



US MARINE CORPS AV-8B RECOVERED

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Washington, DC -- Phoenix International, Inc., (Phoenix), prime contractor to the Naval Sea Systems Command's Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) announced the completion of the successful recovery of a USMC AV-8B from a depth of 3,800 ft. off the coast of San Diego, CA.



The AV-8B, a vertical / short takeoff and landing (V/STOL) strike aircraft, was lost during routine exercises earlier in the summer. The aircraft was initially found on 17 June by personnel of the U.S. Navy's Deep Submergence Unit, Submarine Development Squadron FIVE, San Diego embarked on DSESS Kellie Chouest using the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Scorpio. Subsequent to Scorpio's recovery of the flight data recorder on 24 June, a decision was made to retrieve the entire aircraft.

Phoenix along with SUPSALV personnel and equipment were mobilized aboard USNS NAVAJO (T-ATF 169) on 30 August to perform the recovery. Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit ONE served as the On Scene Commander for Commander Third Fleet. The Phoenix team deployed the Navy's MAGNUM, a 10,000 fsw depth capable, caged ROV to rig the AV-8B for the lift. The recovery was successfully completed using the 15,000 pound lift capacity Fly Away Deep Ocean Salvage System which was mobilized from the Emergency Ship Salvage Material base in Williamsburg, Virginia.

SUPSALV is responsible for developing and maintaining a national capability to search, locate, and recover objects of interest lost in water depths to 20,000 feet. In addition to meeting the Navy's search and recovery needs, SUPSALV provides accident investigation assistance to the Army, Coast Guard, Air Force, NASA, FAA, and NTSB, as well as to foreign governments and agencies requesting its expertise.

Phoenix provides high quality manned and unmanned marine services to an international customer base from its 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 used to conduct worldwide underwater search and recovery operations.

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