



Super Hornet Weapons Tested

The Air Force's Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFB, Tenn., conducted a wind tunnel test of the F/A-18E/F in late December 2006 to certify the Super Hornet to carry new weapons. Store separation characteristics of the AGM-84H Standoff Land Attack Missile-Expanded Response, the AGM-88 High-Speed Antiradiation Missile, and 14 other stores, in addition to testing the carriage load characteristics of the SLAM-ER, were evaluated.

UAV Update

The second of two **RQ-4A Global Hawk Maritime Demonstration** unmanned aircraft arrived at NAS Patuxent River, Md., on 6 December 2006, marking the completion of the hardware delivery portion of the low-rate production and development contracts.



A HARM model is suspended above a Super Hornet model during wind tunnel testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn., as machinist Carey Wofford relays information to test personnel. Photo by David Housch.



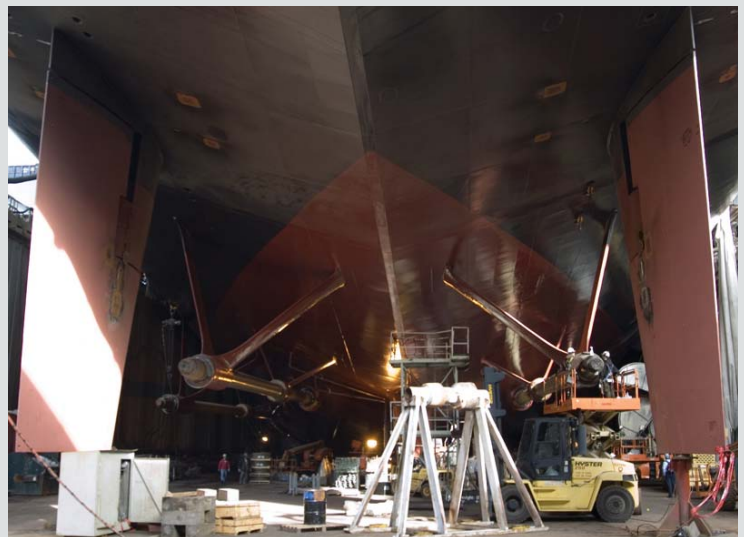
Left, the F-35 Lightning II takes off for its first flight to test the aircraft's initial capability, at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Tex., on 15 December 2006. Photo by MC2 D. Keith Simmons.

The Navy's **MQ-8B Fire Scout** (previously known as the RQ-8A), made its first flight in late December 2006 at the Webster Field Annex of NAS Patuxent River, Md, above right.

For the Record

On 30 November 2006 Northrop Grumman announced receipt of an \$860.6 million modification to a previously awarded contract for continuation of work on the **CVN 21** program, bringing the total contract value to \$2.2 billion.

Right, **Carl Vinson (CVN 70)** is prepared to receive four new propellers as part of the carrier's refueling and complex overhaul at Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard. The installation was completed on 7 January.



Mishaps

On 30 November 2006 the pilot of a VMFAT-101 F/A-18C Hornet ejected with minor injuries after reporting hydraulics problems.

On 3 December 2006 a CH-46E Sea Knight of HMM-165 landed in the water, with 2 Marine, 1 Air Force, and 1 Army fatalities.

On 7 December 2006 an MV-22B Osprey of VMMT-204 suffered Class A damage from a left nacelle fire while on the ground.

On 11 December 2006 a CH-53E Sea Dragon of HMH-465 rolled on its side during landing, with one fatality.