

Raytheon, Navy Conduct Joint Test of Excalibur N5

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Raytheon's sea-based Excalibur N5 projectile will more than double the maximum range of conventional 5-inch munitions and provide the same accuracy as the land-based version. U.S. Department of Defense

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – The U.S. Navy and Raytheon conducted a joint test of the Excalibur N5 munition with an eye toward firing it from Arleigh Burke-class destroyer Mk 45 guns, according to a Raytheon official.

The Navy has not made a decision on whether to buy the Excalibur N5 for use on ships, but the test – which took place last September at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona – was a key step forward for the program, said John Hobday, head of Coyote & Rapid Development Programs for Raytheon, in a briefing at Navy League's Sea-Air-Space symposium on May 6.

The Excalibur N5 is based on the M982 Excalibur used by the Army, and it would use the same key parts. It is GPS guided, and Raytheon says it has double the current Mk 45 range (26 nautical miles versus 13).

The N5 reuses the guidance and fusing components from the Block 1B version of the Excalibur.

The Navy is "evaluating where they stand on it," and Raytheon has provided the Navy with all the necessary information, Hobday said.

The test involved six shots and the accuracy of the rounds and handling were evaluated.

"Excalibur N5 answers the Navy's need for a sea-launched, precision-guided projectile," said Sam Deneke, Raytheon Land

Warfare Systems vice president, in a statement. "N5 doubles the range of the Navy's big guns and delivers the same accuracy as the land-based version."