CVW 5 capabilities upgraded with arrival of new Hawkeye 2000

By MC1 Brock A. Taylor, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 115 received three new E-2C Hawkeye 2000 aircraft Feb. 28. Their arrival, along with 24 newer F/A-18E Super Hornets in the past two months, is part of several recent upgrades to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 making it a more powerful and capable airwing in the Western Pacific region and the U.S. Navy.

The improved E-2C Hawkeye 2000 carries advanced capabilities over its predecessor in the areas of detection, processing, identification, communication and navigation.

According to Capt. Ross Myers, commanding officer of CVW 5, this upgrade goes beyond increasing just the battle group's efficiency.

"The capability that the Hawkeye 2000 brings to Carrier Air Wing 5 is more than just the squadron," said Myers. "It brings to the entire air wing capabilities that we have never had before and in a greater scope it brings to the joint security cooperation between the United States and the Government of Japan in defense of Japan and Japanese self defense forces a greater capability and lethality for the strike fighters."

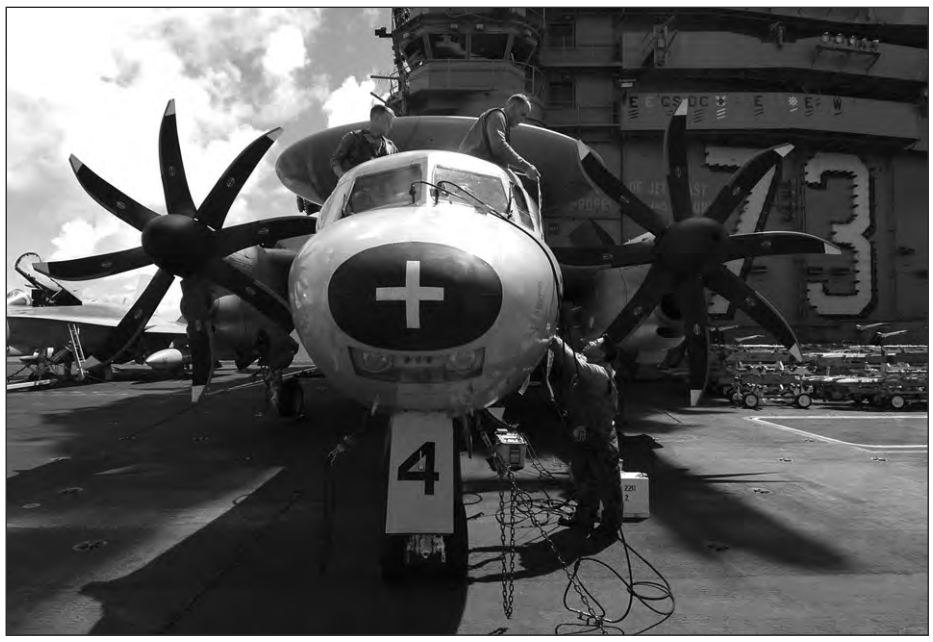
Key among the advances is the cooperative engagement capability upgrade which enables the Hawkeye to serve as the fleet's information hub, fusing and distributing information from sources such as satellite and ship-borne radar. This enhanced technology provides better data links to ships conducting ballistic missile defense operations at sea, expanding the reach of U.S. Navy maritime operations in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

The VAW 115 maintenance officer and naval flight officer Lt. Cmdr. Bill Selk has worked with the E-2C Hawkeye for over a decade and feels this new upgrade will play a vital role in CVW 5's mission.

"From the outside both airplanes look almost identical, but from the inside it brings a whole new level of capability for us," said Selk. "It has a few new displays and a few new systems that will really enhance our situational awareness and will help us convey that to the battle space."

The Hawkeye 2000's arrival was no surprise to the squadron. According to Cmdr. Chris Martin, VAW 115's commanding officer, the squadron had an ample amount of resources to make the transition a simple one.

"We started about six to eight months ago. We started looking at our training requirements and began planning," Martin said. "Also we have maintenance training teams coming from the U.S. and as well as our fleet replacement squadron to help us transition to the new airplane."



Sailors from the "Liberty Bells" of VAW 115 perform maintenance on an E-2C Hawkeye aboard the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73). Three new E-2C Hawkeye 2000 aircraft joined the squadron and is part of several recent upgrades to CVW 5.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Phillip Pavlovich

As for the maintainers, the transition shouldn't place too much change in how they handle required maintenance.

"Most of the systems are the same with the exceptions of the electricians and avionics technicians," said Selk. "There will be some new systems for them to learn and I know they are excited to get their hands on them and show us what they can do with them."

Naval history, heritage Web site highlights Women's History Month

By Naval History and Heritage Command Public Affairs

To highlight Women's History Month, the Naval History and Heritage Command Web site, www.history.navy.mil, has unveiled a rich resource of women's history to honor women and their service in the U.S. Navy.

The site includes famous Navy biographies for women such as Rear Adm. Nora W. Tyson, who is currently serving as Commander Task Force 73, commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific, in Singapore, and Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, a pioneering leader in information technology, who served in the Navy for 43 years.

Historical vignettes featuring stories about the contribution of Navy women in aviation, in leadership advancement, even in the space program, are on the Web site, plus the early history of female naval officers and the first African American female officers.

Milestones for women in naval history, ships named after women, oral histories of the attack on Pearl Harbor and perspectives of Navy women who served in Philippines.

Navy uniforms for women in the Naval Reserve in 1918 and service dress blues for the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) from 1944 may be seen on the site.

Art work from the U.S. Navy Art Gallery is featured with depictions of women in service throughout history. Significant first assignments, including the historical background of breakthrough appointments for women in the Navy, are explained with the art.

From the Naval History and Heritage Command photo archives, the site shows female yeoman photographs from World War I, recruiting posters for women from World War II, WAVES photographs from World War II and post World War II photographs.

There is also a section on interesting stories and reading material to strengthen your perspective of female service in the Navy, to include some of the following articles:

- I was a Yeoman
- Establishment of Navy Nurse Corps, 1908
- Women on Navy Ships in 19th Century
- Congratulatory Letter from President Roosevelt on 1 year anniversary of WAVES
- Establishment of Women's Reserve, 1942
- Z-gram on equal rights and opportunities for women, 1972
- Assigning Women to Ships, 1978
- Role of Women during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The Naval History and Heritage Command Web site is one of the most frequently visited Navy resources with tens of thousands of pages of history, photographs and historical art available to the fleet and the American public.

(Left) Seaman 2nd Classes Elaine Olsen and Ted Snow learn to take down a radial aircraft engine block at Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N.J., during World War II.

Official U.S. Navy archives photo