

Navy Carriers to Receive Unmanned Aviation Warfare Centers



Boeing conducts a MQ-25 deck-handling demonstration in 2018 at its facility in St. Louis, Missouri. Unmanned Aviation Warfare Centers are being installed to operate the unmanned aerial tanker and any UAVs that the Navy plans to operate from its carriers. The Boeing Co.

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy is installing control centers for unmanned aerial vehicles on its aircraft carriers as the ships go through overhauls and maintenance periods, a Navy official said.

Capt. Chuck

Ehnes, the Navy's program manager for in-service aircraft carriers, speaking

Jan.16 at the Surface Navy Association gathering here, said

the Unmanned

Aviation Warfare Centers (UAWCs) are being installed to operate the MQ-25A

Stingray unmanned aerial tanker and any follow-on UAVs the Navy plans to

operate from its aircraft carriers.

Ehnes said

the UAWC is one of several phased modernizations being conducted on the

carriers in service to upgrade their warfighting capabilities.

Over time,

carriers are receiving numerous modifications to prepare to operate the F-35C

Lightning II strike fighter, the CMV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor carrier onboard

delivery aircraft and the MQ-25. The carriers also are receiving additive

manufacturing labs and upgraded cybersecurity.

Ehnes said the carriers also are receiving the Distance Communication and Maintenance System (DCoMs), a remote conferencing system that will enable Sailors to discuss maintenance issues with technical experts ashore. He compared the new DCoMs to a telemedicine system will be a “potential game-changer” in reducing the need for tech assist visits and the dispatching of repair teams.