

Global Hawk Block 30 Initial Operational Test and Evaluation Results

Purpose: Provide Perspective on Global Hawk Initial Operational Test and Evaluation Results

Discussion: The Global Hawk Initial Operational Test and Evaluation provided an assessment of the system at a snapshot in time, which was at the end of 2010.

- We view the AFOTEC report and operational test findings as a **positive step** forward for Global Hawk, since this affords us an opportunity to further mature the Global Hawk system.
- We recently deployed the first Block 20 and Block 30 Global Hawks to the field and have received high praise from the Combatant Commanders for the game-changing capabilities.
- Since their recent worldwide deployment began last August, the Block 20s and 30s have performed quite well and have flown more than **160 Block 20/30 missions** in support of humanitarian and combat operations accumulating more than **3500 flight hours** and performing at better than **90% Mission Effectiveness**. This is particularly significant because this is in advance of an official Initial Operational Capability (IOC) declaration.
- Partially Mission Capable (PMC) ratings for major weapon and weapon systems are the norm for newly fielded capabilities, with system sustainability issues as the leading challenges requiring support and funding as the weapon system matures.
- However we know that the Global Hawk system can be improved. The results from the AFOTEC report will help us chart that improvement plan.

Since the completion of IOT&E, Northrop Grumman and the USAF have worked to incorporate several improvements and the system has performed quite well over Japan and Libya in March and April 2011. These enhancements will help us to increase Global Hawk's utility to the war-fighter.

- During IOT&E, we had a few aircraft issues, and issues related to training and communications. We are aggressively working to improve aircraft reliability and maintainability, as well as improving operator training. As an example, the IOT&E report identified the premature failure of the generator oil pump. This was a known issue that was being worked in parallel with IOT&E. That issue is behind us with current aircraft flying upgraded generators with several thousand hours without any problems.
- Of the nine most frequent issues Global Hawk experienced during IOT&E (the top nine issues comprised over 80% of all issues), we have initiated corrective action on all of the top Issues. To date, five of the nine top IOT&E issues are corrected, and the team is on track to complete the remainder in several months.

With respect to the Block 30 sensors in terms of ASIP performance, we have three ASIP software release upgrades scheduled prior to the Block 30 Follow-On Test and Evaluation set for the third quarter of FY12. We are confident these software release upgrades will resolve most of the issues that appeared in testing, since they are proven with over 300 operational missions on another platform.

Conclusions

- The Global Hawk program is moving forward and performing very well overseas. We view operational test results as an opportunity to provide the war-fighter improved capability in which we are proactively addressing all findings with the USAF.
- Operational Tests are important and necessary benchmarks that inform a Full Rate Production Decision and Initial Operational Capability declaration. Both milestones are on track for Summer 2011.