

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Testing on Tuesday, September 27th

Navy to Test E-2D aircraft on EMALS at JB MDL

Sept 19, 2011: LAKEHURST, NJ – Media are invited to attend the test launching of the Navy’s E-2D Advanced Hawkeye, all-weather carrier based airborne early warning and command and control aircraft, from the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) in Lakehurst, NJ.

This is the first opportunity for media to observe the actual launch of an aircraft from the EMALS system.

EMALS, a complete launch system designed for Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and future Ford-class aircraft carriers, will replace the steam catapult system which has been in use for more than 50 years. The system at Lakehurst is a full-scale shipboard representative test platform that includes the major software and hardware components to be installed on the Gerald R. Ford.

The mission and functions of EMALS remain the same as the steam catapult; however, EMALS employs entirely different technologies. Consisting of six subsystems, the launching system is designed to expand the operational capability of the Navy’s future carriers.

EMALS delivers the necessary higher launch energy capacity as well as substantial improvements in system maintenance, efficiency, and more accurate end-speed control. The system’s technology allows for smooth

acceleration at both high and low speeds, increasing the carrier's ability to launch aircraft in support of the warfighter. The system will provide the capability for launching all current and future carrier air wing platforms – lightweight unmanned aircraft to heavy strike fighters.

Testing will take place Tuesday morning, September 27.

Media are requested to RSVP to 732-323-2811 or 732-323-1079 by 4:00pm on Monday, Sept 26.

Media attending need to arrive at the JB MDL Lakehurst front gate by 9:00am on Tuesday, September 27.

All drivers and vehicles need to have drivers license, registration and current insurance before entering the base. Media will be escorted by the public affairs staff to a short briefing on CVN 78, EMALS and the E-2D and to the NAVAIR Lakehurst EMALS test site to observe the testing. An opportunity for standup interviews will follow the launches.

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