

PH2 James K. McNeil

AIRSCOOP

EDITED BY WENDY LELAND

Osprey Highlights

In November 2003, the V-22 Osprey program began testing the aircraft's deicing and anti-icing systems in Canada. Osprey No. 24 will conduct test flights from Shearwater, Nova Scotia, through April.

Also in November, the V-22 Integrated Test Team completed a detachment to *Bataan* (LHD 5), below, the Osprey's second at-sea period. During 11 days of shipboard suitability testing, 5 V-22 pilots performed deck landing qualifications. Tests were also conducted to expand the aircraft's wind-over-deck envelope and measure the effects of hovering H-53 and H-46 helicopters on the Osprey while on deck.

In December, the V-22 surpassed 1,000 flight hours since the aircraft returned to flight in May 2002. On 9 January Maj. Gen. Jim Amos, Commanding General 3d Marine Air Wing flew the Osprey in both helicopter and airplane modes. Maj. Gen. Amos is pictured at right in top photo with Lt. Col. Kevin Gross, V-22 Integrated Test Team Government Flight Test Director.



Randy Teufel



PH3 Brandy Tilbury

EA-18G Development

The Boeing Co. received a contract for system design and development of the EA-18G, an airborne electronic attack aircraft based on the F/A-18F. The five-year S&D program runs from FY 04 until FY 09, and includes laboratory, ground testing and flight testing.

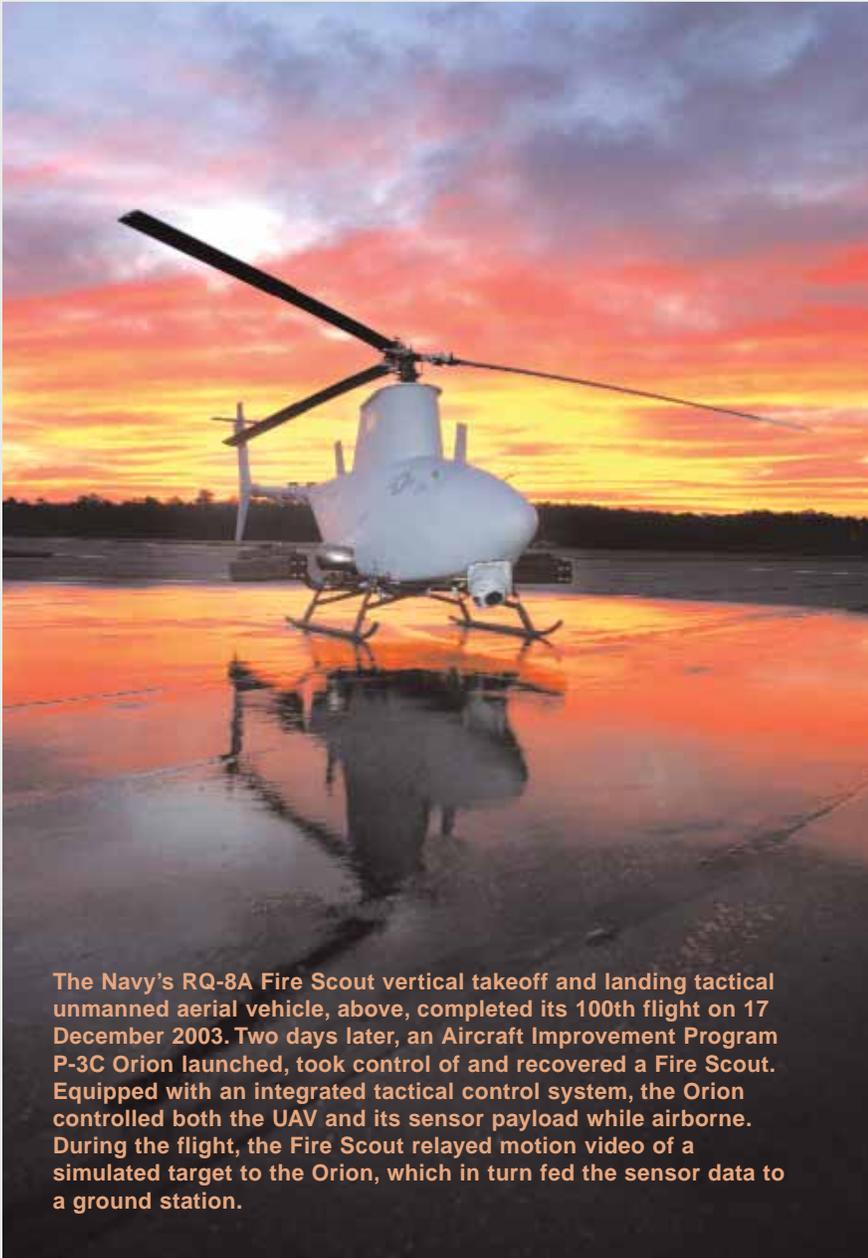
WW II Aircrew Identified

The remains of seven Naval Aviators missing in action from WW II were found in Russia, identified and returned to their families for burial in November 2003. The PV-1 Ventura crew—comprised of Lt. Walter S. Whitman, Jr.; Ltjg. John W. Hanlon, Jr.; Second Class Petty Officers Clarence C. Fridley, Donald G. Lewallen and Jack J. Parlier; and Third Class Petty Officers Samuel L. Crown, Jr., and James S. Palko—was lost after takeoff from Attu Island, Alaska, headed for the Kurile Islands, Japan.

For the Record

The Navy's newest *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer, *Halsey* (DDG 97), was christened on 17 January. The destroyer is the second ship to be named for Fleet Adm. William F. Halsey, Jr. Halsey distinguished himself in various commands in WW I and was awarded the Navy Cross. He qualified as a Naval

The last CH-53E Super Stallion was delivered to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 at MCAS New River, N.C., in November 2003. The Super Stallion provides heavy lift and transport capability for the Marine Corps. Facing page, combat cargo crew members secure a forklift to a CH-53E aboard *Peleliu* (LHA 5) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



The Navy's RQ-8A Fire Scout vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicle, above, completed its 100th flight on 17 December 2003. Two days later, an Aircraft Improvement Program P-3C Orion launched, took control of and recovered a Fire Scout. Equipped with an integrated tactical control system, the Orion controlled both the UAV and its sensor payload while airborne. During the flight, the Fire Scout relayed motion video of a simulated target to the Orion, which in turn fed the sensor data to a ground station.

Kurt Lengfield



Aviator in 1935, and became a key leader of combat operations in the Pacific in WW II.

The Naval Air Systems Command F/A-18 Program signed a second multiyear procurement contract for the **F/A-18E/F Super Hornet**, valued at approximately \$8.5 billion, which includes a total of 210 aircraft over five years.

Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, Owego, N.Y., was awarded a \$423 million contract in December 2003 for procurement and delivery of **common cockpits for the MH-60R and MH-60S** helicopters.



On 21 November 2003 aboard *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), an E-2C Hawkeye equipped with NP2000 eight-bladed, digitally controlled propellers makes its first carrier arrested landing. Flight testing of the new propeller ended in January, and retrofitting of the Navy's E-2C fleet is expected to begin in the spring.

PH3 Christian Weibull



Prowler Update

Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems is restarting its EA-6B outer wing panel production line in St. Augustine, Fla.. The original production line in New York was closed in 1987. The first outer wing panels will be delivered in summer 2005 for installation on

Prowlers at fleet sites or Navy depots. Northrop Grumman is also currently producing wing center sections for the Prowler. Production of these parts will help bring EA-6Bs that have reached their wing fatigue life back into service more quickly. Background photo, VAQ-137 Prowler flies a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in November 2003.

Lfig. Victor Dymond

In December 2003 the Raytheon Co. was awarded a \$292 million contract for full-rate production of the **AN/ASQ-228 Advanced Targeting Forward Looking Infrared** pod.

The end date of the refueling and complex overhaul of *Eisenhower* (CVN 69) was extended by 11 weeks to 6 November 2004.

The **AH-1W Super Cobra** attack helicopter celebrated its 20th anniversary in November 2003. Its successor, the **AH-1Z**, exceeded 1,000 flight hours in January.

Mishaps

On 23 January, a Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron AH-1W Super Cobra was destroyed but there were no fatalities following a crash at MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

A UH-1N "Huey" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 was destroyed with four fatalities following a crash on 22 January at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

On 17 December 2003, an F/A-18C Hornet of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 9 suffered Class A damage when it departed the

runway upon landing at NAWS China Lake, Calif.

A Marine Attack Squadron 211 AV-8B Harrier II was lost but the pilot ejected safely following an in-flight engine failure at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., on 8 December 2003.

On 3 December 2003, the pilot of a Marine Attack Squadron 211 AV-8B Harrier suffered minor injuries after ejecting at MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

Aboard *George Washington* (CVN 73) on 21 November 2003, a crew member was killed during the repositioning of an aircraft towing dolly.