



PH2 Shane McCoy

Flaps down and hook up, an EA-6B *Prowler* approaches the ramp of *George Washington* (CVN 73) for a touch-and-go as the guided missile cruiser *Normandy* (CG 60) passes astern during Joint Task Force exercises in the Atlantic Ocean in May.

Super Hornet Production Ramps Up

On 15 June the Navy announced a multiyear contract with the Boeing Co., St. Louis, Mo., for full-rate production of the F/A-18E/F *Super Hornet*. The contract provides for the purchase of 36 aircraft in FY 2000, 42 the next year and 48 for each of the following three years.

Korean Medal Available

On 13 May, the defense minister of the Republic of Korea announced that the Republic of Korea War Service Medal would be available to eligible U.S. veterans of that conflict or to their surviving next of kin. For information on how to apply for the medal, contact the Air Force

Personnel Center at 800-558-1404, or the Awards and Decorations Section at 210-565-2432.

For the Record

The C-40A transport aircraft being built for the Naval Reserve by the Boeing Co., Seattle, Wash., has been officially designated the *Clipper*.

Raytheon Co., Lexington, Mass., received a \$31.4 million Navy contract for the **Joint Signals Intelligence Avionics Family Modernization (JMOD 1)** on the EP-3E *Aries II*. The upgrade will enhance communication and data processing capabilities.

The **AIM-9X Sidewinder** missile scored direct hits against QF-4 targets in each of

its first three operational flight tests, on 21 April at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif., and on 23 and 25 May at Eglin AFB, Fla.



PH3 Michael B.W. Watkins

LCdr. Kevin Mannix, above, is the first pilot to fly and perform carrier qualifications following corrective eye surgery. Naval Aviators may undergo the surgery only if they meet certain criteria, including participation in a Navy-sponsored clinical study. For more information see NAVADMIN 341/99 or log on to www.navymedicine.med.navy.mil.

OSPREY TAKES TO THE SKIES AGAIN



Photos by Ted Carlson



On 5 June the MV-22 *Osprey* resumed operational evaluation flights after a standdown prompted by an 8 April mishap (see *NANews*, May–Jun 00, p. 8). On 17 June the *Osprey* flew with passengers—including Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Jones, left—for the first time since the crash.

Kaman Aerospace Corp., Bloomfield, Conn., received a \$2.7 million follow-on contract to develop a **remotely piloted helicopter** for the Marine Corps.

The *Hawkeye 2000* completed its 400th flight hour during testing in Puerto Rico.

Mishaps

An F/A-18D *Hornet* of Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, MCAS El Toro, Calif., crashed aboard NAF El Centro, Calif., on 9 May. Both aircrew members ejected safely.

On 9 May, an E-2C *Hawkeye* of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 116, operating at its home base of NAS Point Mugu, Calif., was damaged when it struck the ground after a bird strike.

A T-45A *Goshawk* of Training Squadron 21, NAS Kingsville, Texas, was damaged when it departed the runway during rollout

NEW H-60S ARRIVE AT PAX RIVER



The first production CH-60S helicopter arrived at NAS Patuxent River, Md., on 15 May to begin developmental testing. Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., is scheduled to deliver 10 of the new helos to the Navy by the end of the year. The CH-60S is an amalgam of the Army *Blackhawk* and Navy *Seahawk* helicopters.

The first prototype SH-60R arrived at Pax River in May for combined developmental and contractor testing. The R version is a remanufacture of the SH-60B and F models currently in the fleet. The CH-60S and the SH-60R will share a common glass cockpit.

aboard Patrick AFB, Fla., on 13 May.

The pilot and radar intercept officer of an F-14 *Tomcat* assigned to Fighter Squadron 101, NAS Oceana, Va., were killed when the plane crashed during a flight demonstration at NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa., on 18 June.

One person was killed when the landing gear of a Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 CH-53E *Super Stallion* collapsed during maintenance aboard MCAS New River, N.C., on 21 June.

The pilot of a Marine Attack Squadron 211 AV-8B *Harrier II* assigned to MCAS Yuma, Ariz.,

ejected safely following an in-flight fire near Twentynine Palms, Calif., on 21 June.

An F-14A *Tomcat* of Fighter Squadron 211, NAS Oceana, Va., was lost after launching from *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) on 23 June. The aircrew were rescued.

BLUE ON A ROLL



SSgt. Diane S. Robinson

A Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron F/A-18 *Hornet* skims the tarmac during the Joint Services Open House at Andrews AFB, Md., on 21 May.

CHINA LAKE MUSEUM NAMED



When the Secretary of the Navy signed SECNAVNOTE 5755 on 12 May 2000, the U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology was officially established at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif., culminating a 10-year effort. The existing Weapons Exhibit Center assumed its new name following a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 28 July.

The museum is testimony to the highly successful research, development, test and evaluation conducted at China Lake for the Navy since 1943. Its collection of tactical air weaponry and technology ranges from WW II rockets to cutting-edge guided missiles. Familiar items like the Sidewinder, Shrike and Tomahawk missiles appear alongside weapon systems that can be seen nowhere else, such as Agile, an advanced, short-range air-to-air missile; Bulldog, the first successful laser-guided missile; and the Advanced Bomb Family of developmental free-fall weapons.

The collection also boasts a variety of aircraft, including the NTA-4F *Skyhawk*, A-7E *Corsair II*, QF-86 drone, DF-8L *Crusader*, RA-5C *Vigilante*,



AV-8A *Harrier*, A-6E *Intruder* and F/A-18A *Hornet*; several significant range instrumentation and target items; and a tribute to the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division's search-and-rescue (SAR) team, including a UH-1 "Huey" SAR helo.

For information about visiting the museum, call 760-939-3530 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or email clmf@ridgenet.net.