

First CMV-22B for Fleet Operations Arrives at Naval Air Station North Island



Maintainers assist the first CMV-22B Osprey assigned to VRM 30 in landing June 22 at Naval Air Station North Island. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Chelsea D. Meiller

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND, Calif. – Bell Textron Inc. and Boeing delivered the first CMV-22B Osprey for fleet operations to the U.S. Navy on June 22. The CMV-22B is assigned to Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron (VRM) 30 at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

“We are thrilled to bring the Osprey’s capabilities as a warfighting enabler and its ability to provide time-sensitive logistics to the men and women deployed around the world in support of U.S. Navy operations,” said Kurt Fuller, Bell V-22 vice president and Bell Boeing program director.

This aircraft is the third overall delivery to the Navy. Bell Boeing delivered the first CMV-22B at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in February for developmental testing, followed by a second in May. The Navy-variant V-22 will take over the carrier onboard delivery mission, replacing the C-2A Greyhound.

“This first fleet delivery marks a new chapter of the V-22 tilt-rotor program providing enhanced capabilities and increased flexibility to the U.S. Navy as they conduct important operational missions around the globe,” said Shane Openshaw, Boeing vice president of tilt-rotor programs and deputy director of the Bell Boeing team.



VRM 30 was established in late 2018 to begin the Navy's transition from the C-2A Greyhound to the CMV-22B. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Chelsea D. Meiller

The CMV-22B and C-2A Greyhound conducted a symbolic passing of the torch flight in April.

"The CMV-22B will be a game-changing enabler to the high-end fight supporting the sustainment of combat lethality to the carrier strike group," said Navy Capt. Dewon Chaney, commodore, Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Wing. "The multi-mission capabilities of the CMV-22B, already recognized, will be realized in Naval aviation's air wing of the future. The arrival of this aircraft is the first of many steps to that becoming reality."

The CMV-22B carries up to 6,000 pounds of cargo and combines the vertical takeoff, hover and landing (VTOL) qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft.

Bell Boeing designed the Navy variant to have the expanded range needed for fleet operations. Two additional 60-gallon tanks and redesigned forward sponson tanks can cover more than 1,150 nautical miles.

The CMV-22B also can provide roll-on/roll-off delivery of the F135 engine power module for the F-35 Lightning II strike fighter.