Boeing Delivers First Super Hornet Blue Angel Test Jet to Navy



The first Super Hornet for the U.S. Navy's Blue Angel flight demonstration squadron sits on the flight ramp at Boeing's Cecil Field facility in Jacksonville, Florida. The validation and verification aircraft will not be painted in the familiar blue and yellow paint scheme until flight testing is complete. Boeing Co.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Boeing has delivered the first Super Hornet test aircraft for the U.S. Navy's Blue Angel flight demonstration squadron, the company said in a June 3 release.

The unpainted aircraft now enters the flight test and evaluation phase at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. Boeing expects to deliver a total of 11 aircraft for the squadron this year.

"The Super Hornet is an iconic representation of excellence in naval aviation," said retired Adm. Pat Walsh, vice president of U.S. Navy & Marine Corps Services for Boeing. Walsh flew with the Blue Angels from 1985 to 1987 as the Left Wingman (No. 3) and Slot Pilot (No. 4). "As Boeing continues to support the operational fleet of Navy Super Hornets, we are excited to see this platform enter a critical phase of its journey to joining the team."

The flight demonstration squadron has flown Boeing or Boeing-heritage aircraft for more than 50 years, starting with the F-4J Phantom II in 1969, and then moving to the A-4F Skyhawk. The team operates the F/A-18A-D Hornet today.

Boeing converts F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets into Blue Angels at the company's Cecil Field facility in Jacksonville,

Florida.

Major modifications include the addition of an oil tank for the smoke-generation system, fuel systems that enable the aircraft to fly inverted for extended periods of time, civilian-compatible navigation equipment, cameras and adjustments for the aircraft’s center of gravity.