

## Stennis Tests RAM



MCS3 Ron Reeves

*John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) successfully fired her Rolling Airframe Missile systems on 8 June, above, as part of a weeklong combat systems ship's qualification trial off the coast of California. The ship's two RAM launchers each fired one missile at a BQM-34 Firebee drone—which was about four miles out and incoming from Point Mugu—and hit infrared beacons under the drone's wings. The launchers had been installed during the carrier's docked planned incremental availability period in 2005.

## New Simulator for NOSC

A 1 June ribbon cutting ceremony marked the opening of a new C-130 simulator at Navy Operational Support Center, NAS JRB Fort Worth, Tex. The \$9 million simulator allows Hercules pilots, copilots, and flight engineers to train together as a crew. Using a computer assisted debrief station in a separate room, aircrews and instructors can review the video of a training session while another flight crew trains in the simulator. The Hercules simulator, which joins an F/A-18 Hornet and F-16 Fighting Falcon simulator at the same facility, has about 750 customers per year.

Right, left to right, Capt. Ian McIntyre, NOSC CO; Col. Juergen Lukas, MAG-41 CO; and Capt. Pete Davenport, CO, Fleet Logistics Support Wing, cut the ribbon on the NOSC's new C-130 simulator. Photo by MCC (AW/SW) Eric A. Clement.





An SH-60F Seahawk of HS-14 takes off from *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) on 18 June during Exercise Valiant Shield '06, as *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) steams alongside. Photo by MCAN Joshua Wayne LeGrand.

## EP-3E Upgrade Update

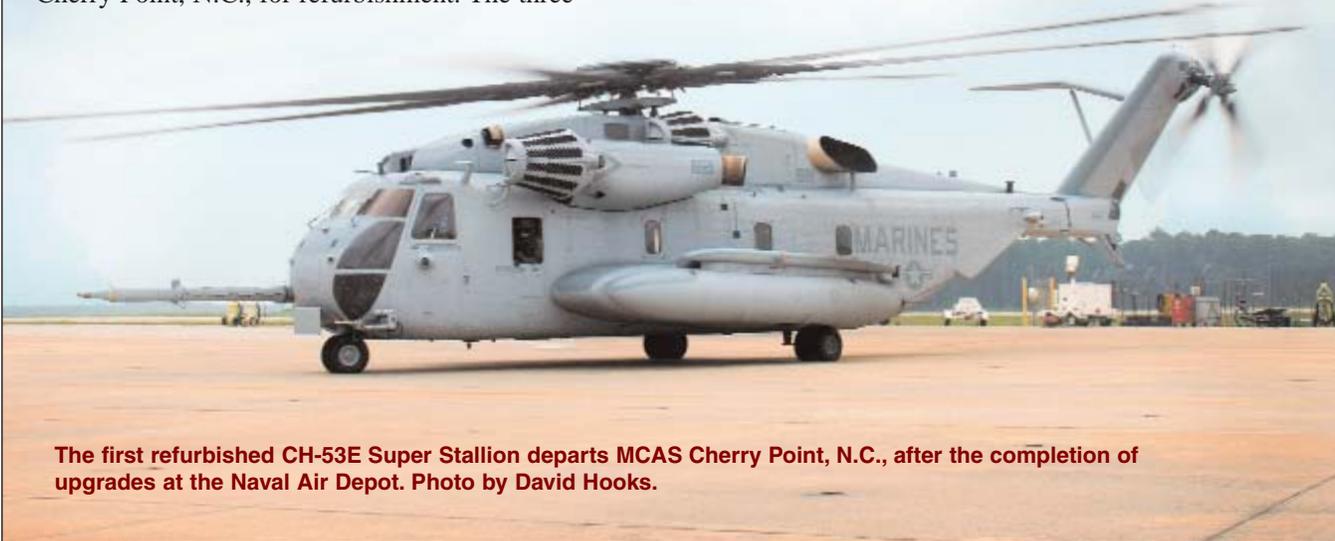
The first of four low-rate initial production EP-3E Aries IIs upgraded to Spiral 1 of the Joint Airborne Signals Intelligence Architecture Modernization Common Configuration, right, was delivered to the Navy in March. The \$18 million full-rate production contract, which was approved on 29 June, calls for six aircraft to be upgraded to the Spiral 1 configuration. Upgrades include the ForceNet equipment suite, Hostile Forces Integrated Targeting System Multiplatform Emitter Geolocation, and automated electronic surveillance measures capabilities.



## Super Stallion Returns to the Fleet

HMM-464, MCAS New River, N.C., accepted the first restored war reserve CH-53E Super Stallion on 29 June. BuNo 161542 was one of three CH-53Es retrieved from the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., in August 2005 and delivered to Naval Air Depot Cherry Point, N.C., for refurbishment. The three

reworked aircraft have been updated to the same configuration as fleet helos, including the ballistic protection system, ramp-mounted GAU-21, ALE/ALR-47 missile warning and flare/chaff dispenser units, and night vision device-compatible cockpits.



**The first refurbished CH-53E Super Stallion departs MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., after the completion of upgrades at the Naval Air Depot. Photo by David Hooks.**

## Sea Knights Get New Seats

CH-46E Sea Knight BuNo 153969, assigned to HMM-165, MCAS Miramar, Calif., received the first new lightweight, crashworthy replacement pilot and copilot seats. A variant of the seats designed for the UH-1Y, the replacement models are 200 pounds lighter than the CH-46's current 462-pound seats. They provide improved crash survivability and ballistic protection, and are ergonomically designed to reduce pilot fatigue and increase comfort.

**Below, Capt. Tim Kent, Capt. Chadd Bloomstine, and Cpl. Seth Biehslich represented HMM-165 in accepting the first CH-46E Sea Knight outfitted with upgraded pilot and copilot seats, right.**



Larry Conley



Ottis Whitfield, Jr.

## For the Record

On 20 July the Naval Air Systems Command signed a \$137.4 million Lot 3 contract with Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., for the first seven new-build UH-1Y helicopters, a full flight simulator, and supporting maintenance training systems.

## Mishaps

The pilot of an AV-8B Harrier II assigned to HMM-365 safely ejected as the aircraft settled into the water on

a controlled approach to *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7) on 2 July.

On 26 June one pilot was killed when two VFA-125 F/A-18C Hornets collided in midair during a training mission at NAS Lemoore, Calif.

Two personnel were injured and one killed when a TH-57B Sea Ranger of HT-8 crashed at Spencer OLF, NAS Whiting Field, Fla., on 30 May.

On 27 May the two crew members were killed when an AH-1W Super Cobra of HMLA-169 struck the water during a postphase functional check flight in Iraq.



At a 7 June ceremony at Lockheed Martin facilities in Fort Worth, Tex., Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley announced that the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter has been named the Lightning II. Photo by MCC (AW/SW) Eric A. Clement.