



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 3, 2023

Florida Keys Mosquito Control Continues Aerial Equipment Upgrade with Addition of *THIRD* Airbus, H 125 Helicopter

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District continues a ‘multi-year’ program of needed aerial equipment upgrades this week by taking delivery of a third Airbus, H 125 helicopter at Marathon Airport.

The replacement program began in 2019 when FKMCD Commissioners and Managers made the decision to systematically replace an aging aerial fleet with newer and more operationally efficient rotorcraft.

The newest addition cost approximately 4.3 million dollars. It is helping replace a mixture of older Bell helicopters and fixed wing airplanes that date back more than 30 years. The purchase was only made possible after the commitment by FKMCD to a multi-year plan to budget and save money for the purchase.

The newest aircraft (N730FK) is virtually identical to the previous pair procured by the District in 2020. They all feature versatile equipment which makes them capable of completing both liquid and granule missions for the District. They allow for a quicker response by having the ability to carry more product and increase our overall mission efficiency. All three are painted in the now customary black, red and white FKMCD livery.

The addition of this new helicopter is particularly significant because it effectively marks the end of the use of fixed wing aircraft for mosquito control over the Florida Keys.

Longtime residents will remember that FKMCD historically used a mixture of aircraft for mosquito control including very familiar yellow and white DC 3's.

In more recent years, FKMCD has utilized a smaller pair of twin engine Islander airplanes that are now being declared surplus property and sold with the proceeds assisting in funding the aerial fleet upgrade.

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About the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

The mission of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is to control the mosquito population using the most effective methods, techniques, equipment and insecticides; thus enhancing the quality of life for all residents and reducing the possibility of mosquito transmitted diseases.

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