



US NAVY EA-6B PROWLER RECOVERED

For Immediate Release – November 17, 2003

Washington, DC -- Phoenix International, Inc., (Phoenix) announced today the successful completion of a mission to locate and recover a US Navy EA-6B aircraft from 58 msw in the Persian Gulf. The aircraft was lost while conducting flight operations this past summer.



Under the direction of the Office of the USN Supervisor of Salvage, a Phoenix search and recovery team reported aboard USNS CATAWBA (T-ATF 168) on 9 September to initiate shipboard installation of equipment. Subsequently, the team deployed the Navy's Centurion shallow-water side scan sonar search system to methodically cover the initial search area. By 13 September, a scattered debris field was identified within the area. After comprehensively mapping all potential objects of interest, USNS CATAWBA anchored over the debris field on 15 September and deployed the Navy's Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), DEEP DRONE, to identify and recover specific components of the airplane. Portions of both engines along with other essential pieces of the aircraft were rigged and retrieved by DEEP DRONE using ROV through-frame and manipulator recovery techniques. The operation was concluded 20 September when all required salvage objectives were met.

The US Navy, through the Naval Sea Systems Command's Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (NAVSEA 00C) developed and maintains a national capability to search, locate, and recover objects of interest lost in water depths to 6,000 meters. In addition to meeting the Navy's search and recovery needs, the Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV) offers its assistance in support of accident investigations by the Army, Coast Guard, Air Force, NASA, FAA, and NTSB as well as to foreign governments and agencies requesting such expertise.

Phoenix provides high quality manned and unmanned marine services to an international customer base from major facilities in Landover, MD and Morgan City, LA. Phoenix is the SUPSALV prime contractor responsible for maintaining, modifying, upgrading, and operating Navy owned sonar, ROV, and heavy lift equipment required to plan and conduct underwater search and recovery operations on a worldwide basis.

For further information: Please contact Tim Janaitis (tjanaitis@phnx-international.com) Tel: 301.341.7800; Fax: 301.499.0027, or view our web site: www.phnx-international.com