

AIRSCOOP

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MH-60S Armed Helo Testing Complete

Developmental testing of the MH-60S Armed Helicopter Weapons System block upgrade concluded at NAS Patuxent River, Md., with the first firing of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles on 30 January. Since testing began in March 2006, three HX-21 MH-60S aircraft logged more than 260 hours testing the weapons system upgrade, including the Hellfire missile, GAU-21 .50 caliber and M240 7.62mm guns, and other elements such as a multispectral targeting system, radar signals detecting set, missile warning system, countermeasures dispensing system, infrared countermeasures set, and a digital map system.

Wind Display Enters Full Rate Production

The Moriah Wind System (MWS), right, which provides digital wind speed and direction information for use on both ships and shore stations, entered full rate production in August 2006. The MWS includes an ultrasonic wind sensor with no moving parts; a processor capable of



Left, a modified chaff and flare dispensing system is tested on a CH-46E Sea Knight at NAS Patuxent River, Md., on 22 February. Background, HX-21 conducted the first firing of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles from an MH-60S on 30 January, also at Pax. Photo by Kurt Lengfield.



Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), *Tarawa* (LHA 1), and *Nassau* (LHA 4), and will be installed on all carriers and amphibious ships as well as new-construction ships.

For the Record

Kitty Hawk (CV 63) entered selected restricted availability on 8 January.

On 21 February the final section of *Carl Vinson's* (CVN 70) main mast was installed at Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard during the carrier's refueling and complex overhaul. A mast-stepping ceremony was held on 6 March.

Engineers at the Air Force's Arnold Engineer Development Center, Arnold AFB, Tenn., completed wind tunnel testing of a 12 percent scale model of the Navy variant of the **F-35 Joint Strike Fighter**, left.



interfacing with legacy computer systems and local area networks; a basic display that shows wind information and ship speed and course data; and an advanced display that also includes aircraft recovery bulletins, launch and recovery envelopes, and final course data.

Initially tested on *George Washington* (CVN 73) in 2003, the system was approved for low-rate initial production in 2004, with the first production model installed on *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) in 2005. The system has since been installed on *Nimitz* (CVN 68),

Mishaps

A UH-1N Huey of HMM-264 (Rein), 26th MEU, was destroyed by a hard landing during exercises in Kenya on 5 March. Six personnel were injured but there were no fatalities.

On 7 February a CH-46 Sea Knight crashed in Iraq, with seven fatalities.

On 26 January four aircrew members were killed when an MH-60S Seahawk of HSC-23 crashed off southern California while operating from *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6).