

# AIRSCOOP

Edited by Wendy Leland



Photos by Vernon Pugh

## NP2000 HAWKEYE TAKES FLIGHT

An E-2C *Hawkeye* equipped with the NP2000 propeller made its first flight on 19 April at NAS Patuxent River, Md. The digitally controlled, composite eight-bladed propellers will replace the electromechanical, steel spar four-bladed propellers currently on fleet E-2Cs and C-2 *Greyhounds*.

Above, the E-2C *Hawkeye* made its first flight with the NP2000 composite eight-bladed propellers on 19 April. Right, participating in the NP2000 *Hawkeye's* first flight were, left to right: copilot LCdr. Mark Light, pilot LCdr. Glenn Jamison, Naval Flight Officer LCdr. Tim Spitsner, and T-2 chase pilot Jon Ulbricht.



## Deployment Link Launched

In April, the Department of Defense launched a new web site, [www.deploymentlink.osd.mil](http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil), to answer service members' predeployment health questions. The site offers tips on how to prepare for deployments, including immunization information and region-specific health advisories, plus general information such as links to organizations that support families of deployed personnel.

## Lassen Commissioned

On 21 April, the Navy's newest Aegis guided-missile destroyer was commissioned *Lassen* (DDG 82). The ship's namesake, Clyde Everett Lassen, piloted his UH-2

*Seasprite* through heavy enemy fire to rescue two downed aviators during the Vietnam War. He was the first Naval Aviator to receive the Medal of Honor for actions during that conflict.

## NFO to Pilot Program

In May, the Department of Defense announced the reinstatement of the Naval Flight Officer to Pilot Program. NFOs



Above, the first C-40A *Clipper* lands at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas, for delivery to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 59. Right, Fort Worth Mayor Kenneth Barr and VR-59 CO Cdr. Mark Woodall shake hands next to the aircraft named the *City of Fort Worth*.



PH2(AW/SW) Walter Hall

PH2 Steven Crawford

## JPALS TOUCHES DOWN



On 23 April aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71), the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) guided this F/A-18 *Hornet* from the Naval Strike Aircraft Test Squadron, NAS Patuxent River, Md., to the first global positioning system, fully automated landing at sea. Improving on the current radar-based system, the JPALS provides constant three-dimensional coverage around the ship for up to 100 aircraft within 200 nautical miles. It can be used aboard amphibious ships and during emissions-control conditions. Production is expected to begin in 2007, with fleet introduction by 2009.

PHC(FMF) Dennis Taylor

## X-PLANE LANDS AT PAX RIVER



The Boeing Co.

The Boeing X-32B Joint Strike Fighter demonstrator arrived at NAS Patuxent River, Md., on 11 May to complete short takeoff/vertical landing flight testing.

from any community who meet the eligibility criteria may apply for the selection board, which will choose between 12 and 36 candidates annually. For more information, refer to NAVADMIN 101/01.

### Crashworthy Helo Seat

The Naval Air Systems Command announced qualification of the new Common Crash Resistant Troop Seat System for future Navy helicopters. Designed to accommodate and protect nearly any size person—from an unequipped passenger in the 5th percentile of body mass to a fully equipped person in the 95th percentile—the seats employ energy attenuators to absorb collision forces. In a crash,

## SAR OLYMPIC GAMES



A search-and-rescue crew member participates in the National Helicopter Association's 2001 Aircrew Olympics at NAS North Island, Calif. The games are held annually to boost morale and to challenge the best of the best.

PHAN Patrick Horgan

sets of offset metal rollers ride down the length of two straight metal bars behind the seat, dissipating crash energy before it reaches the occupant. Strapped in with a five-point harness, occupants are protected from combined crash forces up to 30Gs. Expected to first enter the fleet in the upgraded UH-1 helicopter (see Mar–Apr 01, p. 7), the future may also find the crashworthy seats in other transport helicopters, such as the H-46 *Sea Knight* and the H-3 *Sea King*.

## Mishap

A T-34C *Turbo-Mentor* of Fighter Attack Squadron 125, NAF El Centro, Calif., crashed near the station on 21 May. Both aviators were killed.

## FIRE SCOUT MOVES AHEAD

The Northrop Grumman Corp. received a \$14.2 million contract for low-rate initial production of the *Fire Scout* vertical takeoff and landing unmanned aerial vehicle. The *Fire Scout*



is designed to autonomously operate from any aviation-capable ship, providing reconnaissance, situational awareness and precision targeting support.



IT S A THAI



Photos by PH3 Alex C. Witte

The Royal Thai naval vessel HTMS *Chakrinaruebet* (CVH 911), above, steams along side *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), left, operating out of Naval Base Yokosuka, Japan.