

AIRSCOOP

EDITED BY WENDY LELAND



For the Record

The preliminary design review for the **P-8A Multimission Maritime Aircraft**, right, was held 31 October–4 November 2005. The PDR is an in-depth technical assessment to allow the program to proceed into detailed design, and ensure the program can meet performance requirements within cost and on schedule.

The first completely rewired **C-2A Greyhound** departed NAVAIR Depot North Island, Calif., on 12 September 2005. The installation of 23 miles of wiring is part of the Greyhound's Service Life Extension Program, which includes structural enhancements to allow the aircraft to achieve 36,000 landings and 50,000 flight hours.

Lockheed Martin received an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract for a **dual mode laser guided bomb**. Combining a global positioning system/inertial navigation system capability and a laser guided bomb, the weapon will be employed on the A–D models of the F/A-18 Hornet and the AV-8B Harrier II.



Artist's concept courtesy of the Boeing Co.

An **RQ-4A Global Hawk** conducted testing on 26 October 2005 to evaluate its ability to detect and track small aircraft in flight, and to pass sensor information in real time to ground facilities across the country. These tests are part of the Navy's Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration, which will examine the unmanned aerial system's ability to support naval maritime surveillance missions. The Global Hawk has flown 7,000 hours since



An F/A-18C Hornet of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212 refuels from a Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 KC-130 Hercules near Okinawa, Japan, on 10 October. Photo by LCpl. Cathryn Lindsay.



Jim Jenkins

it first flight on 28 February 1998, including 4,000 combat hours in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

An Italian navy EH-101 helicopter leased by the **Presidential Helicopters Program** at NAS Patuxent River, Md., arrived at Pax on 2 November 2005, above. The leased EH-101 will be used to provide training for pilots and maintainers before three VH-71 test vehicles arrive in spring 2007.

Ship Clips

On 1 October 2005 *Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)* entered a floating drydock at General Dynamic's

National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., San Diego, Calif, for her docked planned maintenance availability period.

Essex (LHD 2) completed her selected restricted availability period on 3 October 2005.

On 20 October 2005 *Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)* completed sea trials following her refueling complex overhaul and post-shakedown availability.

Enterprise (CVN 65) conducted sea trials on 13 October 2005 at the completion of her extended selected restricted availability period.

In July, *Carl Vinson (CVN 70)* returned from deployment in the Arabian Gulf to her new homeport of NS Norfolk, Va. On 10 November 2005, the carrier entered the Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard to begin refueling and complex overhaul.



An F/A-18F Super Hornet launches an advanced medium-range air-to-air missile during developmental testing for the advanced electronically scanned array system at NAWS Point Mugu, Calif., on 19 October 2005.

Mishaps

On 31 October 2005 the aircrew of a T-45C Goshawk of VT-22 safely ejected after departing controlled flight at NAS Kingsville, Texas.

An F/A-18C Hornet of VFA-106 conducting weapons training crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off Key West, Fla., on 14 October 2005. The pilot was rescued.

On 4 October 2005 an aircrewman fell out of an HM-15 MH-53E Sea Dragon and was killed during operations in the Arabian Gulf region.

An SH-60B Seahawk of HSL-44, NS Mayport, Fla., crashed during deck landing qualifications off North Carolina on 25 September 2005.

Growler Gets the Go-Ahead

On 12 October 2005 the EA-18G next-generation airborne electronic attack aircraft officially received the popular name "Growler." This image, by Lt. Col. Wayne Shaw, USAF, depicts the evolution of naval electronic jamming platforms from (top to bottom) the EA-3B Skywarrior to the EA-6B Prowler to the EA-18 Growler. The artist flew Navy Prowlers as an exchange pilot. In keeping with his call sign of "Loaner," he is currently serving as the Director of Operations of the Army's 11th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Hood, Texas.

