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Russia delivers 12 Mi-17 helicopters to Afghan armed forces

May 17, 2013



Russian state arms exporter Rosoboronexport announced that Russia would deliver 12 Mil Mi-17V5 military transport helicopters to Afghanistan national army by the end of 2013.

The delivery of the helicopters to Afghan armed forces is part of the \$367.5 million deal signed between Pentagon and Rosoboronexport in 2011, which included delivery of 21 Mi-17V5s.

US officials have also announced that the deal with the Rosoboronexport could worth up to \$900 million which will also include spares and servicing.

Grigory Kozlov, director of Rosobornexport's helicopter exports department quoted by Russia's state news agency, Ria Novosti said, "The option agreement has been signed and the delivery will be completed by the end of this year."

Kozlov said Pentagon has already started paying for the option deal as well as delivering US equipment to be installed on Russian helicopters specifically for Afghan missions.

According to Grigory Kozlov, additional Mi17 helicopters will be purchased for the Afghan national security forces despite opposition from a number of US lawmakers.

He said, "I think this issue (the additional purchase) will be decided by the end of May and we will enter a new round of talks on the delivery of helicopters on top of the current 21 plus 12 units."

Russian-made helicopters have a long history in Afghanistan and is preferred better than the helicopters due to their low prices, durability and simplicity.