

Little news tidbits for your consideration.

1. Boeing announced completion of its deal to buy Vought's South Carolina 787 factory. The deal, which included a cash outlay of \$580 million plus forgiveness of a \$420 million loan (used by Vought to establish the factory), creates "Boeing Charleston". (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 3, 2009)
2. The U.S. Navy has ordered 3 more P-8A Poseidon multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft from Boeing, bringing the total Test & Evaluation phase order to eight aircraft. (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 3, 2009)
3. The US Navy's F/A-18 E/F Superhornet was qualified to increase flight ceilings from 29,000 to 41,000 feet, a change expected to lead to lower fuel consumption (among other things). All aircraft in Lots 22 and beyond (about 340 aircraft) were qualified. (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 3, 2009).
4. Qatar took delivery of two C-17 cargo aircraft -- one for military use and one for use by Qatar Amiri Flight, an airline established for the Qatari royal family. This marks the first reported time that a C-17 has received a commercial registration and paint scheme. (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 3, 2009)
5. The US Navy plans to award Boeing a contract to flight test an air-launched version of the ScanEagle UAV, fitted with a magnetic anomaly detector and called the MagEagle, to locate submerged submarines and track them for up to 24 hours. (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 10, 2009)
6. Lockheed Martin has added hydraulically operated spoilers to the outer wing panels of its F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (carrier variant). The addition was made to avoid "wing-drop"--a phenomenon that can occur when maneuvering at transonic speed an high turn rate. This problem was experienced on the F/A-18 E/F Superhornet. (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 10, 2009)
7. The EA-18G "Growler/Grizzly" aircraft passed US Navy operational evaluation in July and was declared to be "operationally effective and suitable" for use by the fleet. This could lead to additional orders for Boeing and its production team, perhaps more than doubling the current order from 34 to as many as 70 aircraft. (Source: AW&ST, Aug. 10, 2009)