92A will allow the Marine Corps to deliver the next generation of Presidential Helicopter support."

The VH-92A aircraft will increase performance and payload over the current Presidential helicopters, VH-3D and VH-60N, that have been serving over 40 years. The VH-92A will provide enhanced crew coordination systems and communications capabilities, plus improve availability and maintainability.

"The authorization to exercise the program's first Low-Rate Initial Production lot is a testament to the hard work and dedication from the team to deliver this important asset on budget and within the planned acquisition timeline" said Col. Eric Ropella, PMA-274 presidential helicopter program manager. "This award is an example of acquisition done right."

Government testing will continue to validate system performance and prepare for Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) planned for mid 2020 and Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in late 2020.

The Navy and Marine Corps are committed to ensuring mission-critical Presidential helicopter transportation is delivered as an integral and world-wide support requirement of the Presidency – necessary to conduct Presidential duties as Commander in Chief, Chief Executive and Head of State.

Copyright © 2019 thebaynet.com. All rights reserved.