

BULLHORN #19 4 March 2008

ANAAers!!

Please pass this information to ALL HANDS!

Please read carefully the few administrative notes that follow. Then go to the attachment for lots of news and announcements of two television series that highlight US Navy aircraft carriers.

First some admin 'stuff -

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS – We continue to see too many old membership application and renewal forms, most of which are terribly incorrect. Please go to our web site at <http://www.anahq.org>, look around for a while - then, after you are completely awed, click on “MEMBERSHIP” on the left-hand side of the opening page, which will take you to our recruiting brochure at <http://www.anahq.org/Membership.htm>. Clicking on the yellow background “JOIN HERE” will take you to <http://www.anahq.org/012908MembershipApp.pdf> for the correct form.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE ISSUES!!

MOVING? Please help! The mailing list used to send membership their copies of WINGS OF GOLD is generated from our regular membership rolls. Ann Burton, our Membership Coordinator, works especially hard to ensure those rolls are ship-shape so, among lots of things, each of us receives our copies of the magazine. Unfortunately, we receive far too many notifications of failure to deliver WINGS OF GOLD, usually because the member has moved without mail forwarding instructions. Please – pass the word throughout your squadrons to have members keep their addresses up to date with Ann.

RANK, STATUS - The membership database reflects ONLY that information members provide on their membership applications or renewals. If the member puts no rank on the application, “Mr.” is entered. If the member signs up as an ENS and doesn’t update his rank for 20 years+, it will still be ENS when he retires. The same is true for military status, active duty or retired. Unfortunately, promotions don’t earn extra points but it would be nice if we could make the database as accurate as possible – please make sure all your personal information is as up-to-date and complete as possible.

LOST AND FOUND

We have lost contact with the following members. Every member is important!! If anyone has information regarding their situation or whereabouts, please contact me at svwindmills@erols.com

CAPT Richard H. Burns, USN (Ret) last known = San Diego, CA

CAPT David M. Burns, USN (Ret) last known = Camden, ME

Capt John A. Burns, USN (Ret) last known = Warren, ME

LCDR Paul Remington, USN (Ret) last known = Smyrna, GA

LCDR Joel Hyland, USN (Ret) last known = Port Orange, FL

LCDR Joseph Niedermair, USN last known = New Orleans, LA

Mrs. Charles L. Brooks last known = New Orleans, LA

MAJ Bowen P. Weisheit, USMC (Ret) last known = Bel Air, MD

CDR Paul J. Heron, USN (Ret) last known = Camarillo, CA
The HON Fred Davidson, III, USMCR last known = Chicago, IL
COL Robert B. Porter, USMC (Ret) last known = Fresno, CA

CHANGE OF COMMAND – DESERT HAWKS – ANA 60

Congratulations to Ken Hollett, who relieved Thomas "TK" Howard as the contact person and Commanding Officer of Squadron 60, Tucson, AZ--the Desert Hawks. Ken is a retired government employee. He was a regular officer in the Navy from June 1969 to June 1973, during which he was attached to HC-3 at Imperial Beach NAS as an H-46 helicopter HAC, Instructor, and post-maintenance test pilot. He resigned his regular commission in June 1973 to return to graduate school--pursuing a career as a hydrogeologist and geophysicist. Ken was with the US Geological Survey for 27 years before retiring. His contact information is:

Kenneth "Ken" Hollett (khollett@cox.net)
11361 East Ammon Place
Tucson, AZ 85749-9301
(520) 760-1289 (home)
(520) 834-2473 (cell phone - MX, CAN, and US)

+++++

BATTLE 360: CALL TO DUTY

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=mini_home&mini_id=57954

Aircraft Carrier *USS Enterprise*, destined to become the most decorated ship of World War II, was the only carrier to be front and center in every major sea battle in the Pacific. The *Enterprise* and her crew engaged in some of the fiercest battles ever seen, marked by intense firepower, instinct and a 360-coordination between the carrier, the destroyers, the aircraft above and the submarines below. Follow the *Enterprise* and its men from the start of the war through to the last battle

A large advertiser will bring that phrase to life on Friday — and for the next 10 weeks — on a leading cable network, agreeing to become the exclusive sponsor of a mini-series and run far fewer spots than usual.

As a result, all 10 hourlong episodes will offer viewers more program content than if they were interrupted by conventional commercials. Each will run 54 to 55 minutes, rather than the typical 44 to 45 minutes.

The mini-series, “Battle 360,” about the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Enterprise, will appear on the History Channel each Friday through May 2. The sole sponsor is the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company, which, it turns out, was named by its founder, a decorated World War II veteran, after the ship.

MORE USN ON TELEVISION!

“CARRIER” OFFERS INTIMATE LOOK AT LIFE ABOARD A U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Filmmakers Given Unparalleled Access

to Document Stories During Six-Month Deployment to Persian Gulf

Premieres April 27 – May 1, 2008 on PBS

CARRIER, a revealing story of daily life on a United States aircraft carrier, the *USS Nimitz*, premieres Sunday-Thursday, April 27-May 1, 2008, 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET on PBS. Given unprecedented access by the Navy to the ship and its personnel, the filmmakers shot nearly 2,000 hours of high-definition video from May to November 2005, during a full six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf. For the first time, a television series takes a raw and personal look at the

Navy's role in this controversial war.

“PBS viewers will get a gripping view of the deployment and operations aboard an aircraft carrier during Operation Iraqi Freedom, including emotional accounts of real-life drama aboard the floating city,” says John F. Wilson, senior vice president and chief TV programming executive. “The universal themes that emerge offer compelling insight into the men and women who commit to military service against the extraordinary backdrop of war.”

The *USS Nimitz*, 24 stories high and three football fields long, carries 85 military aircraft and 5,300 Navy personnel, with an average age of 19. CARRIER follows a core group of characters, from the admiral of the fleet to the fighter pilots to the scrubs, as they navigate personal conflicts around their jobs, families, faith, patriotism, love, the rites of passage and the war on terror.

“CARRIER is a character-driven, edge-of-your-seat, nonfiction drama and a once-in-a-lifetime total immersion into the high stakes world of a nuclear aircraft carrier,” says executive producer and director Maro Chermayeff.

The CARRIER series Web site at pbs.org/carrier offers visitors a unique look at life on an aircraft carrier, picking up where the documentary leaves off, with more stories and behind-the-scenes information, including additional video clips, an interactive tour of the ship, “where are they now?” character updates, photographs, producer diaries and more.

CARRIER will be available on DVD through PBS Home Video on shopPBS.com after the broadcast premiere and available in retail stores on May 6, 2008.

CARRIER is a production of Icon Productions, LLC, and Carrier Project, Inc. Executive producers are Mel Gibson, Bruce Davey, Nancy Cotton, Mitchell Block and Maro Chermayeff.

Funding for the series is provided by the CPB/PBS Challenge Fund. The presenting station is WETA Washington, DC.

About Carrier Project, Inc.

Carrier Project Inc. was formed in 2005 by Mitchell Block and Maro Chermayeff for the purpose of producing the series CARRIER and the companion feature documentary Another Day in Paradise.

– PBS –

PRESS CONTACTS:

Theresa Black/Sienna Sanders, mPRM Public Relations, Tel.: 323/933-3399;
tblack@mprm.com/ssanders@mrpm.com Carrie Johnson, PBS, Tel.: 703/739-5019;
cjohnson@pbs.org

Possible reunion? If anyone has any info on VMF-451 squadron mates from the period 1956 - 1960, please contact William Call - Saber88@gmail.com

REUNIONS PLANNED

USS IWO JIMA CLASS Association

15 – 19 October 2008

Marriott Hotel, Chesapeake, VA

Includes USS IWO JIMA (LPH2/LHD7), USS OKINAWA (LPH3), USS TRIPOLI (LPH10/CVE64), USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH11) – ALL Ship's Company and embarked Navy and Marine Corps personnel

POC –

Robert G. McAnally

152 Frissell Street

Hampton, VA 23663

Tele 866-237-3137

Fax 757-723-4660

yujack@megalink.net

+++++

VP OFFICER REUNION

10/17/2008 - 10/19/2008 Santa Clara, CA

Details at the web site www.vpreunion.com

POC:

Tom Spink 408-732-4307 spink@ix.netcom.com

+++++

USS ANTIETAM CV/CVA/CVS-36 & CG-54

Includes all Ship's company, Crews, Marine Detachments, and attached squadrons.

17 – 21 September 2008

Oklahoma City, OK

POC

Bill Hiebert

7901 Candlewood Drive

Alexandria, VA 22306

703-768-6419

William.hiebert@att.net

+++++

PBY Catalina International Association

www.pbycia.org

All Hands

1 – 5 October 2008

DoubleTree Hotel, Denver, CO

POC

Don Mortimer

2245 Marlene Ln

Matituck, NY 11952

631-298-2685

pbydon@optonline.net

OR

Jim Thompson

504-392-1227

glotomcat@msn.com



An F/A-18 Hornet aircraft from Carrier Air Wing One One embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) escorts a Russian Tu-95 Bear long rang bomber aircraft south of Japan Feb. 9, 2008. The bomber neared the vicinity of the carrier resulting in the fighter intercept. Nimitz was transiting through the Western Pacific on a regularly scheduled deployment when the incident occurred. DoD photo courtesy of U.S. Navy. (Released) (Released to Public)

Status of The Navy March 3, 2008

Navy Personnel

Active Duty: 333,046

▶ Officers: 51,199

▶ Enlisted: 277,496

▶ Midshipmen: 4,351

Ready Reserve: 127,313 [As of 08 Jan]

▶ Selected Reserves: 70,630

▶ Individual Ready Reserve: 56,683

Reserves currently mobilized: 5,328 [As of 27 Feb]

Personnel on deployment: 58,116

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 178,141

Ships and Submarines

Deployable Battle Force Ships: 279

▶ Ships Underway (away from homeport): 134 ships (48% of total)

▶ On deployment: 97 ships (35% of total)

▶ Attack submarines underway (away from homeport): 29 submarines (53%)

▶ On deployment: 18 submarines (33%)

Ships Underway

Carriers:

▶ USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) - Pacific Ocean

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) - Sea of Japan

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) - Atlantic Ocean

USS George Washington (CVN 73) - Atlantic Ocean

USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) - 5th Fleet

Amphibious Warfare Ships:

▶ USS Nassau (LHA 4) - 6th Fleet

USS Essex (LHD 2) - South China Sea

USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) - Pacific Ocean

Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group:

▶ USS Tarawa (LHA 1) - 5th Fleet

Aircraft (operational): 3700+

Raytheon wins AESA retrofit deal for Super Hornets

By [Stephen Trimble](#)

From Flight International

The US Navy has moved forward with plans to retrofit active radars on the bulk of its older-model [Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornets](#).

Raytheon has received a contract worth nearly \$55 million to deliver 19 [APG-79](#) active electronically scanned arrays after an approximately 18-month wait, says David Gould, its director of F/A-18 strategy and business development. The total number of retrofitted aircraft could eventually total 135, but the actual number ordered per year will be negotiated on an annual basis, he adds.

The figure of 135 excludes the first two annual lots of Super Hornets delivered to the USN, which are expected to continue to operate mechanically scanned APG-73 radars.

But the first order adds to the navy's overall plan to buy 415 radars to equip all Super Hornets and its EA-18G Growler electronic-attack fleet. The Royal Australian Air Force has also placed an order for 24 F/A-18Fs, all equipped with the APG-79.

The USN plans to deploy the first AESA-equipped F/A-18 squadron later this year. Raytheon intends to soon release the delayed H4 block of software code, which is needed to correct instability issues identified during operational testing, where the radar's capability was described as "dazzling" when operational, but sometimes frustrating.

The deployment will mark the combat debut for a wave of AESA technology developed and tested over the past decade. The US Air Force's Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor features the Northrop Grumman APG-77 AESA, but the fighter has not yet served in battle since becoming operational in late 2006.

+++++

Raytheon to Provide Revolutionary AESA Capabilities to 135 F/A-18s

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Navy is retrofitting 135 Super Hornets with Raytheon Company's (NYSE: RTN) APG-79 active electronically scanned array radar.

An initial contract worth nearly \$55 million authorizes Raytheon to supply 19 AESA systems, spares and maintenance. This ensures Super Hornets manufactured before installation of the APG-79 will benefit from Raytheon's new advanced sensor technology.

The APG-79 program is moving toward full-rate production in anticipation of delivering 415 systems plus spares to the Navy and 24 systems to the Royal Australian Air Force in coming years.

"The retrofit program further enhances the Navy's airborne capabilities, ensuring our customer has game-changing sensor technology across the majority of its airborne assets," said Dr. Tom Kennedy, vice president for Raytheon's Tactical Airborne Systems business.

"Our operational AESA radar delivers a range of advanced options including non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, high-speed transfer of actionable information, unparalleled situational awareness, and targeting capabilities at greater ranges than ever."

Two AESA-equipped fleet squadrons are training for deployment expected in 2008. They are the Black Lions of VFA-213 at Naval Air Station Oceana and the Fighting Redcocks of VFA-22 at Naval Air Station Lemoore. AESA-equipped Super Hornets are also being added to two training squadrons so aircrews can learn how best to maximize the advanced capabilities of the APG-79.

"The APG-79 AESA radar is the key sensor in the flight plan for the Block II Super Hornets that will keep these aircraft dominant for decades,"

said Capt. Mark W. Darrah, F/A-18 and EA-18G Navy program manager. The APG-79 AESA radar provides our warfighters with sensor data that will revolutionize how we employ the F/A-18E/F block II and EA-18G platforms. The radar serves as the key enabling capability to field F/A-18/ and EA-18G flight plan elements.

"From operational and maintenance viewpoints, we believe this new technology sets us apart and will give us the edge we need in the challenging battlespace in which we expect to operate well into the future."

Raytheon Company, with 2006 sales of \$19.7 billion, is a technology leader specializing in defense, homeland security and other government markets throughout the world. With a history of innovation spanning 85 years, Raytheon provides state-of-the-art electronics, mission systems integration and other capabilities in the areas of sensing; effects; and command, control, communications and intelligence systems, as well as a broad range of mission support services. With headquarters in Waltham, Mass., Raytheon employs 72,000 people worldwide.

Pensacola News Journal

End of runway near for ' T-2'

Buckeye aircraft on its way out after training thousands of aviators since 1958

Erin Bridges

ebridges@pnj.com

Top of Form

Al Tessier was one of the first to get his hands on the T-2 Buckeye back in 1959.

As a mechanic at the Naval Air Test Center in Maryland, he had the privilege of getting up close and personal with the new aircraft.

Now, working as a civilian maintenance supervisor at Training Squadron 86 at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Tessier also will be one of the last to work on the planes.

Thursday marked the plane's 50th and final anniversary as an active military plane that made its first flight in Ohio on Jan. 31, 1958. Over the years, thousands of military aviators trained in the T-2.

The squadron planned a flyby Thursday morning to commemorate the occasion, but rain canceled the flight.

"I've seen a lot of planes come and go," Tessier said. "It's a good plane, and the amount of history is incredible."

The first T-2 arrived in Pensacola in November 1959. The third version of the plane, the orange and white T-2C planes that dot the sky over Pensacola on a daily basis, still are used to train aviators from the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

But now it is time for Pensacola NAS, the only U.S. base still using the planes, to move on.

The last aviation class will fly the Buckeye later this year. A sundown ceremony for the T-2 aircraft will take place in early August, making way for the new T-45 Goshawk.

Though the T-2 is an institution in the Navy, there are some advantages to the new plane. It comes with the latest navigation technology that is similar to what is found in fighter jets used outside of training.

And, on a dreary day like Thursday, pilots can rely on their instruments to fly.

"It's bittersweet," said Marine Lt. Col. Doug Drew, executive officer of the training squadron. "This plane has been the workhorse of the Navy for so long."

Drew is one of the many aviators who learned to fly in a T-2 in the 1990s.

He said the plane is ideal for practicing a variety of maneuvers, air-to-air combat techniques and how to drop weapons. Unlike commercial aircraft, they are designed for hard, direct landings, similar to what would be done on an aircraft carrier.

Drew spends his days soaring above Pensacola in those same planes, preparing student aviators before they join the fleet.

"It's a total syllabus trainer," Drew said. "It helps transition pilots to jets."

Even with the daily beating the planes take, Tessier said the planes have held up well.

"I can keep 10 going if I can get the parts," he said.

Tessier's maintenance crew is sad to see the T-2 go.

Many of the maintenance workers at the training squadron have seen the plane evolve. The original T-2A was a single-engine plane.

The T-2B boasted two engines, but did not have the power necessary to launch off a carrier. The idea was perfected in 1966 with the introduction of the T-2C.

"If we were (automobile) mechanics it would be like we've been working on '69 Camaros and they're replacing them with '08s," said avionics mechanic Chris Amos. "They're getting rid of our babies."

In anticipation of the transition, instructors and maintenance personnel will spend time in Meridian, Miss., training with a squadron that has switched to the Goshawk.

"The new one is going to be fine," said John Stuart, who has worked on the Buckeye since 1966. "But I don't know that it will outlast the T-2."

Flag Officer Announcements

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced today that the President has made the following nominations:

Navy Rear Adm. John M. Bird has been nominated for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as commander, Seventh Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan. Bird is currently serving as deputy and chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. [RADM Bird as a submariner – Dutch]

Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. has been nominated for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as deputy chief of naval operations for communication networks, N6, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, DC. Harris is currently serving as director for operations, J-3, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Fla.

Rear Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. J-3 Director of Operations, U.S. Southern Command

Rear Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., is the Director of Operations for U.S. Southern Command. He was born in Yokosuka, Japan, and reared in Tennessee and Florida.

He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978. Upon commissioning and completion of flight training, he was assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 44, homeported in Brunswick, Maine. His subsequent operational tours include assignment as a Tactical Action Officer onboard USS *Saratoga* (CV 60), homeported in Mayport, Fla., when she participated in strike operations against Libya; Operations Officer in VP-4 during Operations *Desert Shield/Desert Storm*; and three tours with Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1/Task Force 57/CTask Force 72, homeported in Kami Seya, Japan. In 2002, he reported to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander U.S. 5th Fleet, serving as ACOS for Operations, Plans, and Pol-Mil Affairs (N3/N5) where he was involved in planning and execution of the Naval component's portion of Operation *Iraqi Freedom*.



His command assignments include VP-46 at Whidbey Island, Wash., and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1/CTF57/CTF 72 at Kami Seya, Japan. While in command of TF 57, the Task Force was heavily involved in Operation *Enduring Freedom*, flying nearly 1,000 combat sorties over Afghanistan. In March 2006, he assumed command of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo.

Rear Admiral Harris' shore and education assignments include Aide and Flag Lieutenant to the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan, in Yokosuka, Japan; duty on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as a strategist in the Strategy and Concepts Branch; and Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In August 2004, he reported to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director, Information, Plans and Security Division (OPNAV N3IPS),

responsible for Navy current operations and anti-terrorism/force protection policy.

Selected for the Navy's Harvard/Tufts Program, he attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, graduating in 1992 with a Master in Public Administration. He was later selected as an Arthur S. Moreau Scholar and commenced studies in international relations at Oxford and Georgetown Universities, earning a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the latter in 1994. While at Georgetown, he was also Fellow in the School of Foreign Service. He was an MIT Seminar XXI Fellow for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Rear Admiral Harris has logged 4,400 flight hours, including over 400 combat hours, in U.S. and foreign maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

In June 2007, Rear Admiral Harris became Director of Operations for U.S. Southern Command.

Rear Admiral Harris' personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (2 awards), the Legion of Merit (3 awards), the Bronze Star (2 awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (5 awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and various campaign and unit decorations. He is a recipient of the Navy League's Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence.

Updated: 6 September 2007

Navy Rear Adm. Elizabeth A. Hight has been nominated for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as director, Defense Information Systems Agency; commander, Joint Task Force – Global Network Operations; and deputy commander, U.S. Strategic Command Global Network Operations and Defense, Arlington, Va. Hight is currently serving as vice commander, Defense Information Systems Agency, Arlington, Va. {RADM Hight is a communications officer - Dutch}

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 0090-08

Fiscal Year 2009 Department Of Defense Budget Released

President George W. Bush today sent to Congress his Defense budget for Fiscal Year 2009. The budget provides \$515.4 billion in discretionary authority for the Department of Defense (DoD), a \$35.9 billion or 7.5 percent increase over the enacted level for Fiscal Year 2008.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget reflects the President's priorities and sustains his commitment to prevail in the Global War on Terror; increase ground combat capabilities; improve force readiness; develop the combat capabilities needed to meet future threats; and improve the quality of life for Service members and their families.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said, "the President's budget for FY 2009 provides the resources necessary to maintain an agile, highly trained, and lethal fighting force, increase Army and Marine Corps end strength, and sustain the United States' technological advantage over current and potential enemies." Specifically, the Department's request:

- Maintains a highly trained fighting force of 2.2 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines;
- Recruits, trains and equips 65,000 additional active duty soldiers and 27,000 additional Marines over five years;
- Provides pay increases of 3.4 percent for military members, improves benefits for the all-volunteer force, and increases pay 2.9 percent for the civilian workforce;
- Provides world-class health care for 9.2 million eligible Service members, families, and retirees;
- Procures and maintains an arsenal of the world's most advanced weapon systems;

- Improves warfighting capabilities and invests in science and technology to maintain U.S. advantage over the Nation's enemies;
- Maintains 545,000 facilities at 5,300 sites in the U.S. and around the globe; and
- Maintains vital intelligence capabilities.

Key highlights are outlined in the attached document. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget is posted at www.budget.mil.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FISCAL YEAR 2009 DEFENSE BUDGET SUBMISSION

President Bush's Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$515.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for the Department of Defense, a \$35.9 billion or 7.5 percent increase over the enacted level for Fiscal Year 2008.

The Fiscal Year 2009 Defense budget request sustains the President's commitment to growing U.S. ground forces that are needed to prevail in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, to sustain a high rate of military readiness and prepare for a wide range of threats that face the Nation now and in the years ahead, and to care for Service members and their families. This year's request increases investments in five areas: prevailing in the Global War on Terror (GWOT); increasing ground combat capabilities; improving force readiness; developing future combat capabilities; and improving quality of life for Service members and families.

Prevailing in the Global War on Terror

The global threat posed by violent extremists is the preeminent danger of our time. To ensure freedom and security and advance peace and stability throughout the world, the United States must succeed in Iraq and Afghanistan and work with its allies and partners to prevail in the ongoing struggle.

In addition to the \$515.4 billion request, the Administration requests \$70 billion as an emergency allowance for the Global War on Terror. Details will be provided to Congress once the specific requirements of our troops on the ground are better known.

In Fiscal Year 2008, Congress appropriated \$86.8 billion or 46 percent of the President's \$189.3 billion request for GWOT. Congress has not yet appropriated the remaining balance – \$102.5 billion – of funds requested and needed for U.S. forces currently in combat.

These additional funds are required to pay our military personnel, continue operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, reconstitute our forces, provide force protection for the troops, and fund the Iraqi and Afghan security forces.

Build Partnership Capacity

Recognizing that threats to U.S. security exist beyond the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. must also build and strengthen the military and security capabilities of our global partners to increase the effectiveness of U.S. forces.

To strengthen the military and security capabilities of global partners, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$750 million:

- \$500 million for the Global Train and Equip Program,
- \$200 million for security and stabilization assistance, and
- \$50 million for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund for Urgent Humanitarian Relief and Reconstruction.

Africa Command

To strengthen U.S. security and promote peace and stability in Africa, DoD requests \$389 million in Fiscal Year 2009 to establish the U.S. Africa Command. The new geographical command will focus primarily on building partnership capacities, conducting theater security cooperation, building important counter-terrorism skills and, as appropriate, supporting other U.S. Government agencies in implementing programs that promote regional stability.

Increase Ground Combat Capability

The Nation's security demands a ready and available warfighting force. To that end, the U.S. is increasing its ground forces to meet current and projected needs and to sustain a high state of military readiness and support. The growth in ground combat forces will increase the potential for longer time at home station between deployments for soldiers and Marines.

Increase Ground Forces

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$20.5 billion, an increase of \$8.7 billion or 73 percent over the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level of \$11.9 billion, to increase the size of the Army and Marine Corps to meet operational demands and to increase the average time that soldiers and Marines are home between deployments.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides **\$15.5 billion to increase Army active end strength to 532,400, which includes an increase of 7,000 over the Fiscal Year 2008 request.** The Army plans to increase active end strength by a total of 65,000 to 547,400. In Fiscal Year 2009, the number of active Army Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) will increase by two BCTs, from 40 to 42, toward a goal of 48 BCTs.

Similarly, increasing the number of Marines in the operating forces is expected to reduce stress on the force. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides **\$5.0 billion, an increase of \$.9 billion over the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level, to increase Marine Corps end strength to 194,000, which includes an increase of 5,000 Marines over the Fiscal Year 2008 request.** To achieve three balanced Marine Expeditionary Force units, and to increase time at home station between deployments, the Marine Corps plans to increase end strength by a total of 27,000 to 202,000 by Fiscal Year 2011.

Improve Force Readiness

Sustaining critical combat and support operations, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$158.3 billion, an increase of \$14.9 billion or 10.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level of \$143.4 billion, to maintain DoD

operations at levels consistent with those of Fiscal Year 2008. To maintain combat readiness, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget requests \$68.0 billion to keep our force of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines at the highest levels of proficiency. The budget invests in readiness measured in terms of tank miles driven per month, ship steaming days underway per quarter, and flying hours per month. Also included is \$33.1 billion for logistical, intelligence, and Service-wide support activities.

The budget also requests \$10.7 billion for training, recruiting, and retention to attract and retain Service members possessing critical skills needed to meet tomorrow's defense requirements; \$11.8 billion for equipment maintenance and to increase repair and refurbishment of equipment, and the transition of systems from development to fielded systems; and \$32.6 billion for facility and base support.

Develop Future Combat Capabilities

In addition to strengthening the combat readiness of America's armed forces, the Nation continues to invest in the strategic modernization necessary to meet current and future threats from land, sea, air, or space. The United States must also maintain its significant advantages in warfighting capabilities and work to prevent adversaries from acquiring or using weapons of mass destruction.

Continue Modernization

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget requests \$183.8 billion in modernization to meet future threats, an \$8.3 billion increase or 4.7 percent over the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level of \$175.5 billion. This includes procurement, as well as research and development.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$9.2 billion, an increase of \$0.4 billion, to maintain and strengthen joint ground capabilities and to continue development of the Army's Future Combat System -- including manned and unmanned vehicles, the non-line-of-sight launch system, and the joint network communications system -- system upgrades to the Stryker weapons system, and chemical weapons destruction.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget requests **\$16.9 billion to strengthen joint maritime capabilities including: the CVN-21 Carrier**; one DDG-1000, the next generation surface combatant; two littoral combat ships; two joint high speed vessels; two auxiliary cargo ships (T-AKEs); and one Virginia Class submarine.

Joint Air Capabilities are strengthened in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget that provides \$45.6 billion, a **\$4.9 billion increase over Fiscal Year 2008 enacted levels, for F/A 18 Hornet and E/A-18G Growler fighters, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, V-22 vertical lift aircraft**, additional unmanned aerial vehicles, and the recapitalization of various missiles and other weapons.

-

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$10.7 billion, an increase of \$1.6 billion, to strengthen joint space-based capabilities in several categories, including Space-Based Infrared Systems, communications satellites, Global Positioning System satellites, environmental satellites, Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellites, and launch vehicles.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget also provides \$79.5 billion for an array of modern command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (\$16.4 billion); procurement of advanced munitions and missiles (\$11.0 billion); and mission support (\$52.1 billion) such as ammunition, portable generators, cooling equipment, field medical supplies, hospital equipment, and night vision goggles.

Sustain Research and Development

Changes in the 21st century threat environment create strategic challenges from irregular warfare, potential adversaries having weapons of mass destruction, and disruptive technologies. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$11.5 billion to sustain ongoing science and technology efforts, including \$1.7 billion for basic research, an increase of \$300 million over the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request.

Improve Missile Defense Capabilities

To improve missile defense capabilities, the 2009 budget provides \$10.5 billion, an increase of \$0.6 billion, for continued development of a multi-layered system to protect the U.S. and its allies from tactical and strategic ballistic missile attack.

Base Realignment and Closure

Current and future national security challenges require a more flexible, expeditionary force projection capability. Consequently, units stationed overseas will be brought back to bases in the United States. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget requests \$9.5 billion to continue Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). For the approved FY 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations, the Budget fully funds 24 major realignments, 25 base closures, and 765 lesser actions.

Improve Quality of Life for Service Members and Families

Recognizing that success in everything we do depends upon the dedication and skill of the men and women who willingly sacrifice their own comfort and safety to safeguard the freedom that all Americans enjoy every day, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget includes the resources necessary to provide the finest training, equipment and force protection for those who serve in harm's way; the best possible care and medical facilities for the wounded, ill, and injured; a high quality of life for Service members and their families; and various incentives to recruit and retain the all-volunteer force.

Improve Quality of Life for Personnel and Families

With significant emphasis on the quality of life for personnel and families, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides \$107.8 billion in pay and benefits for 2.2 million active and reserve members, an increase of \$9.6 billion or 9.7 percent over the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level of \$98.2 billion.

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget **increases military pay by 3.4 percent**. Since 2001, military pay has increased by an average of 37 percent. In 2009, the average enlisted E-6 (Army Staff Sergeant) will see a pay increase of \$1,289. The pay of the average O-3 (Army Captain or Navy Lieutenant) increases by \$1,943 in FY 2009.

Sustain High Quality Health Care

To maintain exceptional health care benefits for 9.2 million eligible military members and their families, working-age retiree members and their families, and Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget provides **\$41.6 billion in Fiscal Year 2009 for the military health system**. Our forces deserve and can expect world-class health care in the future, despite the rising cost of health care and congressionally expanded benefits.

The Department will submit legislation to enact the recommendations of the Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. These recommendations will help keep the generous military health benefits affordable and sustainable for current and future retired Service members and their families.

Further, recognizing the compelling and critical need to provide world-class health and rehabilitative care to all warfighters who are wounded, ill, or injured in service to the Nation, the Department has begun and will continue to take action on the recommendations made by the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors.

Family Housing and Facilities

The budget also includes \$3.2 billion, an increase of \$300 million above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level, which will construct new family housing, improve existing housing, eliminate inadequate housing overseas, operate and maintain government-owned housing, and fund the privatization of 12,324 additional homes.

Summary

The request for \$515.4 billion in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget sustains the President's commitment to prevail in the Global War on Terror; sustain a high rate of military readiness and support; prepare for the wide range of current and future dangers that threaten the Nation in the years ahead; and improve the quality of life for Service members and their families.

Rear Admiral William E. Shannon, III Vice Commander, Naval Air Systems Command

Rear Admiral William E. Shannon, a native of Massapequa, N.Y., graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975 with a Bachelor



of Science in Business Administration and was designated a Naval Aviator the following year. He holds a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, the U.S. Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, and the Defense Acquisition University's Advanced Program Manager Course.

At sea, Rear Adm. Shannon flew the RH-53D Sea Stallion with HM-12 and HM-14 and the MH-55E as a Department Head with HM-15. In addition, as a Navy/Marine Corps Exchange Pilot, he flew the CH-53D while serving as the S-3 and Weapons and Tactics Instructor with the "Ugly Angels" of HMM-362. From 1993 to 1995, Rear Adm. Shannon served as Executive Officer, and subsequently, Commanding Officer of the "Blackhawks" of HM-15. During this tour, HM-15 deployed twice to Korea in response to tasking from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. While he was in command, HM-15 was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award and a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Ashore, Rear Adm. Shannon served as a flight instructor in HM-12, as Head of the Mine Warfare Branch on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, and as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Readiness, Requirements, and Tactics at the Mine Warfare Command. His acquisition tours include Deputy Program Executive Officer for Operations and Airborne Mine Countermeasures in the Program Executive Office for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault, and Special Mission Programs (PEO(A)). He also served as the Program Manager of the Multi-Mission Helicopter Program (PMA-299) where his team successfully introduced the MH-60S Seahawk to the Fleet. Following PMA-299, Rear Adm. Shannon became the Deputy Program Executive Officer for PEO(A), then went on to serve as the Director of Total Force Readiness for the Naval Aviation Enterprise and NAVAIR's Assistant Commander for Logistics and Industrial Operations. He assumed the position of Vice Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, in September 2007.

Updated: 31 October 2007

Subject: NAVAIR awards MFOQA contract

News Release Number: EHD200802061

News Release Copy: NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, Patuxent River, Md. - On Thursday, January 31, 2008, NAVAIR awarded a base plus four options firm-fixed price and cost plus fixed fee type contract at a maximum contract value of \$5,505,689.00 to BGI, LLC headquartered in Dallas, Texas to produce the Flight Visualization and Data Analysis (FVDA) module for the Military Flight Operations Quality Assurance (MFOQA) program.

The Department of the Navy (DON) is implementing a MFOQA program, based in part on the highly successful Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) FOQA program. While both programs use digital flight data, downloaded routinely post-flight, to conduct detailed trending and analysis of aircraft and aircrew performance, the DON MFOQA program analyzes and replays data at multiple levels within the Naval Aviation Enterprise. Potential benefits include significant improvements in Operational Readiness, Training, Maintenance Management and Safety. MFOQA will provide a proactive means to highlight positive trends and to identify potential risks in time for corrective action.

The MFOQA program is managed by the NAVAIR Air Combat Electronics (ACE) Program Office (PMA209). You can learn more about MFOQA by visiting <http://pma209.navair.navy.mil/teams/flightOps/mfoqa.asp>

Navy awards EPX concept refinement contracts

News Release Number: E200802061

News Release Copy: NAVAIR Patuxent River, MD – The U.S. Navy awarded the Boeing/Argon ST; Lockheed Martin; and Northrop Grumman/L3 Communications teams each \$1.25 million contracts today to help develop the EPX program requirements and potential system concepts.

“The contracts will allow industry to work with the Navy to analyze the current requirements for the EPX system and will further develop the concepts, cost and schedule for the program,” said Capt. Joe Rixey, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft program manager. “These contractors will help us determine the technical criteria necessary to build a strong foundation for the EPX program.”

Planned as a replacement for the EP-3 Aries aircraft, the EPX will be a manned multi-mission, multi-intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and targeting platform. The EPX will operate in concert with other maritime patrol and reconnaissance platforms, such as Broad Area Maritime Surveillance and the P-8A Poseidon.

The Boeing Company, located in Seattle, Wash., is partnering with Argon ST based in Fairfax, Va. The Lockheed Martin team is located in Marietta, Ga. and Egan, Minn. Northrop Grumman, of Bethpage, N.Y. will be teaming with L3 Communications, out of Greenville and Waco, Texas.

“Today’s announcement is a significant milestone and one step further in advancing the EPX program,” Rixey said. “We are pleased to announce the partnership with these industry leaders as we value their expertise and are confident in their ability to help us develop the best solutions for replacing the EP-3.”

Two Naval Aviators -

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

General Officer Announcements

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates has announced that the President has made the following nominations:

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James F. Amos has been nominated for appointment as the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, and for appointment to the rank of general. Amos is presently serving as the deputy commandant for combat development and integration; commanding

general, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; commander, U.S. Marine Forces Strategic Command; commanding general, Marine Corps National Capital Region Command; and commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces National Capital Region, Quantico, Va.

Lieutenant General James F. Amos

Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration

Lieutenant General Amos graduated from the University of Idaho in 1970. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1971, and has held a variety of operational and staff assignments since 1972.

Operational assignments include tours with Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 212, 235, 232 and 122 where he flew the F-4 Phantom II. In 1985 Lieutenant General Amos assumed command of Marine Air Base Squadron 24/Marine Wing Support Squadron 173. Transitioning to the F/A-18 Hornet, he assumed command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 and subsequently joined Carrier Air Wing Eight onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). Lieutenant General Amos took command of Marine Aircraft Group 31 Beaufort, SC in May 1996. In August 2002, he assumed command of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing and deployed with 3d MAW to Iraq for Operations Iraqi Freedom I and II. Lieutenant General Amos served as Commanding General of II Marine Expeditionary Force from July 2004 to August 2006.



Lieutenant General Amos' staff assignments include tours with Marine Aircraft Groups 15 and 31, the III Marine Amphibious Force, Training Squadron Seven, The Basic School, and with the MAGTF Staff Training Program. Promoted to Brigadier General in 1998 he was assigned to NATO as Deputy Commander, Naval Striking Forces, Southern Europe, and as the U.S. Deputy Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces, Europe, Naples Italy. During this tour he commanded NATO's Kosovo Verification Coordination Center, and served as Chief of Staff, U.S. Joint Task Force Noble Anvil during the air campaign over Kosovo. Transferred in 2000 to the Pentagon, he was assigned as Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. Reassigned in December 2001, Lieutenant General Amos served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations Department, Headquarters, Marine Corps. In August 2006, Lieutenant General Amos assumed command of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC).

Lieutenant General Amos is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA and the Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL. His personal decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (two awards), the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as numerous campaign and service awards.

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder has been nominated for appointment as the commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific; commanding general, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific; and commander, Marine Corps Bases Pacific, and for reappointment to the rank of lieutenant general. Stalder is presently serving as the commanding general, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Lieutenant General Keith J. Stalder **Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force**

Lieutenant General Keith J. Stalder currently serves as the Commanding General for II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. His last assignment was as the Commanding General of Training and Education Command in Quantico, Virginia.

Lieutenant General Stalder was born in Venezuela and grew up in Alaska. A 1984 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, he holds a Master's Degree in Aeronautics. He is also a graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy.



Lieutenant General Stalder has served as the Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, in Iraq and as the Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Deputy Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, in Operation Iraqi Freedom I. He has served in Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 333, 235, and 115 as well as Strike Fighter Squadron 125 and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One. He also served as the Assistant Wing Commander, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and at Headquarters, European Command, Stuttgart, Germany as the Operations Division Chief for the military-to-military contact program for Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He commanded Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 531 and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 and was the Deputy Director for Plans and Policy, United States Central Command, during Operation Enduring Freedom.

His personal decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with an oakleaf cluster, the Legion of Merit, and Air Medal.

What about our military? (Opinion)

BY: JOSEPH F. CALLO, THE NEW YORK POST

The would-be Republican and Democratic nominees have so far failed to address perhaps the most urgent task for the next president: rebuilding our military .

The Army has been wearing out equipment at a rapid rate in Iraq. Tanks, trucks and Humvees, for example, are operating in an environment that degrades equipment very rapidly. And rocket-propelled grenades and IEDs "degrade" equipment instantaneously.

Meanwhile, the Navy remains far below the minimum level of ships it needs. In fact, at 280 ships, its force level is at a 90-year low - and even the most powerful ship can't be in more than one place simultaneously.

While the technologically advanced tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft significantly increases the Marines' tactical flexibility, funding for this aircraft remains low because of defense-budget limitations.

The Air Force is flying bombers that were built 50 years ago; its tanker fleet inadequate in terms of age and numbers of aircraft. And the Coast Guard is making do in its expanding missions with the oldest fleet of coastal vessels in the world.

All of the armed forces - constantly asked to do more with fewer personnel - are wearing out their people.

America's safety is being compromised - and the situation can't be fixed quickly. It takes years to rebuild a military force, in terms of material and people. The men and women of the armed forces will eventually pay in blood for the seriously pinched defense funding.

Yet the only thing we seem to hear from the candidates is that "we must support the wonderful men and women of our military who are sacrificing so much for us." Support them with what, press releases? Where are the specifics? Where are the suggestions for budget increases that should go with the specifics?

About 3 percent of our gross domestic product now goes to defense. That figure has declined since the mid 1980s - the time of the last major military rebuilding effort - by more than 30 percent. Should it be more? How much more?

What are the candidates' positions on the growing military cooperation between China and Russia? On the growing economic and military ties linking Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua? On how these issues should influence the size, shape and funding for our armed forces?

These are important questions. The answers (or non-answers) will shape the world our children and grandchildren live with - or die in.

Being commander-in-chief of our armed forces may be the most important part of the president's job. But we aren't hearing more than slippery generalities on the subject of defense from the candidates.

We need to hear more than that they "support a strong national defense." We need to hear specifics, and we need to hear them before we cast our votes.

Enlisted Sailors Get Opportunity to Fly

Story Number: NNS080212-17

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Ken Ingram

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced requirements for the Active Duty Flying Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Pilot Program in NAVADMIN 020/08, released Jan. 25.

"This program harnesses the strengths of today's Sailors and shapes the Navy of tomorrow by developing chief warrant officer's whose careers will be focused solely on flying duties both at sea and ashore," said Vice Adm. John C. Harvey, Jr, chief of naval personnel.

Sailors E-5 through E-7, who want a career in aviation and meet the criteria in the NAVADMIN, should submit an application. Completed applications are due no later than June 13. The board convenes in July when five pilots and three Naval Flight Officers (NFO) will be selected.

"The Navy is looking for hard-charging motivated Sailors interesting in flying a Navy aircraft. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who didn't get a chance to attend flight school before enlisting," said Lt. Cmdr Michael Black, director of the Navy's flying chief warrant officer program.

"Warrant officers will be trained to be pilots on P-3 Orion, EP-3 Aries, E-6 Mercury, and SH-60B/MH-60S helicopters. Warrant officers selected for NFO will fly in the P-3 Orion, EP-3 Aries and E-6 Mercury aircrafts," said Black.

The program requires Sailors to be commissioned by their 27th birthday, have an associate degree or higher, be physically qualified for aviation duty, and meet eligibility requirements for a secret security clearance.

Sailors older than 27 can apply for an age waiver. Age waiver information is on the PERS-43 section of the NPC website under flying CWO age-waiver link. Sailors below the rank of E-5 and above E-7 cannot obtain a waiver to apply.

Sailors from sea, air, land combat command, special warfare combatant crew member, explosive ordnance disposal, diver, nuclear and master-at-arms communities are not eligible for the program.

Nimitz Carrier Strike Group Enters 7th Fleet

Story Number: NNS080212-04

Release Date: 2/2008 8:21:00 AM

From USS Nimitz Public Affairs

USS NIMITZ, At Sea (NNS) -- The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group (CSG) entered the U.S. 7th Fleet's area of responsibility (AOR), Feb. 8, as part of a regularly scheduled deployment to promote peace, cooperation and stability in the region.

Commanded by Rear Adm. Terry Blake, the Nimitz CSG will be filling the role of USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, which is undergoing scheduled maintenance in Yokosuka, Japan.

"All nations in the region can be assured of the Navy's continued and robust interaction in the form of mutual training opportunities, professional exchanges, and port visits," said Blake. "We are committed to preserving peace and stability in the Pacific region."

Nimitz returned from a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf and the Western Pacific in September 2007. Nimitz supported Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, conducted maritime security operations and participated in joint and coalition exercises and operations with many countries and other U.S. military services during that deployment.

During the last few months, Nimitz conducted several training exercises off the coast of California in preparation to deploy once again.

"While operating in the Western Pacific we will also participate in exercises and coordinate with our partner nations in the region," said Capt. Michael Manazir, Nimitz' commanding officer.

The Nimitz CSG is comprised of CSG 11, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz; its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11; embarked Destroyer Squadron 23; the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59); the guided-missile destroyers USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), USS Higgins (DDG 76), and USS Chafee (DDG 90); Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 49 "Scorpions," HSL 37 "Easy Riders"; and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11.

CVW-11's squadrons include the "Tophatters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14, the "Black Aces" of VFA-41, the "Sunliners" of VFA-81, the "Wallbangers" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117, the "Red Devils" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, the "Black Ravens" of Electronic Warfare Squadron 135, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the "Indians" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6.

No, this is not a USN nor USMC contract BUT it will have a profound effect on military aircraft development and sales:

PRESS RELEASE -- Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Public Affairs

Release No. 040208

February 29,2008

Air Force Announces Tanker Contract

WASHINGTON - Secretary of the Air Force, Michael W. Wynne, and Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Duncan J. McNab, announced the selection of Northrop Grumman Corporation, headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif., as the winner of the KC-X competition for development and procurement of up to 179 tanker aircraft for approximately \$35 billion.

The initial contract for the newly-named KC-45 is for the system design and development of four test aircraft for \$1.5B. This contract also includes five production options targeted for 64 aircraft at \$10.6B.

"The tanker is our number one procurement priority right now. Buying the new KC-45A is a major step forward and another demonstration of our commitment to recapitalizing our Eisenhower-era inventory of these critical national assets. Today is not just important for the Air Force, however. It's important for the entire Joint military team, and important for our coalition partners as well. The KC-45A will revolutionize our ability to employ tankers and will ensure the Air Force's future ability to provide our nation with truly Global Vigilance, Reach, and Power," said General McNab.

"The tanker is the number one procurement priority for us right now. It is the first step in our critical commitment to recapitalize our aging fleet to move, supply, and position assets anywhere. In this global Air Force business, the critical element for air bridge, global Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, and global strike is the tanker," said General McNab.

The KC-45A will provide significantly greater air refueling capabilities than the current fleet of Eisenhower-era KC-135s it will begin replacing. For example, it will be able to refuel Air Force and Navy aircraft on every flight. These aircraft have different systems for receiving fuel and today the KC-135s must be set up for one or the other before takeoff. The KC-45A will be equipped for both systems on every flight and will also have connections for wing pods. When wing pods are installed, it can refuel two probe-equipped aircraft, such as Navy and many allied aircraft, at the same time. It can even be refueled in flight by other tankers.

The KC-45A will also have defensive systems that allow it to go into dangerous environments that we currently have to avoid. It will also supplement our airlift fleet by carrying cargo, passengers, and medical patients in a secondary role.

The KC-X source selection used a "best value" determination to select a winner based on five factors: Mission Capability, Proposal Risk, Past Performance, Cost/Price, and an Integrated Fleet Air Refueling Assessment (performance in a simulated war scenario). These five factors were developed after consulting with industry and were finalized prior to starting the competition. Considered together, these grading criteria ensured the Air Force maximized the capability delivered to the warfighter while optimizing the taxpayers' investment.

The Air Force followed a carefully structured process, designed to provide transparency, maintain integrity and promote fair competition. The Air Force met with offerors on numerous occasions to gain a thorough understanding of their proposals and provide feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. The Air Force also provided insight into government cost estimates throughout the process instead of waiting until the post-decision debrief. The competitors indicated they've been very pleased with the degree of communication.

The evaluation team was comprised of experts covering a broad spectrum of specialties from acquisition to operations and was hand-picked from across the USAF and other government agencies.

As part of the process, the Air Force will now provide a written notice to both the selected and not-selected and offer to provide a de-brief on their bid proposals. To maintain the integrity of that process, the Air Force will be unable to provide additional information about the proposals and contract.

"Today's announcement is the culmination of years of tireless work and attention to detail by our Acquisition professionals and source selection team, who have been committed to maintaining integrity, providing transparency, and promoting a fair competition for this critical aircraft program," said Secretary

Wynne. "Through these efforts we believe we will provide a higher-value resource to the warfighter and the taxpayer."

Nimitz CSG Ships Arrive in South Korea for Port Visits

Story Number: NNS080229-21

Release Date: 2/29/2008 1:50:00 PM

! Top Story

From Nimitz Carrier Strike Group 11 Public Affairs

BUSAN, Republic of Korea (NNS) -- USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) arrived in Busan, Feb. 28, for a scheduled port visit in conjunction with exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2008 (KR/FE 08).

Additionally, the guided-missile destroyer USS Chaffee (DDG 90) arrived in Donghae and the guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) pulled into Pohang Feb. 28. During these port visits, Sailors will participate in friendship building activities, meet local citizens, experience local customs and traditions, and enjoy the many recreational activities offered in Busan, Donghae and Pohang, Republic of Korea (ROK).

The deployment of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz to backfill USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) while the Kitty Hawk undergoes maintenance exemplifies U.S. commitment to peace and stability in the Pacific Region.

While in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, the Nimitz Strike Group will participate in KR/FE 08, which was formerly known as the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Exercise or RSOI. Key Resolve reflects the transition to a Republic of Korea-led exercise program.

The joint and combined field training exercise referred to as Foal Eagle will be linked with Key Resolve, as it has been linked with RSOI for the past several years. KR/FE 08, like all other Combined Forces Command exercises is designed to improve the command's ability to defend ROK.

The Nimitz CSG is commanded by Rear Adm. Terry Blake.

"Our goal is to maintain and strengthen our alliances and friendships in the region," said Blake.

The Nimitz CSG is comprised of Commander, Carrier Strike Group 11, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz; its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11; embarked Destroyer Squadron 23; the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59); the guided-missile destroyers USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), USS Higgins (DDG 76), and USS Chaffee (DDG 90); Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 49 "Scorpions," HSL 37 "Easy Riders"; and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11.

CVW-11's squadrons include the "Tophatters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14, the "Black Aces" of VFA-41, the "Sunliners" of VFA-81, the "Wallbangers" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117, the "Red Devils" of Marine Corps Strike Fighter Squadron 232, the "Black Ravens" of Electronic Warfare Squadron 135, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the "Indians" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6.

Operating in the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, the 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, with approximately 50 ships, 120 aircraft and 20,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any given time.

CNO PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

February 29, 2008

Welcome to the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gary Roughead's podcast. I'm Petty Officer Rebekah Blowers. We sat down with Admiral Roughead to talk about his three priorities of building a future force, maintaining current readiness and developing and supporting Sailors, Navy civilians and their families. Thank you sir for joining us today. You've spent a lot of time visiting shipyards throughout the country. Have you accomplished what you intended when you began those visits?

My shipyard tours have been really helpful to me and they fully accomplished what I intended. I wanted to get out, visit the shipyards where our ships are being built.

Everything from aircraft carriers to submarines, amphibious ships - and to really meet the people that are building our ships. The craftsmen that are putting a tremendous amount of effort into our ships and the future Navy are doing a great job. And it was important for me to be able to see what they were doing, see what kind of innovation is being put into the production of our ships, look at the quality of the ships that are being built. So it really has been a worthwhile and very valuable experience for me.

You say that "313 is the floor" when you talk about how many ships the Navy will need in the future. What does this mean for the future fleet?

Well 313 ships in my opinion is the minimal number that we should have as we go into the future. We are a global navy. We have been and we will continue to be a global navy. And in order to cover the vast oceans of the world numbers matter. And I believe 313 is the minimum that we can afford to have. But it is also important that we look at the balance of that fleet. It's great to say that this particular ship is very capable and does great things and that's true but what really is important is how does our Navy balance capability from the very high end of warfare, whether its an aircraft carrier or submarine to some of the smaller ships that we're now building the littoral combat ship for example, or the joint high speed vessel. And it's the balance that gives us the global reach that's important to our Navy and to our country. So that we have options, so that we can involve ourselves in areas of the world that are important to the safety and the security and the prosperity of our country.

How does today's Maritime Strategy influence the decisions you're making about the Navy we'll have in the future?

Our maritime strategy defines our Navy of the future. In our maritime strategy we call for six capabilities. Four of those capabilities have been part of our Navy since we began. The first is to be a global navy. The second is to be a navy that is able to deter others. The third capability is to be able to project power. Project power ashore from our aircraft carriers,

missiles from ships and submarines, and also to be able to project power from our amphibious ships with our partners the Marine

Corps. And also to be able to control the seas. Larger areas of the ocean, small areas of the sea but being able at our time and our choosing to be able to control the seas. Those are the four enduring capabilities that our navy must support.

But in our maritime strategy we added two other capabilities. One is maritime security. So much of what moves on the world today in trade and commerce and the resources that flow moves on the oceans. About 90 percent of everything that moves, moves on the oceans. So how we protect the sea lanes, how confident we are that goods can move from one point to the other and not be interfered with is extremely important. The other capability that we have called for is humanitarian assistance and disaster response. We have been responding to natural disasters as a navy since we began. But in our strategy we call out to be more proactive. And that was recently demonstrated with the deployments of the hospital ships mercy and comfort, PELELIU. We have Africa Partnership Stations that's doing great work in West Africa as we speak today. So those are the capabilities and that is what defines the fleet. And when I work with the Navy and when we look to the future and what we're going to buy we must be able to tie what we are buying to those capabilities. If one ship or airplane can cover more than one, that's terrific. But everything we buy must tie into that maritime strategy. The other aspect of the strategy that's important is that we acknowledge that entering into cooperative arrangements with other agencies within our government, with other services as we have joined with the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, that that cooperative effort is important. But equally important is our ability to cooperate with other navies and other maritime forces around the world. And all that ties together. And that too influences the Navy that we're going to be in the future. So the key to where we're going is our maritime strategy. And as I've said on several occasions we are what we buy and the ships and the airplanes and the equipment that we buy must support that maritime strategy.

With all the technology you mentioned, how do people fit in?

Well the Navy is nothing without Sailors. That is our Navy. And the programs that we put in place to attract and recruit and retain and fulfill personally and professionally the young men and women that come to our Navy is so very important. We can buy very expensive ships and very expensive airplanes, but they have no value until our sailors get in them and make them do things. And quite frankly, I don't even think the engineers had on their plate when we started. So people are key and no one must ever forget that.

Thank you for listening. For more news from the chief of naval operations, visit Navy.mil.