

Marine Corps to Procure Naval Strike Missile



The Naval Strike Missile, originally designed by Norway's Kongsberg.

NATIONAL

HARBOR, Md. — Using the congressionally approved Other Transaction Authority

with the Marine Corps Systems Command, Raytheon will integrate the Naval Strike

Missile (NSM) into the Marine Corps' existing force structure.

In recent

years the Corps has determined a need to field an anti-ship missile to defend

its forces ashore and the fleet that supports them.

Randy

Kempton, Raytheon's NSM program director, briefing reporters at the Navy

League's Sea-Air-Space exposition here, was not at liberty to discuss which

platforms would deploy the NSM. He did say the Corps had a lot of integration

options and that the missile would be the same as the one on order with the U.S.

Navy.

The Navy has

selected the Naval Strike Missile for its littoral combat ships and

new-generation guided-missile frigate.

The NSM is a fifth-generation

long-range precision-strike cruise missile originally designed by Kongsberg. A

mobile, land-based version is deployed with the coastal defense forces of Poland.

The missile is produced "in partnership with Norway and its defense leader Kongsberg," a May 7 Raytheon release said. "The Marine Corps' selection of the Navy's anti-ship missile enhances joint interoperability and reduces costs and logistical burdens."