

Navy Plans to Arm F/A-18E/F, F-35C with Air Force's JASSM-ER Cruise Missile



U.S. Air Force Major Jacob Rohrbach, a pilot assigned to the 40th Flight Test Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, releases the first Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range, or JASSM-ER, from an F-16 over the Gulf of Mexico on September 19th, 2018. *U.S. AIR FORCE / Master Sergeant Michael Jackson*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy's 2022 budget includes funds for a cruise missile that will be new to the Navy but has been in production for the U.S. Air Force.

The 2022 budget proposes a procurement of 25 AGM-158B Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range (JASSM-ER) cruise missiles.

"The Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range (JASSM-ER)/AGM-158B will initially deploy on the F/A-18E/F. It will eventually be integrated on F-35C and future Navy strike fighter aircraft," said Lt. Cmdr. Stephanie Turo, a Navy spokeswoman.

The Navy's budget overview book said the JASSM-ER is being procured "to enhance long-range strike and offensive anti-surface warfare (OASuW) capability. In FY 2022 the JASSM program will award the 20th production lot in which the U.S. Navy, along with the U.S Air Force, will procure 25 assets for the first time."

The Navy, along with the Air Force, both already operate the AGM-158C Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM), which is a derivative of the JASSM. The Navy's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighter is armed with the LRASM, which also is

programmed to be deployed on the Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol reconnaissance aircraft. In April, the Navy awarded Boeing a contract to integrate the LRASM on the P-8A.

Both the JASSM-ER and LRASM are built by Lockheed Martin.