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Commandant pushes for six-month AOA

Amos: EFV Replacement Could Have Two Parts: Transporter And Vehicle

The Marine Corps will examine a range of options for the Amphibious Combat Vehicle -- the replacement for the canceled Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle -- over the next few months, including one option that would use a transport vessel to take a combat vehicle ashore, Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos told reporters following his address at a July 27 conference in Washington.

"Is this a one-vehicle thing or is there a transporter that will carry . . . whatever this new ACV looks like?" Amos said. "Will it be transported on that to get it to shore and then you drive this thing on? That sounds real exciting until you start thinking, 'OK, well, what's that going to be, and where's it going to fit on an amphibious ship, and is it going

continued on page 8

Engineering fixes in place, commandant claims

Amos: STOVL JSF Could Be Out Of Probation After Less Than A Year

The Marine Corps could bring its troubled short-take-off, vertical-landing variant of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter out of its two-year probation less than a year into it pending successful tests aboard the amphibious ship Wasp (LHD-1) later this year, Commandant Gen. James Amos said at a conference in Washington July 27.

Then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates placed the program on probation in January due to continuing cost and schedule problems driven by engineering challenges the program has encountered during early testing. Gates said he recommended canceling the program in two years if the problems are not resolved. Amos said last week that he was the one who came up with the two-year probation when Gates was leaning toward just one year, and he believes that the

continued on page 9

Adding muscle to Pacific theater

Navy Lays Out Plan To Shift 26 Super Hornets From East To West Coast

The Navy has unveiled a plan to move two fighter-attack aircraft squadrons from the East Coast to the West Coast in response to a need for a greater presence in the Pacific, and the service will upgrade five additional F/A-18 West Coast squadrons to the newer E/F designation, according to a July 26 draft environmental impact statement.

The proposed moves will result in an increase of 26 aircraft at Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA. "These actions are anticipated to occur in the 2013 to 2015 time frame," the document states. "East Coast strike fighter squadrons would be identified based on operational availability to execute the relocation to NAS Lemoore tentatively planned in 2014."

The increasing demands of carrier air wing operations in the Pacific theater are driving the Navy's decision to

continued on page 10

MLP could host LCUs

Official: Navy To Conduct AOA For Replacement Of LCU Transports

The Navy plans to overhaul its fleet of heavy-duty Landing Craft Utility vessels used to ferry troops and supplies to the shore within the next few years, and the service will begin an analysis of alternatives next year, Capt. Walter Towns, director of amphibious warfare (N853), said July 26 at a conference in Washington.

"We've got to recapitalize [the LCU] -- that's an important craft in the inventory," Towns said. "So we're . . . conducting an AOA starting next year to take a look at our LCUs to figure out exactly what we need from the LCU, and what's going to be the replacement craft for LCU."

The LCU is a slower, heavier-lifting version of the Landing Craft, Air Cushion and the follow-on Ship-to-Shore

continued on page 10

Saving on Shipbuilding

The Navy awarded a $1.7 million contract to research company SCRA to fund the Center for Naval Shipbuilding Technology in Charleston, SC, which seeks to "drive shipyard improvements and ultimately reduce the cost and time required to build and repair Navy ships," according to a July 28 SCRA statement. The Navy awarded an initial contract in August 2009 that had three one-year extension options after two years; this is the first one-year extension. The center claims to have achieved more than $20 million in per-hull cost savings for several Navy platforms.