U.S. Navy Approves Raytheon's StormBreaker Smart Weapon for use on Super Hornet Fleet



A Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet undergoes weapons testing with the StormBreaker, also known as the Small Diameter Bomb II, at NAS Patuxent River, Md. This all-weather, precision-guided munition achieved its first operational use on an F/A-18 during a limited early operational capability in 2025. (U.S. Navy photo)

Precision strike capability will increase fleet lethality and survivability

From RTX

TUCSON, Ariz., (February 20, 2026) – The U.S. Navy has approved Raytheon's StormBreaker® smart weapon for operational

use on the F/A-18-E/F Super Hornet strike fighter. Raytheon is an RTX (NYSE: RTX) business.

StormBreaker is the only operational smart weapon that can engage moving and stationary targets in both fair and adverse weather conditions, at land or at sea. Its compact size allows a single aircraft to engage more surface targets than previously possible. The weapon can also fly to strike mobile targets, reducing the amount of time that aircrews spend in harm's way.

"The Super Hornet plays a critical role in the Navy's air combat strategy and equipping it with StormBreaker increases the aircraft's lethality by enabling precision strike in all weather conditions," said Sam Deneke, president of Air & Space Defense Systems at Raytheon. "StormBreaker's accuracy and versatility gives operators the upper hand in the most degraded environments, ensuring they can complete the mission and return home safely."

In 2023, the Super Hornet became the first U.S. Navy aircraft to carry StormBreaker. It has had exceptional performance in combat on the aircraft.

StormBreaker is approved for use on the F-15E and the F/A-18-E/F Super Hornet, and is currently being integrated on the F-35A/B/C.