

# Amphibious ops for Dutch NH-90

Since the Dutch Helicopter Command (DHC) started its operations with the NH-90, the focus was on maritime missions in their role as NATO Frigate Helicopter (NFH). Stationed on multipurpose frigates, Ocean-going Patrol Vessels (OPV) or on one of the 2 Landing Platform Docks (LPD), they execute their sea based operations. These include amongst others, Surface Warfare (SuW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), counterdrug, replenishment at sea and Search and Rescue (SAR) duties. For these duties, the NH-90 can carry door mounted rifles and Mark46 torpedos.



## Cougar capacity

However, due to earlier capacity constraints in the initial years of NH-90 operations, the TNFH amphibious tasks were taken care by the AS-532 U2 Cougar helicopters. Although the Cougars, which were in operations since 1996, had been taken out of service in 2011 because of Dutch defence cost cutting programmes, the defence staff decided to put them back into operations as the introduction of the NH-90 suffered from technical issues and delays. Next to the NH-90 programme, the introduction of the CH-47F MYII CAAS Chinook to replace the older CH-47Ds was also facing a delay in planning. This resulted in the revival of Cougar operations and although initially

