

Long-lead components contract awarded for CH-53K LRIP



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NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – The Naval Air Systems Command awarded April 18 a \$25 million firm fixed-price advance acquisition contract to Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Stratford, Conn. for long-lead parts and materials required to build and deliver the first Low Rate Initial Production Lot 1(LRIP-1) of the U.S. Marine Corps CH-53K King Stallion.

"All acquisition programs are facing budget pressures these days, so awarding this contract a few weeks after obtaining authorization is a major win for the program and Marine Corps aviation. This contract ensures the program will have all required long lead materiel to begin building the LRIP 1 aircraft a year from now when the program achieves Milestone C," said U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Hank Vanderborcht, H-53 Heavy Lift Helicopters (PMA-261) program manager for the Naval Air Systems Command.

Milestone C review and approval, anticipated in second quarter 2017, will authorize

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production of two aircraft for the US Marine Corps (USMC). Initial operational capability (IOC) is projected and on pace for 2019, whereby four CH-53K aircraft, with combat ready crews, will be logistically prepared to deploy. This contract allows the long-lead components to be purchased to build aircraft beyond IOC.

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