REACHING HIGHER
Test and Evaluation Squadron (HX) 21

"BLACKJACKS"

Mission

Tracing its origins to the establishment of the rotary-wing section of the flight test division at Naval Air Test Center in 1949, HX-21's mission is to perform developmental testing and evaluation of rotary-wing and tilt-rotor aircraft and their associated airborne sensors and weapons systems for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. HX-21 supports all Navy and Marine Corps training, combat, and combat support missions. The squadron strives to provide the highest quality evaluation and reporting in support of the aircraft program managers and the fleet warfighters.

HX-21 operates 44 aircraft in 11 different type/model/series. The pride and professionalism inherent in everything HX-21 does is reflected in its motto, "World's Greatest Test Squadron."

Aircraft

- C/MV-22B Osprey
- UH-1Y Venom
- AH-1Z Viper
- CH-53K King Stallion
- CH-53E Super Stallion
- MH-53E Sea Dragon
- NVH-3A/VH-3D Sea King
- NSH-60F/VH-60N Whitehawk
- VH-92A
- MH-60R Seahawk
- MH-60S Knighthawk
- TH-57C Sea Ranger

Vital Statistics

- Supported 179 test and evaluation projects in 2019 totaling 1,557 sorties and nearly 2,465 flight hours
- Conducted 454 flight tests totaling over 976 test hours and over 10,510 hours of ground test
- 37 officers and 47 enlisted personnel, 346 civilians, and more than 500 contractors

HX-21

Recent Accomplishments

- The H-1 Test Team completed Distributed Aperture Infrared Countermeasure (DAIRCM) testing on the AH-1Z and UH-1Y providing enhanced survivability to West Coast MEU detachments. Developmental testing continues on APR-39D(V)2 which will further enhance survivability fleet-wide and Joint Air-to-Ground Missile which provides increased lethality above the legacy Hellfire.
- The V-22 Test Team recently accepted and began evaluation of the first two Navy CMV-22 aircraft, conducted Dynamic Interface testing aboard LHD-1, and tested nacelle inlet filtering solutions and mission avionics software.
- The CH-53K Integrated Test Team continued to expand the internal and external flight envelope as well as successfully conducted the first aerial refueling and ship-based envelope expansion testing. The team also pressed forward with planning for inflight power available and improved rotor track and balance coefficient development testing for the CH-53E, as well as a degraded visual environment solution – Low Speed Precision Control, both of which are slated for upcoming testing events.
- The MH-60 test team collected valuable GPS-denied environment data at NAVFEST 2020 in White Sands, New Mexico and completed testing of the DAIRCM system on the MH-60S with detachments to Eglin AFB, and Norfolk Naval Station, which will improve the survivability of the helicopter against Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADs).
- The Presidential Helicopter Test Team supported government-led combined developmental test of six VH-92A aircraft and began preparations for Initial Operational Test and Evaluation and eventual replacement of both the VH-3D and VH-60N.

Naval Test Wing Atlantic provides developmental flight and ground testing for the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, the Navy's largest warfare center.