

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2002

By William T. Baker and Mark L. Evans

## OPERATION ANACONDA

**O**n 3 March 2002, U.S. ground forces in Afghanistan unleashed Operation Anaconda to trap al Qaeda terrorists and their Taliban supporters known to be lurking in the Shah-e-Kot Valley in southeastern Afghanistan. That day led to some of the fiercest fighting to date in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the primary effort in the war against terrorism.

Intelligence flights had revealed hundreds of terrorists dug in around three villages in the valley, some of whom were *jihadis* (foreign volunteers). Often mistrusted by Afghans as outsiders, the *jihadis*, who thus felt isolated with little to lose, were known to fight ferociously.

The enemy's effective use of dispersal and camouflage and ability to hide in the rugged terrain made accurate intelligence and ordnance delivery crucial, especially with precision-guided munitions. In addition, the use of runners and non-broadcast methods for communications reduced the effectiveness of jamming by EA-6B Prowlers.

The plan for Anaconda included dropping 1,200 Army troops behind the enemy to assume blocking positions on seven mountain passes that afforded the terrorists escape routes into Pakistan. U.S. and Australian Special Operations Forces (SOF), and hundreds of allied Afghans, would then drive the

enemy into these blocking positions. In the interim, SOF would establish observation posts from which to direct air strikes.

When special operations forces were inserted into the valley at approximately 0300 on Sunday, 3 March, they encountered unexpectedly fierce resistance, especially from terrorists dug into Takur Ghar, a snow-capped mountain stronghold rising 10,200 feet.

As an Army MH-47E Chinook from the 2nd Battalion, 160th

Petty Officer Roberts fell, mortally wounded, an act of bravery that prompted those who fought there subsequently to christen the mountain "Roberts Ridge." The pilots crash-landed the Chinook further down the mountain.

Reinforcements rushed in by other Chinooks were pinned down by intense enemy fire from RPGs, mortars and even a 75mm recoilless rifle. One MH-47E extricated the downed crew and the SEALs from the first Chinook, but a short while later enemy fire downed another and a vicious firefight ensued.

Fortunately, F-14A Tomcats from Fighter Squadron 211 immediately provided close air support, remaining on station for the next three critical hours. The Tomcats protected survivors with repeated bombing runs, dropping 500-pounders within 50 meters of SOF positions. In addition, they guided in other assets, including an Air Force AC-130 gunship.

Three feet of snow and foliage greatly hampered visibility of ground targets. Whenever the terrorists heard a Navy jet overhead, they ducked inside caves. While that eased the pressure on the pinned-down SOF, it also meant that the only way to ferret out the terrorists was to employ either Joint Direct



**An after-action photo of Takur Ghar shows a downed CH-47E Chinook near the crest. Most of the snow that was present during the battle had melted when this image was taken.**

Special Operations Aviation Regiment approached the landing zone, it was struck by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) round. ABH1 Neal Roberts, a sea-air-land team member (SEAL), was knocked out of the helicopter 10–15 feet into enemy positions. After a heroic stand against overwhelming odds,

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PH3 Jayme T. Pastorio

**An F-14A Tomcat from Fighter Squadron 211 launches from *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) during Operation Enduring Freedom, March 2002.**



**Lt. Rich Couture of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121 puts his E-2C Hawkeye in a climb while on a combat mission over Afghanistan in April 2002.**

Attack Munitions (JDAMs) or thermobarics directly into the caves, marking the first time that thermobarics were dropped in combat.

The al Qaeda fighters still refused to surrender. Later that night, whenever they heard aircraft approaching, the terrorists drew blankets over themselves to mask their heat signatures in order to disappear from night-vision screens.

The desperate situation required immediate reinforcements, and Naval Aviation rose to the occasion. On 3 March, *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) shifted her position to just off Pasni, Pakistan. Early the next morning, a detachment from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) (MEU SOC)—five AH-1W Super Cobras and three CH-53E Super Stallions from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (Reinforced) 165—launched for the grueling 730nm flight inland, which required refueling en route.

Arriving over Bagram at 1735 on 4 March, the Super Cobras

immediately flew into action, blasting cave entrances for the hard-pressed troops. Meanwhile, the Super Stallion crews established a forward arming and refueling point within 10 miles of the battlefield, allowing the Super Cobras to operate at extended ranges with minimum turnaround time.

The *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) battle group sped to the scene, launching its initial OEF strikes on the first night after arriving on station on 6–7 March. On 8 March, a detachment of two additional 13th MEU (SOC) KC-130T Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 deployed to Jacobabad, Pakistan, where their support proved crucial to allow the extended operations to continue. In addition, Marine AV-8B Harrier IIs proved so effective that SOF

controllers specifically requested them.

Lieutenant Colonel Greg A. Sturdevant, designated as Commander Task Force 165 (comprising both Marine and Army aviation assets), was later awarded the Bronze Star for his extraordinary achievements during Anaconda, which also included being Air Mission Commander during four combat missions.

Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121 executed extended, long-range E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning coverage from “Ravens Station” in northern Afghanistan and “Panthers,” an alternate station covering the central and western part of the country.

Throughout Anaconda, dark, wet and cold weather hampered those entrusted with the task of carrying it out, and forced them to improvise means of keeping aircraft operational with a bare minimum of parts and equipment. During the first three days, the temperature ranged from a high of 60°F to a low of zero, with a wind chill the first night of -20°F. In

addition, illumination proved a problem. The near total darkness of the Afghan night and the resulting lack of ambient light often rendered night-vision goggles ineffective.

By the time the coalition declared an end to Anaconda on 18 March, enemy resistance was broken only after air power blasted them for almost two weeks, finally enabling troops on the ground to secure the enemy positions. During the desperate fighting, U.S. aircraft flew almost 950 sorties to flush out the terrorists and dropped more than 3,450 bombs. Fewer than 20 fanatical terrorists surrendered.

Naval Aviation would continue to play a key role in the war on terrorism as the year progressed. By year's end naval ships and aircraft were part of a growing force gathering in the Middle East for a looming war with Iraq.



LCpl. Daniel Kelly

**An AH-1W Super Cobra of Marine Helicopter Medium Squadron 165 with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) aviation combat element takes off from *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) to conduct missions in support of Operation Anaconda on 4 March 2002. Below, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) crew members watch as the sun rises over *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) from the ship's hangar bay on 6 March 2002. *Kennedy* and her embarked carrier air wing relieved *TR* that day to conduct missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.**

PH1 Jim Hampshire





Aircrew assigned to the *Grey Knights* of Patrol Squadron 46 display the American flag and the VP-46 flag after arriving in Baghdad, Iraq on 16 April 2003. The unique photo opportunity took place during the squadron's regularly scheduled six-month deployment, which began in December 2002.

## Patrol Squadron Major Deployments, 2002

### NAS Keflavik, Iceland/NS Roosevelt Roads, PR

VP-8	Aug 01–Feb 02
VP-45	Feb 02–Aug 02
VP-26	Aug 02–Feb 03

### NAS Sigonella, Italy

VP-5	Aug 01–Feb 02
VP-10	Feb 02–Aug 02
VP-16	Aug 02–Feb 03

### Indian Ocean (Dets in North Arabian Sea/Arabian Gulf)

VP-4	Dec 01–May 02
VP-1	Jun 02–Dec 02
VP-46	Dec 02–May 03

### NAF Misawa, Japan (Det at Kadena, Okinawa)

VP-40	Dec 01–May 02
VP-47	Jun 02–Dec 02
VP-9	Dec 02–May 03

Note: All squadrons fly the P-3C Orion.

The following chronology highlights other significant events during 2002.

## January

The AGM-154C Joint Standoff Weapon conducted dynamic sled testing with a Broach penetration

multi-stage warhead designed to penetrate hardened targets.

2 Raytheon Aircraft, Wichita, Kans., was awarded a potential \$1.22 billion contract for up to five years for 234 T-6A Texan IIs for the

Air Force and the Navy.

2 *Enterprise* (CVN 65) entered an extended dry dock selected restricted availability at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Va., scheduled to last approximately one year, for which the Northrop Grumman Corp. received a \$191 million contract.

8 HSL-46's Det 3, embarked on board *Hayler* (DD 997), conducted the year's first maritime interdiction operation (MIO) in the Mediterranean when its Aircraft No. 2, an SH-60B Seahawk, intercepted suspected merchant vessel *Rasha J*. MIOs were coalition efforts to enforce UN resolutions against smuggling of illicit cargoes into and out of Iraq, imposed since August 1990 in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The demanding pace of MIOs was demonstrated by HSL-46's five detachments to the Fifth and Sixth fleets during 2002, which collectively conducted over 500 MIOs and queried more than 700 merchant vessels.

13–14 Two HH-60H Seahawks from HS-11 and one from HS-8, all operating from *Shreveport* (LPD 12), provided sniper and AGM-114B Hellfire missile coverage for SEAL Team 8 and Special Boat Unit 20 during a nighttime boarding of the merchant vessel *al Obeid* in the northern Arabian Sea. Suspected of smuggling to al Qaeda terrorists, *al Obeid* was inspected by the boarders, who were reinforced by additional personnel from the destroyer *Elliot* (DD 967) to assist in the search and seizure. *Al Obeid* had previously been suspected of smuggling during the Persian Gulf War, and on 12 January 1991 had been tracked by naval aircraft and boarded by a team from *Moosbrugger* (DD 980).

14 The Battle of Zhawar Kili—an al Qaeda terrorist training area, logistics point and command and control node 30 miles southwest of Khowst, Afghanistan—ended. On 3 January, coalition aircraft, including four F/A-18C Hornets, four Air Force B-1B Lancers and an AC-130 gunship, began the battle with a

strike against the compound in support of SOF on the ground. The facility was the same one struck on 20 August 1998 in retaliation for terrorist attacks against U.S. embassies in East Africa. During this second battle, coalition aircraft leveled Zhawar Kili's buildings, sealed all known caves, knocked out antiaircraft artillery and weapons, and tracked military vehicles.

## February

**8** The Navy unveiled the MH-60S Seahawk during a ceremony with HC-3, the HC fleet readiness squadron at NAS North Island, Calif. A total of 237 MH-60S Seahawks were planned.

**10** Naval Aviation and a Coast Guard law enforcement detachment seized 12.65 tons of cocaine from smugglers on board the Colombian-flagged fishing vessel *Paulo*, 300 miles south of the Galapagos Islands. This was the second largest cocaine seizure in maritime history.

**14** HMH-772, a reserve CH-53E Super Stallion squadron based at NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa., was activated for one year. Attached to HMM-263, MCAS New River,

N.C., the squadron provided heavy lift capability for the 24th MEU.

**23** The last of 53 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, deployed to Afghanistan for OEF, returned to Guam. Air operations within Afghanistan would not have been possible without the Seabees, who repaired and maintained both the airstrip at Forward Operating Base Camp Rhino near Kandahar and the Kandahar International Airport, despite enemy harassment and bitter weather.

## March

*Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) and *Nimitz* (CVN 68) became the first carriers to have the RIM-116A Rolling Airframe Missile, a shipboard antimissile system, installed.

**4** Cdr. Don Burns, LCdr. Eric Humphreys, AW1 Jim Peters and AD1 Shawn Robertson flew HSL-60's maiden flight, at NS Mayport, Fla. The squadron was established on 1 April 2001 at Mayport as the Navy's first reserve Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) MK III squadron. Its six SH-60B Seahawks were intended to support

reserve frigates by closing the gap between the total of 82 active duty LAMPS dets and the 88 required fleet-wide.

**6** The *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) battle group was relieved by the *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) battle group in the northern Arabian Sea.

**12** During a night strike over Afghanistan, VF-11 CO Cdr. John C. Aquilino and LCdr. Kevin Protzman made the first combat strike with the MK 84 2,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition from an F-14B Tomcat.

**20** The Navy requested proposals for the Multi-mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) component advanced development work effort. The MMA was designed to recapitalize on the capabilities provided by the P-3C Orion and the EP-3E Aries II.

**27** The *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) battle group returned from a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. The carrier launched her first OEF strikes on 17 October 2001,

**A pair of Strike Fighter Squadron 136 F/A-18C Hornets from *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) conduct a mission in Afghanistan in March 2002, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by Captain William E. Gortney.**





PH3 Philip A. McDaniel

and shifted her schedule 12 hours to accommodate night operations. Reveille was at 1800 and taps at 1000. During the deployment, CVW-1 flew over 10,000 sorties and dropped more than 1.7 million pounds of ordnance.

**31** In Guam, HC-5 received the first three MH-60S Seahawks to be delivered to an operational squadron.

## April

**4** At Owego, N.Y., the first fully remanufactured SH-60B to MH-60R completed its first flight of the total weapon system. During 2001 the Navy decided to shift the program from remanufacturing existing H-60 airframes to producing new aircraft. A total of 243 MH-60Rs were planned.

**8** The space shuttle Atlantis launched from Kennedy Space

**An SH-60F Seahawk assigned to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 4 lifts off from Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) on 17 November 2002. Note the Strike Fighter Squadron 125 F/A-18C Hornet on the deck outfitted with a number of strike weapons, including the Standoff Land Attack Missile-Expanded Response, an evolutionary upgrade to the combat-proven SLAM day/night, adverse-weather, over-the-horizon, precision strike missile.**

Center, Fla., returning on 20 April. On board were Naval Aviation personnel Capt. Lee M. E. Morin, mission specialist, and Cdr. Stephen N. Frick, pilot.

**15** Six F/A-18D Hornets from VMFA(AW)-121 arrived in Kyrgyzstan, initiating the first Naval Aviation fighter operations from that country. The Marines were integrated with the USAF's 376th

Air Expeditionary Wing in strikes over Afghanistan.

**15** NATO's Standing Naval Forces Atlantic returned to the eastern Mediterranean for a second deployment as Task Force Endeavour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. TF Endeavour, which was formed around naval aircraft tasked with tracking shipping capable of smuggling to terrorists, began its first deployment on 7 December 2001.

## May

**1** Test squadrons without alphanumeric designations were redesignated as air test and evaluation squadrons in keeping with fleet standards: HX-21, VX-20, VX-23, VX-30 and VX-31.

**1** The first production AIM-9X Sidewinder air-to-air missile was

# Carrier and Air Wing Deployments, 2002

## *Carl Vinson (CVN 70)*

CVW-11 (Tail Code: NH)  
WestPac/IO  
23 Jul 01–23 Jan 02

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-213*	F-14D
VFA-22	F/A-18C
VFA-94	F/A-18C
VFA-97	F/A-18A
VAW-117	E-2C
VAQ-135	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 3	C-2A
VS-29	S-3B
HS-6	SH-60F/HH-60H

## *Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)*

CVW-1 (Tail Code: AB)  
North Arabian Sea  
19 Sep 01–27 Mar 02

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-102*	F-14B
VFA-82	F/A-18C
VFA-86	F/A-18C
VMFA-251 (DW)**	F/A-18C
VAW-123	E-2C
VAQ-137	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 2	C-2A
VS-32	S-3B
HS-11	SH-60F/HH-60H

## *John C. Stennis (CVN 74)*

CVW-9 (Tail Code: NG)  
North Arabian Sea  
12 Nov 01–28 May 02

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-211*	F-14A
VFA-146	F/A-18C
VFA-147	F/A-18C
VMFA-314 (VW)**	F/A-18C
VAW-112	E-2C
VAQ-138	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 4	C-2A
VS-33	S-3B
HS-8	SH-60F/HH-60H

## *John F. Kennedy (CV 67)*

CVW-7 (Tail Code: AG)  
Mediterranean/IO  
7 Feb 02–17 Aug 02

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-11*	F-14B
VF-143*	F-14B
VFA-131	F/A-18C
VFA-136	F/A-18C
VAW-121	E-2C
VAQ-140	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 3	C-2A
VS-31	S-3B
HS-5	SH-60F/HH-60H

## *George Washington (CVN 73)*

CVW-17 (Tail Code: AA)  
Mediterranean/IO  
20 Jun 02–20 Dec 02

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-103*	F-14B
VFA-34	F/A-18C
VFA-81	F/A-18C
VFA-83	F/A-18C
VAW-125	E-2C
VAQ-132	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 4	C-2A
VS-30	S-3B
HS-15	SH-60F/HH-60H

## *Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)*

CVW-14 (Tail Code: NK)  
WestPac/IO  
24 Jul 02–20 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-31*	F-14D
VFA-25	F/A-18C
VFA-113	F/A-18C
VFA-115	F/A-18E
VAW-113	E-2C
VAQ-139	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 1	C-2A
VS-35	S-3B
HS-4	SH-60F/HH-60H

## *Constellation (CV 64)*

CVW-2 (Tail Code: NE)  
WestPac/IO  
2 Nov 02–2 May 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-2*	F-14D
VFA-137	F/A-18C
VFA-151	F/A-18C
VMFA-323 (WS)**	F/A-18C
VAW-116	E-2C
VAQ-131	EA-6B
VRC-30 Det 2	C-2A
VS-38	S-3B
HS-2	SH-60F/HH-60H
HSL-47 Det 4	SH-60B

## *Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)*

CVW-3 (Tail Code: AC)  
Mediterranean/IO  
5 Dec 02–4 Jun 03

Squadron	Aircraft
VF-32*	F-14B
VFA-37	F/A-18C
VFA-105	F/A-18C
VMFA-115 (VE)**	F/A-18A
VAW-126	E-2C
VAQ-130	EA-6B
VRC-40 Det 1	C-2A
VS-22	S-3B
HS-7	SH-60F/HH-60H

\*All deployed F-14 squadrons are equipped with the Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System and the Low-Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night pod.

\*\*While on deployment, VMFA squadrons take on the tail code of the air wing. Their original tail codes are noted in parentheses.

unveiled during a ceremony at Raytheon Company, Tucson, Ariz.

3 The Department of Defense announced that it had certified six acquisition projects, allowing them

to move forward. Included was a project to remanufacture 280 H-1 replacements for the AH-1 Cobra and UH-1 Huey.

3 HX-21 received Zulu 3, the

second test AH-1Z Cobra to arrive at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

10 Two Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawks and an HU-25 Falcon supported the cutter *Harriet Lane*

(WMEC 903) in the rescue of 71 Haitian migrants from an overloaded 35-foot vessel that capsized six miles west of Great Inagua, Bahamas. The bodies of 14 migrants who perished were also recovered. The Coast Guard rushed additional medical personnel and supplies to the area via a C-130 Hercules and the patrol boat *Nantucket* (WPB 1316).

**13–16** Testing of the integration of the Cooperative Engagement Capability with E-2C Hawkeye 2000 weapon systems was conducted at NAS Patuxent River, Md. The Hawkeye was the first naval aircraft to be equipped with the system. It was developed to defend the fleet at greater ranges against advanced threats, such as cruise missiles, enabling the development of a single integrated air picture. Approximately 160 systems were planned.

**19** The RQ-8A Fire Scout vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicle began its flight test program at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif. The Fire Scout was designed to provide situational awareness and precision targeting, and to be fully autonomous, requiring limited operator intervention.

**29** The first MV-22 Osprey to resume flight following a crash on 11 December 2000 near Jacksonville, N.C., that killed four Marines from VMFT-204, flew at NAS Patuxent River, Md. The Marines had requested 360 MV-22s, the Navy 48 HV-22s and the Air Force 50 CV-22s.

**31** Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., selected the Thales TopOwl Avionics helmet-mounted display for Marine H-1s. It was planned to fit a total of 180 AH-1Zs and 100 UH-1Ys with the system.

## June

The Marine Corps announced that as a result of lessons learned in OEF in Afghanistan, the 24th MEU would deploy with two additional AH-1W Cobras and four additional CH-53E Super Stallions.

**1** VAdm. Bernard Max Streaan, 91, died of pneumonia at Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington, Va. Streaan was born on 16 December 1910 in Big Cabin, Okla., and graduated from the Naval Academy on 1 June 1933. Designated Naval Aviator No. 4260 on 12 June 1936, he was awarded both the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in the Battle of the Philippine Sea during WW II. He commanded VF-1 in an attack against Japanese carrier *Hiyo* on 20 June 1944 that resulted in her sinking. Among his post-WW II assignments was a key role in the establishment of the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla., as well as command of the first nuclear task force, TF 1, which was formed around *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) during Operation Sea Orbit, a global cruise between July and October 1964. VAdm. Streaan retired on 22 July 1971.

**5** The space shuttle Endeavour launched from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., returning to Edwards AFB, Calif., on 19 June. On board were Naval Aviation personnel Kenneth D. Cockrell (retired), shuttle commander; and Capt. Daniel W. Bursch, flight engineer on the return flight.

**14** The 100th F/A-18 Super Hornet, an F model, was delivered during a ceremony at Boeing Co., St. Louis, Mo. The aircraft was scheduled for assignment to VFA-102, which was slated to transition from the F-14 Tomcat.

**17** Fighting monsoon seas towering almost 20 feet, an S-3B Viking from VS-31 embarked on board *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) and an SH-60B from HSL-42 Det 7 embarked aboard the cruiser *Vicksburg* (CG 69) rescued all 16 crew members from the merchant vessel *al Murtada*, adrift off the coast of Oman.

**18** The U.S. and the United Kingdom exchanged diplomatic notes terminating their agreement on leased bases in Bermuda. Prior to Pearl Harbor, the U.S. sought additional Atlantic bases to protect

shipping from German U-boats. On 27 March 1941, an agreement was signed by the British ceding sovereign rights to the U.S. for 99 years over sites on Bermuda, where a naval air station was established on 1 July 1941. On 1 July 1945, NAS Bermuda, which based patrol aircraft during the war, was redesignated NAF Bermuda. It continued to support Naval Aviation operations against Soviet submarines during the Cold War, and was disestablished on 1 September 1995.

**19** On this date, the approximate midpoint of the year, there were 85,415 reserve and National Guard personnel mobilized to support the war on terrorism, including 8,884 Navy, 4,129 Marine and 1,498 Coast Guard personnel.

**20** *Inchon* (MCS 12) was decommissioned at NS Ingleside, Texas. Commissioned as an amphibious assault ship (LPH 12) at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Va., on 20 June 1970, *Inchon* was redesignated a mine countermeasures command and support ship on 1 March 1995. Upon decommissioning, she was the fleet's last ship of the type.

**24** The Navy accepted the first engineering and development version of the Shared Reconnaissance Pod. Intended to provide high- and medium-altitude tactical reconnaissance capabilities for F/A-18C/D Hornets, it was projected to deploy on board *Nimitz* (CVN 68) in mid-2003.

**25** Coast Guard Commandant Thomas H. Collins announced the award of the Integrated Deepwater System contract to Lockheed Martin/Northrop Grumman. The \$17 billion contract, with the potential to extend up to 30 years, made Deepwater the largest acquisition to date in the history of the Coast Guard. Naval Aviation elements included a new fixed-wing manned aircraft fleet, a combination of new and upgraded helicopters, and both cutter-based and land-based unmanned aerial vehicles.

**29** The destroyer *Pinckney* (DDG