



PHOENIX RECOVERS U.S. NAVY E-2C

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Washington, DC -- Phoenix International Holdings, Inc. (Phoenix) announced the successful recovery of a U.S. Navy E-2C Hawkeye from 3,300 meters of seawater (msw) in the North Arabia Sea.

The Hawkeye crashed March 31st during flight operations from the aircraft carrier, USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69). The recovery marks the successful conclusion of a two phased search and recovery operation. Phoenix, under the guidance of the Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving, pinpointed the location of the E-2C during a three day search of a 10-mile x 10-mile area in mid April using the Navy's Towed Pinger Locator (TPL) system. TPL's are passive listening devices capable of hearing the acoustic emissions of the saltwater activated beacon onboard the aircraft. The search operation was conducted from USNS CATAWBA (T-ATF 168) home ported in Manama, Bahrain.



Tasking for the recovery phase of the project was received in May. Given the expected onset of the bad weather season, the decision was made to expedite the recovery operation by using Phoenix's 6,000 msw depth rated Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Remora, already pre-positioned in Limassol, Cyprus. Additional required recovery equipment included the Navy's 30 kip Flyaway Deep Ocean Salvage System (FADOSS), a system specifically designed to lift heavy, bulky items from deep water using a motion compensator to reduce high snap loading of the lift line. EDT ARES, a DP II ship owned by EDT Offshore in Limassol, served as the recovery vessel. A security crew was embarked on EDT ARES to assure its safe transit through pirate plagued waters to the crash site.

Remora commenced diving on June 9th to re-locate the wreck site and survey the debris field to identify portions of the E-2C to be recovered for an ensuing crash investigation. The starboard propeller hub and gear box, aircraft wing, fuselage sections, and tail were safely recovered over the next three days for this purpose.

Phoenix provides manned and unmanned underwater operations, design engineering, and project management services to clients in the offshore oil & gas, defense, and other ocean-interest industries worldwide. Expertise is available from six regional offices in the areas of wet and dry hyperbaric welding, conventional and atmospheric diving, robotic systems, and tooling. Our capabilities support subsea tieback; underwater inspection, maintenance and repair; construction; deep ocean search & recovery; and submarine rescue.

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