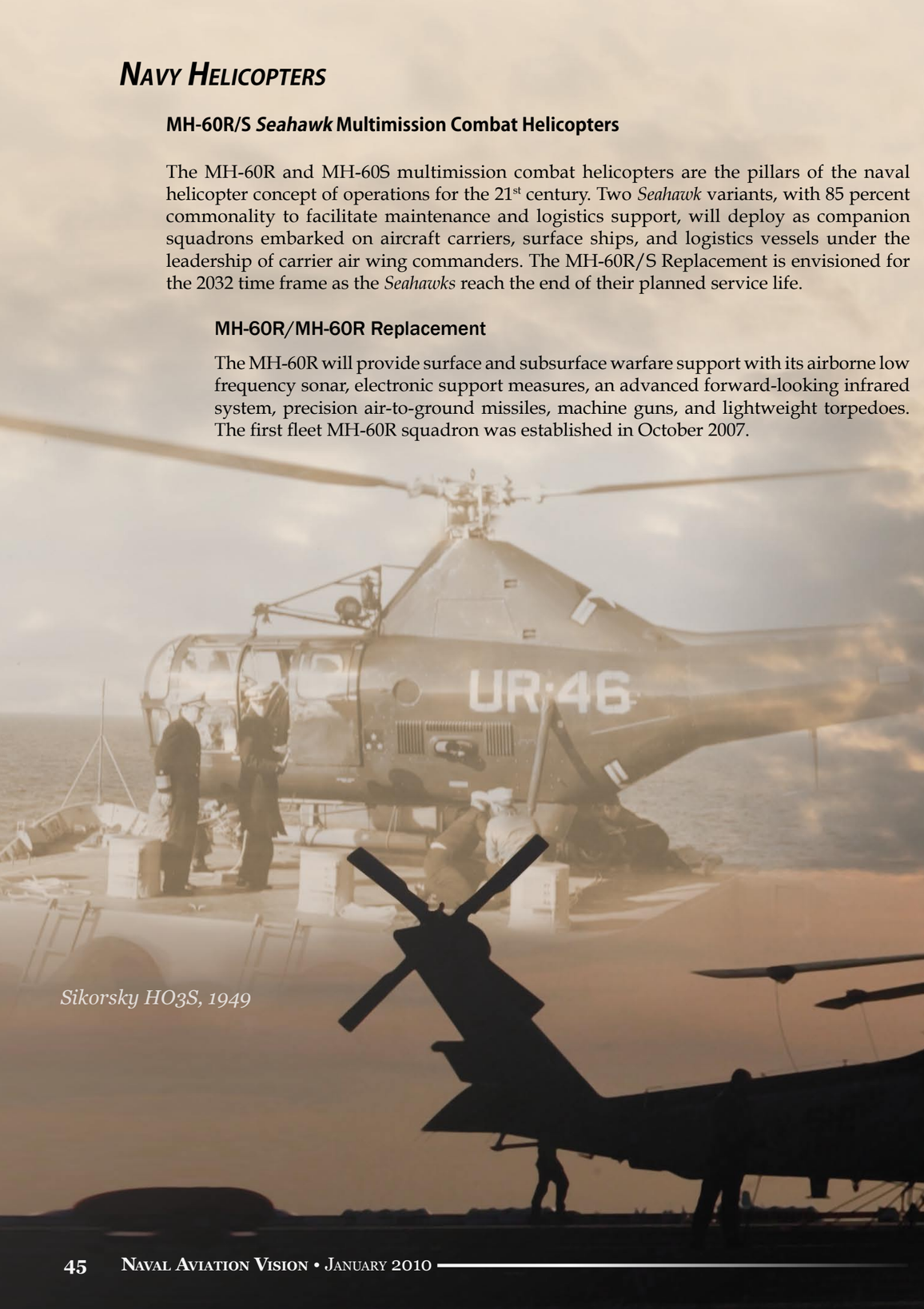
MH-60R/S *Seahawk* Multimission Combat Helicopters

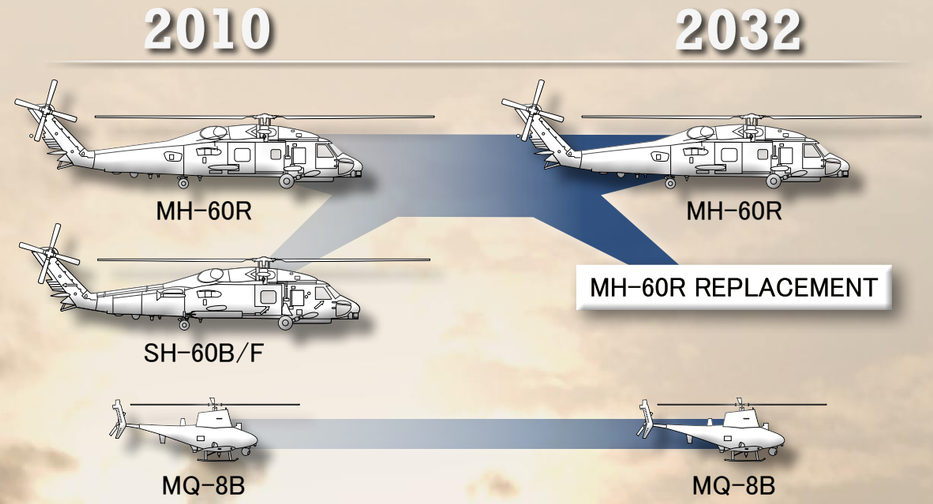
The MH-60R and MH-60S multimission combat helicopters are the pillars of the naval helicopter concept of operations for the 21st century. Two *Seahawk* variants, with 85 percent commonality to facilitate maintenance and logistics support, will deploy as companion squadrons embarked on aircraft carriers, surface ships, and logistics vessels under the leadership of carrier air wing commanders. The MH-60R/S Replacement is envisioned for the 2032 time frame as the *Seahawks* reach the end of their planned service life.

MH-60R/MH-60R Replacement

The MH-60R will provide surface and subsurface warfare support with its airborne low frequency sonar, electronic support measures, an advanced forward-looking infrared system, precision air-to-ground missiles, machine guns, and lightweight torpedoes. The first fleet MH-60R squadron was established in October 2007.



Sikorsky HO3S, 1949



MQ-8B *Fire Scout*

The MQ-8B *Fire Scout* VTOL UAS is designed to operate from all air-capable ships, to carry modular mission payloads, and to operate using the Tactical Control System and Tactical Common Data Link. *Fire Scout* is a medium- to large-size Group 4 UAS that will provide day and night real-time intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance and targeting as well as communications relay and battlefield management capabilities to support anti-submarine, mine, and anti-surface warfare, the missions of the Littoral Combat Ship. *Fire Scout* conducted operational testing on USS *McInerney* (FFG 8) in fiscal year 2009 and deployed in fiscal year 2010 on *McInerney*.

MH-60S/MH-60S Replacement

The MH-60S will partner with the MH-60R for surface warfare missions, carrying the same forward-looking infrared and air-to-ground weaponry and machine guns. In addition, the MH-60S will have the capability to support combat search and rescue and naval special warfare joint theater operations. The platform will perform the airborne mine countermeasures mission (previously performed exclusively by the MH-53E) using any one of five advanced sensor and weapon packages to provide detection, localization, and neutralization of the anti-access mine threat. These five systems include the AQS-20A Mine-Hunting Sonar System, the Airborne Laser Mine Detection System, the Airborne Mine Neutralization System, the Rapid Airborne Mine Clearance System, and the Organic Airborne and Surface Influence System. Collectively, these systems will allow naval forces to operate and maneuver in littoral and blue-water environments. The MH-60S also will anchor the fleet logistics role in strike group operations.

MH-53E Replacement

The MH-53E *Sea Dragon* continues to conduct dedicated airborne mine countermeasures and vertical on-board-delivery heavy lift missions in the fleet. Future plans include transitioning the mine countermeasures capability from the *Sea Dragon* to the MH-60S and identification of an MH-53E Replacement for the Navy's future heavy lift capability. Initial operational capability will be required in the 2026 timeframe.