

## *Aerial Reconnaissance*

### *Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)*

#### *Description*

The Navy and Marine Corps have initiated a program to develop and field a Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). PEO (W) as the lead acquisition agent for the VTUAV has selected Northrop Grumman's "Fire Scout" for development. The Fire Scout is an unmanned version of a Schweizer helicopter equipped with an EO/IR/Laser Designator payload. This system is planned to replace the current UAV system, Pioneer, beginning in FY03. The "Fire Scout" will have the capability to takeoff and land from any air capable ship (a ship possessing at least one helicopter landing spot) as well as operate from austere unprepared sites ashore. Additional capabilities include: range of 110 nm, speed of 135 kts, and service ceiling minimum of 15,000 ft.

#### *Operational Impact*

The concept of expeditionary maneuver warfare is intensive from both the manpower and technology perspective. This concept is based on leveraging technology to both reduce risk and manpower required. The use of unmanned systems, such as UAV's, is a key component of this concept. The Marine Corps' vision of the Tactical UAV is to operate it as an integral part of our MAGTF ACE. The Marine Corps foresees a Tactical UAV with a VTOL capability that can operate from any air capable ship as well as extremely austere locations ashore. The Marine Corps requires a very robust system that is easily deployed and sustainable to provide the MAGTF and JFC commanders' with maximum capability and flexibility.

#### *Program Status*

The VTOL ORD was approved by the JROC during 1999. OPNAV (code N-75), resource sponsor, received full funding for a VTOL UAV capability for a new program start during FY00. A contract for Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) was awarded to Northrop Grumman in March 2000. The program has completed its initial design review and the contractor has conducted risk reduction testing of the first prototype. The program is currently proceeding on schedule and within Budget.

#### *Procurement Profile: FY01                      FY02*

*Quantity: LRIP            1                      0*

#### *Developer/Manufacturer*

Northrop Grumman