QH-50 DASH
Gyrodyne

The Gyrodyne QH-50 DASH (Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter) was a small, drone helicopter built by Gyrodyne Company of America for use as a long-range anti-submarine weapon on ships that would otherwise be too small to operate a full-sized helicopter. It remained in production until 1969. Several are still used today for various land-based roles.

DASH was a major part of the United States Navy's Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) program of the late 1950s. FRAM was started because the Soviet Union was building submarines faster than the US could build anti-submarine frigates. Instead of building frigates, the FRAM upgrade series allowed the U.S. to rapidly catch up by converting older ships that were otherwise less useful in modern naval combat. The Navy was able to inexpensively upgrade the sonar on World War II-era destroyers, but needed a stand-off weapon to attack out to the edge of the sonar's range. The old destroyers had little room for add-ons like a full flight deck. The original DASH concept was a light drone helicopter that could release a nuclear depth charge or torpedoes. The aircraft was considered expendable.

Type: anti-submarine warfare drone
Powerplant: 1x Boeing T50-BO-8A turboshaft, 300 hp (224 kW)
Maximum speed: 92 mph
Weights: empty 1,154 lb (524 kg)
Max takeoff weight: 2,285 lb
Dimensions:
Diameter: 20 ft (6.1 m)
Length: 12 ft 11 in (3.94 m)
Height: 9 ft 8 in (2.96 m)
Disc area: 314 ft2 (29 m2)