

Scorpion jet completes first weapons exercise

Aerospace testing International



Textron AirLand announced on October 19 that the Scorpion jet has successfully completed its first weapons exercise at White Sands Missile Range, while operating from Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) in New Mexico. This exercise effectively demonstrated the Scorpion's close air support mission capability through the successful deployment of three widely used weapon systems.

The weapons system design, integration and flight test coordination for all three weapon types were achieved in an impressive timespan of less than three months. The weapons testing program took place on October 10-14 in coordination with the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) organization and the 586th Flight Test Squadron from HAFB.

All weapon types performed flawlessly and included Hydra-70 unguided 2.75-in rockets, BAE Systems' Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) and AGM-114F Hellfire Missiles. The weapons were guided to their targets using first a ground-based laser designator system, and then an airborne laser on the Scorpion's L-3 WESCAM's MX-15Di sensor suite.

The first Scorpion prototype continues its robust flight test program, while the first flight of the first production conforming Scorpion is expected soon.