



PHAN Sarah E. Ard

AIRSCOOP

EDITED BY WENDY LELAND

Osprey Ops

Kearsarge (LHD 3) conducted landing operations with the MV-22 Osprey, above, from 7 to 13 December 2004 to qualify 23 pilots from Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron 22 on day deck landings. Additional shipboard suitability tests had taken place aboard *Wasp* (LHD 1) in November.

Presidential Helo Builder Chosen

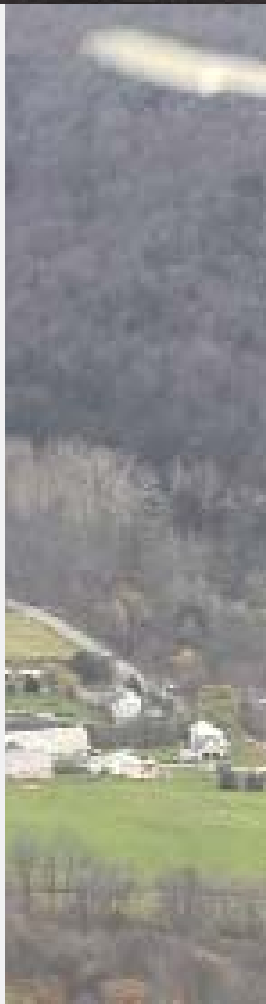
On 28 January the Department of Defense announced that Lockheed Martin was selected to build the new presidential helicopter (VXX). The Navy had previously identified the Sikorsky S-92 and the Lockheed Martin US-101 as the two in-production aircraft types that would meet the

requirements for a new presidential helicopter, and evaluated proposals from both companies. The VXX program will add new systems to the US-101 medium-lift helicopter, right, providing significant technology and performance improvements for the presidential helicopter fleet. The \$1.7 billion contract will begin the program's system development and demonstration phase, and initial operating capability for VXX is expected in FY2009.

Homeport Changes

John C. Stennis (CVN 74) departed San Diego, Calif., on 5 January for her new homeport of Bremerton, Wash., where she arrived on the 8th. On 19 January the carrier entered the dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for a routine docking planned incremental availability.

Lockheed Martin



On 13 January *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) departed her homeport in Bremerton to conduct a predeployment exercise. Following the deployment the carrier will return to her new homeport of Norfolk, Va.

For the Record

Marine Attack Training Squadron 203 retired the original **AV-8B day attack Harrier** in a flyby ceremony on 30 September 2004 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

The Coast Guard announced that HH-60J Jayhawk and HH-65C Dolphin airframes modified to accept airborne use of force equipment packages will be designated **MH-60J and MH-65C** to reflect their multimission capability.

The Raytheon Co., Waltham, Mass., received a \$55.7 million contract to begin full-rate production of the **JSOW-C**, the unitary/penetration variant of the Joint Standoff Weapon.



PH2 Patricia R. Totemeier

John C. Stennis (CVN 74) departs NAS North Island, Calif., on 5 January for her new homeport of Bremerton, Wash.



The *ex-Oriskany* (CVA 34), right, arrived in Pensacola, Fla., on 20 December 2004. Pending environmental studies, the Cold War-era carrier will be sunk as an artificial reef off the coast of Florida.

Mishaps

On 26 January a CH-53E of HMH-361 crashed in Iraq, killing 30 Marines and 1 sailor.

An MH-53E of HM-14 ditched at sea while operating in the Virginia Capes area on 25 January, with no fatalities.

On 13 January the pilot of an AV-8B ejected safely but the aircraft was lost while operating with HMM-165 aboard *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) in the Indian Ocean.

An SH-60H Seahawk of HS-2 crashed while attempting an emergency landing in Indonesia on 10 January, causing 10 minor injuries but no fatalities.

On 1 December 2004, the pilot of a U.S. Navy Flight

Gary Nichols



Demonstration Team F/A-18A Hornet ejected safely over the Gulf of Mexico.

The pilot of an AV-8B Harrier II of VMA-214 ejected safely at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., on 1 December 2004.

Reducing Mishaps—The Safety Challenge

According to Commander Naval Safety Center RAdm. Dick Brooks, “An all-hands effort is needed to reduce mishaps in Naval Aviation. We need to keep our sailors and Marines safe, and to make sure our aircraft are mission-ready.” To learn more about how you can help reduce mishaps, visit these websites:

- What is the 50% Mishap-Reduction Campaign? For news, policy, tools and data, go to www.safetycenter.navy.mil/MishapReduction.

- Can operational risk management improve the way we do business? Learn more about ORM at www.safetycenter.navy.mil/orm.

- How can we help save the lives of our sailors and Marines? Motor vehicle accidents cause most deaths. To find resources to protect our people, go to www.safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/toolbox.

An F/A-18C Hornet of VFA-105 launches from *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) on 28 January in the Arabian Gulf.



PHAN Ricardo Reyes

MARINE HORNETS AND HARRIERS AT AL ASAD



Cpl. Paul Leicht

Above, illuminated by the setting sun, an F/A-18D of VMFA(AW)-224 waits on the tarmac in the hangar area in Al Asad, Iraq, on 15 January. Below, a VMA-311 powerline mechanic runs to the flight line to assist with a squadron AV-8B Harrier II that blew a tire upon landing at Al Asad on 15 December 2004. Inset, a group of mechanics work quickly to return the Harrier to service.

