

Navy Ready to Accept First Block V Tomahawk from Raytheon

ARLINGTON,

Va. — Raytheon Co. has completed the first recertificated Tomahawk cruise missile, one that it modified to the Block V configuration, a Navy official said.

The missile is one of the first five Block VI Tactical Tomahawk missiles that have been inducted into the recertification process, which takes missiles at the midlife 15-year mark for overhaul and modernization.

Capt. John

Red, the Navy's Tomahawk program manager, speaking to reporters Jan. 15 at the Surface Navy Association symposium here, said that all Block IVs will be converted into Block Vs.

All Block Vs

will feature a new data-link radio and antennas and navigation system. The

Block Va version also will feature a new seeker kit to hit moving targets and

will be called the Maritime Strike Tomahawk (MST). The Block Vb version will

feature the Joint Multi-Effects Warhead System.

Red was not

at liberty to discuss the MST's seeker in detail but described

it as a "multimode
seeker with the ability to discriminate targets."

The Tomahawk
missile first entered combat in January 1991 in Operation
Desert Storm. More
than 2,000 have been fired at hostile targets over three
decades.

Red said the
remaining Block III Tomahawks, which first entered service in
1994, are being
withdrawn from use and are being "demilitarized."