

Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA)

Executive Summary

- Milestone B was approved and the System Development and Demonstration phase began in May 2004.
- Boeing was chosen as the prime contractor with the 737 as the chosen airframe.
- Thirty-four aircraft were approved for low-rate initial production out of a total aircraft buy of 115. Seven of those aircraft are test assets.
- An update to the Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) is in progress.

System

- The Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) is a next generation U.S. Navy maritime patrol aircraft.
- MMA is based on extended range Boeing 737 aircraft.
- It carries and employs anti-ship missiles, air-to-surface weapons, depth bombs, torpedoes, naval mines, sonobuoys, and other expendables.
- It carries onboard sensors, including radar, electro-optic sensors, and a magnetic anomaly detector.
- The MMA replaces the Navy's aging P-3 Orion aircraft.

Mission

- Naval combatant commanders use MMA to provide persistent anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare capabilities.



- It conducts maritime and littoral surveillance and reconnaissance missions.
- It collects, processes, evaluates, and disseminates intelligence information to Naval and Joint forces.
- It attacks surface and subsurface targets with onboard weapons.

Activity

- The Component Advance Development phase was conducted from January 2002 to May 2004.
- A TEMP update is in progress.
- Wind tunnel testing to support early design and trade studies is being conducted.
- Live Fire ballistic tests conducted during August and September 2005 provided wing leading edge and trailing edge dry bay fire vulnerability data. The test results are being analyzed.

Assessment

- A test aircraft was moved to the first phase of development. This will reduce risk to the test program schedule.
- Major risks to the planned timeline are the integration of onboard sensors, data processing capabilities, integration of

- weapons stores, weight growth, and interoperability with the Navy's family of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems.
- Integration with the Navy's Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is required to accomplish all the missions currently conducted by the Navy's P-3 fleet.
- The large low-rate initial production buy of aircraft will necessitate a significant amount of test and evaluation early in the program, prior to the Milestone C decision, to reduce risk.

Recommendations

None.

NAVY PROGRAMS