

NAVAIR Orders 80 Blackjack, 93 ScanEagle UAVs



U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 163 (Reinforced), 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26), prepare to launch an RQ-21A Blackjack in March 2019. U.S. MARINE CORPS / Lance Cpl. Israel Chincio

ARLINGTON,

Va. – The Navy has awarded a contract for Blackjack and ScanEagle unmanned

aerial vehicles for the Navy and Marine Corps and several foreign nations.

Insitu Inc.

of Bingen, Washington, was awarded by the Naval Air Systems Command a \$390.1

million firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract for

up to 63 RQ-21A [Blackjack] attrition air vehicles for the U.S. Marine Corps

and U.S. Navy,” a June 28 Defense Department announcement said. “In addition,

this contract provides for up to six RQ-21A unmanned aircraft systems and up to

17 RQ-21A air vehicles for foreign military sales customers, including the

governments of Canada, Poland and Oman.”

Insitu also will

also provide up to 93 ScanEagle UASs in various configurations, the

announcement said. “In addition, this contract provides for associated

services, including training, test and engineering,

development of engineering
change proposals, operations support, organizational level
maintenance, field
service representatives, land and ship surveys, hardware site
activations,
hardware installs, repairs, and data.”

The RQ-21A

Blackjack has seen service as a surveillance platform with the
Marine Corps in

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya. Contractor-owned and
operated ScanEagles

have operated in support of U.S. and partner nations in Iraq
and Afghanistan.

The ScanEagle also has been operated by U.S. Special Operations
command and by
several foreign nations.

The orders

are expected to be completed by June 2022.