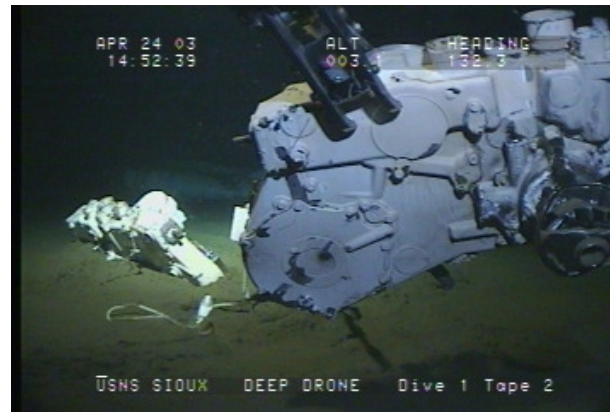




US MARINE CORPS F-18 RECOVERED

For Immediate Release – May 22, 2003



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 successful conclusion of an operation to recover components of a USMC F-18D fighter aircraft lost offshore San Clemente Island, CA in a water depth of 1250 meters.

SUPSALV, as director of underwater search and recovery efforts involving aircraft and other items of national interest, instructed Phoenix to perform the F-18D recovery. On 21 April, the Phoenix crew and US Navy recovery equipment were mobilized aboard USNS SIOUX (T-ATF 171) in San Diego.

After arriving on the crash scene on 24 April, SUPSALV's DEEP DRONE Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) was deployed to the bottom to complete a comprehensive video and still camera survey of the wreckage to assist in the development of a recovery plan. Based on the analysis of this information, the recovery team rigged and lifted both of the aircraft's engines and reduction gears using DEEP DRONE and a through-the-ROV-frame lift technique. Demobilization of men and equipment occurred 29 April in San Diego.

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 command and control for 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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