

Marine Corps successfully tests Medium Range Intercept Capability Prototype



Program Executive Officer Land Systems Ground-Based Air Defense Program Manager Don Kelley shows the expeditionary launcher of the Medium-Range Intercept Capability prototype to Marine Corps senior leaders following a successful test demonstration of the system at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, June 30. *U.S. ARMY / John Hamilton*

White Sands Missile Range, N.M. – The Marine Corps' Medium-Range Intercept Capability prototype successfully hit several simultaneously-launched cruise missile representative targets during the live-fire test at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on June 30., Program Executive Officer Land Systems announced July 8.

The MRIC prototype provides Marine Corps point defense in an expeditionary package. The system is one of several

initiatives critical to Force Design 2030, addressing an emergent capability gap for the Marine Corps. PEO Land System's Ground-Based Air Defense program oversees the system.

"This demonstration proves that we do now have a relevant capability," said Don Kelley, program manager for GBAD at PEO Land Systems, immediately following the successful test.

MRIC, which counts the Corps' Ground/Air Task-Oriented Radar and Common Aviation Command and Control System among its primary subsystems, also incorporates technology from Israel's proven Iron Dome system. The live-fire test was designed to validate the primary subsystems' integrations and the system's overall capability to provide critical information to senior Marine Corps leadership as they decide the path forward for the MRIC prototype.

During the test, the G/ATOR successfully tracked each target, from immediately after launch and passed the tracks through the CAC2S to the Israeli Iron Dome components. This allowed the MRIC system to simultaneously neutralize multiple missiles encircling the system from various angles. At its peak, numerous in-air targets, each with its own unique flight trajectory and velocity, surrounded the MRIC prototype. Upon firing, MRIC successfully hit each target using the Tamir missile.

The June event built upon the previous live-fire test in December, during which the program office launched multiple targets in sequence, with MRIC intercepting each target before the next one launched. This time around, multiple targets were launched simultaneously. Prior to the event, Kelley said engineers at Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren ran independent simulations of what would happen during the live-fire test. The results, Kelley said, correlated closely to the modeled simulations.

Berger: Marine Corps Reinforcements to NATO Good Example of Stand-In Force Concept



U.S. Marines with Golf Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/6, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, participate in a live-fire range in Setermoen, Norway, April 26. *U.S. MARINE CORPS / Cpl. Yvonna Guyette*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The rapid deployment of Marine Corps forces exercising in Norway to a real-world situation in eastern Europe to shore up NATO presence was a good example of a stand-in force operating inside a weapons engagement zone, the Marine Corps commandant said.

Speaking July 7 in a webinar of the Hudson Institute, a Washington think tank, Gen. David H. Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps, said the 2,000-plus Marines sent from the U.S. East Coast to Norway for a scheduled major exercise, as well as others to an unrelated reconnaissance/counter exercise, were able to rapidly redeploy deeper in Europe in support of NATO forces when Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

The Marine Corps forces Europe at the time included a squadron of F/A-18C Hornet strike fighters and an air control squadrons detachment with a Ground/Air Task-Oriented Radar, plus information and intelligence units. KC-130J tanker/transport aircraft also were dispatched to the area.

The Marine units were in a “very forward posture inside the collection and weapons engagement zone, operating persistently all the time, not trying to hide, showing them that we’re there,” Berger said.

“The creativity of them [the deployed Marines] in terms of mobility and also understanding things like satellite vulnerability windows, the basics of camouflage – in other words, knowing when they can see me and how do I use that from an information perspective effectively,” he said. “How do I confuse them [the adversary], how do I convince them that they’re seeing is what they want to see but it’s not really accurate?”

Berger praised the deployed Marines, noting their “just marvelous, magnificent, creative work by a bunch of Marines, all as stand-in force, all withing the range of weapons systems.”

He noted that a similar demonstration from the Indo-Pacific region, where Marines were moving around between the first and second island chains by ship and ashore “constantly making sure the adversary knew we were there, constantly moving small elements, constantly repeating closing kill chains over and

over – constructive ones – trying to cut the timeline down, down, down. Once you get it down and you're comfortable, start interdicting [our] different communications paths to make it harder on ourselves.

"The idea is just 'give it to the operating forces, the fleet, and let them run with it,'" he said. "They will inform us what worked best in their neighborhood. I'm very comfortable what's working in the Middle East may be a little bit different flavor and what's happening in Europe may be different than what's happening in the Pacific. We need to be flexible enough to allow for that, and we can.

"This isn't a 'go there for exercise and come home'," the commandant said. "It's 'stay in their face the whole time.'"

Royal Navy, Assisted by US Navy's 5th Fleet, Seizes Smuggled Iranian Missiles



HMS Montrose seized Iranian weapons from speedboats earlier this year, including surface-to-air missiles and engines for land-attack cruise missiles. *ROYAL NAVY*

LONDON – In early 2022, while on routine maritime security operations, Royal Navy ship HMS Montrose seized Iranian weapons from speedboats being operated by smugglers in international waters south of Iran, the U.K Ministry of Defence said July 7. The weapons seized included surface-to-air-missiles and engines for land attack cruise missiles, in contravention of UN Security Council resolution 2216 (2015).

This is the first time a British naval warship has interdicted a vessel carrying such sophisticated weapons from Iran.

The seizures, which occurred on Jan. 28 and Feb. 25, took place in the early hours of the morning. HMS Montrose's Wildcat helicopter was scanning for vessels smuggling illicit goods. The helicopter crew spotted small vessels moving at speed away from the Iranian coast.

During the February interdiction, U.S. Navy Arleigh Burke-

class guided-missile destroyer USS Gridley supported efforts by deploying a Seahawk helicopter to provide critical overwatch during the operation. On both occasions, the Wildcat helicopter pursued the vessels and reported back to HMS Montrose that they could see suspicious cargo on deck.

A team of Royal Marines approached the vessels on two rigid-hulled inflatable boats before securing and searching the vessel. Dozens of packages containing advanced weaponry were discovered, confiscated and brought back to HMS Montrose.

“The U.K. is committed to upholding international law, from standing up to aggression in Europe to interdicting illegal shipments of weaponry that perpetuates instability in the Middle East,” said Minister for the Armed Forces James Heapey. “The U.K. will continue to work in support of an enduring peace in Yemen and is committed to international maritime security so that commercial shipping can transit safely without threat of disruption.”

The seized packages were returned to the U.K. for technical analysis, which revealed the shipment contained multiple rocket engines for the Iranian-produced 351 land-attack cruise missile and a batch of 358 surface-to-air missiles.

The 351 is a cruise missile with a range of 1,000 kilometers, regularly used by the Houthis to strike targets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and was also the type of weapon used to attack Abu Dhabi on Jan. 17, which killed three civilians.

On June 24, the Ministry of Defence hosted a panel of experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2140 (2014), which concerns the conflict in Yemen. The panel inspected the seized weapons and received a technical brief by the U.K.’s defense intelligence analysts.

“These interdictions demonstrate the professionalism and commitment of the Royal Navy to promoting stability in this region,” said Cmdr. Claire Thompson, commanding Officer of HMS

Montrose. “I am extremely proud of my crew – the Royal Navy Sailors, aircrew and Royal Marines involved in these endeavors and the significant positive impact they are having in maintaining the international rules-based order at sea.”

The U.K. retains a permanent presence in the Middle East, with HMS Montrose having been deployed to the region since early 2019, actively supporting multinational maritime security operations and protecting the interests of the United Kingdom and its allies. The ship operates under the control and direction of the UK Maritime Component Command, based in Bahrain.

Boeing Delivers 150th P-8 Maritime Patrol Aircraft



The newest Boeing P-8 maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft takes to the skies over Puget Sound, Washington. *BOEING*

SEATTLE – The newest Boeing P-8 maritime patrol, reconnaissance aircraft took to the skies over Puget Sound bringing the total number of P-8s delivered to 150, the company said July 7. The 150th multi-mission P-8 will be operated by Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VX-1) based at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

“There are now 150 P-8s around the world delivering confidence and an unmatched capability to our global customers,” said Stu Voboril, vice president and program manager of P-8 Programs. “Our focus has been, and will be, on delivering the world’s best maritime patrol aircraft.”

Amassing more than 450,000 mishap-free flight hours, the global P-8 fleet includes 112 aircraft delivered to the U.S. Navy, 12 to Australia, 12 to India, nine to the United Kingdom and five to Norway. First deliveries to New Zealand, Korea and Germany are scheduled for 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively.

The aircraft are designed for antisubmarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and search and rescue.

The 150 P-8s in service do not include six test aircraft provided to the U.S. Navy during the initial stages of the program. Boeing tested those aircraft during development to assess capabilities and performance. As development of system enhancements and new technology continues, the test aircraft perform a critical role in ensuring Boeing provides state-of-the-art capabilities to global P-8 customers.

Coyote Aerial Target has 100th Launch



Northrop Grumman's GQM 163-A Coyote, a target vehicle used to simulate advanced anti-ship cruise missile threats. *NORTHROP GRUMMAN*

CHANDLER, Ariz. – Northrop Grumman Corp. is celebrating the

100th launch of its GQM-163A Coyote target vehicle, which continues to support testing ship anti-cruise missile defenses for U.S. and allied navies, the company said July 7.

The Coyote is a threat-representative target the U.S. Navy uses to prepare, train and qualify systems and crews aboard naval vessels. Northrop Grumman originally designed the target as a Mach 2.5+ sea-skimming target and later added the capability to attain Mach 3.5+ as a diving target from an altitude of over 50,000 feet.

“The unique speed, performance and versatility of this target has enabled us to meet multiple mission scenarios for our customer for over two decades,” said Rich Straka, vice president of launch vehicles at Northrop Grumman. “As the only supersonic sea-skimming target produced in the United States, the Coyote is part of a family of tactical targets that ensures U.S. Navy systems are ready and capable to defend against threats.”

Naval Air Systems Command awarded Northrop Grumman this program in 2000 with its initial launch in 2003. The total contract value is over \$329 million. Along with this successful launch, the team has delivered more than 145 targets to the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Navy has ordered 218 targets to date with more options in the years ahead.

Northrop	Grumman	Begins
Building	New	Missile

Integration Facility



The Navy's Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile-Extended Range (AARGM-ER) completes its first live fire event July 19 off the coast of Point Mugu Sea Test Range in California. *U.S. NAVY*

ROCKET CITY, W.Va. – Northrop Grumman Corporation announced July 6 the construction of a new 113,000 square foot facility in West Virginia that will increase the company's capacity within the defense industrial base to ensure delivery of current and future weapons to meet warfighter needs.

"Our new missile integration facility is a factory of the future, designed to affordably produce high quantities of missiles to meet increasing customer demand," said Mary Petryszyn, corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman Defense Systems. "Northrop Grumman's investments in manufacturing capacity, digital processes and emerging technologies translates into the rapid deployment of capability into the field."

Once completed in 2024, the missile integration facility will have the capacity to support production of up to 600 strike missiles per year. The facility's production operations will commence with the second lot of the Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile – Extended Range low-rate initial production. Unlike traditional missile integration facilities, Northrop Grumman's facility is not limited to producing one type of missile but is easily modified to manage the integration of current and new missile programs.

Northrop Grumman will incorporate the latest in digital manufacturing including automation and the use of smart manufacturing equipment and modular work cells. These manufacturing approaches will allow the company to optimize quality, reduce costs, and maximize production capacity and production times to deliver missiles to the warfighter quickly.

The facility is expected to include expanded manufacturing workforce skillsets, adding engineering and manufacturing jobs to the area, reinforcing Northrop Grumman's leadership as one of West Virginia's largest manufacturing employers.

HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding to Hire 2,000-Plus Full-Time Shipbuilders



An employee from HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division grinds metal during construction of a ship. *HII* PASCAGOULA, Miss. – HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division plans to hire more than 2,000 full-time shipbuilders as part of its future workforce plans, the company said July 6.

The new shipbuilders will join a skilled workforce that delivers critical capabilities to HII's national security customers, including amphibious warships, destroyers and national security cutters. Ingalls Shipbuilding is located on an 800-acre facility, having recently completed a state-of-the-art upgrade that includes covered workspaces to keep shipbuilders dry and cool.

"With a shipbuilding legacy of nearly 84 years, Ingalls offers careers dedicated to a service mission – building ships that protect and defend our freedoms," said Ingalls Shipbuilding President Kari Wilkinson. "We are excited to be adding new members to our team and to be providing a variety of stable career opportunities to our community."

Ingalls Shipbuilding's talent acquisition team will be hosting a hiring event from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, at the Ingalls Maritime Training Academy located on Jerry St. Pé

Highway. Ingalls will be hiring pipe fitters, pipe welders, structural welders, ship fitters and seeking applicants for entry-level opportunities.

Competitive starting wages, day-one benefits, 12 paid holidays annually and opportunities for advancement make Ingalls a great place to work, the company said.

“With over 500 different jobs, there is no limit to what you can do at Ingalls,” said Susan Jacobs, vice president of human resources and administration. “Shipbuilding is hard work, but we strive to make sure our shipbuilders have the tools and conveniences they need to do the hard work well.”

In recent years, Ingalls Shipbuilding facility upgrades have also included additional hydration stations, improved access to work sites and tool rooms, and expanded meal choices in the shipyard, including a Chick-fil-A.

Coast Guard Offloads \$5.2 Million in Seized Cocaine in San Juan, Puerto Rico



The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos offloaded 250 kilograms in seized cocaine estimated at \$5.2 million at Coast Guard Base San Juan July 5. The contraband was seized following the interdiction of a drug smuggling vessel by the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle June 30, south of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos offloaded 551 pounds of seized cocaine Tuesday in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Coast Guard 7th District said July 5.

Three men, one Venezuelan and two Dominican Republic nationals, apprehended in this case are facing federal prosecution in Puerto Rico.

The interdiction is the result of multi-agency efforts in support of the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force. The seized cocaine has an estimated wholesale value of approximately \$5.2 million.

During the morning of June 30, the crew of a Customs and Border Protection Caribbean Air and Marine Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft detected a “yola” type vessel navigating towards Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Joseph Doyle that arrived on scene and stopped the suspect vessel.

The Coast Guard crew apprehended the three men and embarked eight bales from the suspect vessel that tested positive for cocaine. The seized contraband was later transferred to the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos for delivery to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

“This successful interdiction is due to the strong collaboration between the Coast Guard and our fellow federal law enforcement partners,” said Capt. José E. Díaz, Coast Guard Sector San Juan commander. “We will continue to do our utmost to stop drug smuggling vessels at sea and protect the nation’s southernmost maritime border from illicit trafficking.”

The apprehended smugglers face federal prosecution in Puerto Rico. The charges carry a minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of imprisonment for life.

Boeing, ESG, Lufthansa Technik Expand Partnership to Support German P-8A Poseidon Fleet



From left to right: Michael Haidinger, president, Boeing Germany, Central & Eastern Europe, Benelux & Nordics; Alan Carson, business director, Aerospace Campaigns, ESG; Björn Malmus, Head of Programme, P-8A Poseidon, German Procurement Agency for the Bundeswehr, BAAINBw; Indra Duivenvoorde, senior director, Boeing Government Services, Europe & Israel; Michael Hostetter, vice president, Boeing Defense & Space, Germany; Michael von Puttkamer, vice president, Special Aircraft Services, Lufthansa Technik. *BOEING*

BERLIN – Boeing, ESG Elektroniksystem- und Logistik-GmbH and Lufthansa Technik have signed a three-party agreement that reinforces joint efforts to support Germany's new P-8A Poseidon fleet, Boeing announced July 5. With the new agreement, Boeing, ESG and Lufthansa Technik will be the team responsible for executing the P-8A sustainment program in Germany.

“We are expanding our partnership with ESG and Lufthansa Technik in the form of a three-party agreement that will allow us to best support our German customer and the operational needs of the German navy,” said Indra Duivenvoorde, senior director, Boeing Government Services Europe & Israel. “This partnership demonstrates our commitment to directly supporting our customer locally with German industry primes.”

The new agreement builds on two separate memoranda of understanding signed separately with ESG and Lufthansa Technik in 2021 and now involves all three parties, outlining additional detail regarding each company’s role in the German P-8A program.

“This agreement underlines our joint performance promise and our commitment to provide the Bundeswehr with urgently needed capabilities,” said Christoph Otten, CEO of ESG. “At the same time, we see this as a special obligation to proactively contribute our capabilities and competencies to the program as a long-standing technology and innovation partner of the German armed forces and the Naval Aviation Command, particularly in the areas of systems integration, aviation certification or secure communication.”

With the formalization of this new industry partnership, Boeing, ESG and Lufthansa Technik will provide support to the German customer in all areas of aircraft sustainment and training that will bring the highest operational availability to the German Navy’s P-8A fleet.

First deliveries to Germany are slated to take place in 2024 and Boeing estimates that the P-8A program will employ up to 250 people in Germany.

NAVCENT to Reward Individuals for Tips on Illegal Maritime Activity



An MH-60R Seahawk from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 35, Detachment 1, provides aerial support to an interdiction team from guided-missile destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92) approaching a fishing vessel May 16. The vessel was seized while transiting international waters in the Gulf of Oman. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Lily Gebauer*

BAHRAIN – U.S. Naval Forces Central Command announced July 5 it will begin rewarding individuals for voluntarily providing information that leads to the detection of illegal maritime activity and seizure of illicit cargo in waters across the Middle East.

NAVCENT is establishing a program for the first time to reward individuals who voluntarily report information that meets specific criteria under the Department of Defense Rewards

Program.

“Launching this program represents another example of our commitment to this region and its security,” said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces. “This also enhances our vigilance and supports counterterrorism efforts, which are essential to safeguarding the free flow of commerce.”

NAVCENT could potentially reward a maximum \$100,000 payout for information or nonlethal assistance that supports counterterrorism operations or leads U.S. naval forces to successfully seize illicit cargo such as illegal weapons or narcotics. Rewards can also be non-monetary and include items like boats, vehicles, food or equipment.

U.S. citizens are not eligible for rewards under the program.

Last year, illicit cargo seizures in the Middle East skyrocketed after U.S. and multinational forces increased patrols in the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea.

U.S. 5th Fleet warships seized nearly 9,000 illicit weapons, three times the amount seized in 2020. Additionally, the U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces seized illegal drugs worth \$500 million in street value, a higher amount than the previous four years combined.

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The region is comprised of 21 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al-Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.

Tips can be reported by calling +973 3914-5845. The phone line is staffed by personnel with regional language expertise. Individuals with information can also report online by going to <https://dodrewardsprogram.net>.

For additional information on how to report a tip or reward eligibility criteria, go to NAVCENT's website at <https://www.cusnc.navy.mil/DoD-RP/>.