

Navy Orders Two More MQ-4C Triton UAVs



An MQ-4C Triton takes to the skies over the California desert as the Triton low-rate initial production schedule progresses. *NORTHROP GRUMMAN*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy has ordered two more MQ-4C Triton high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles from Northrop Grumman, the Defense Department said June 22.

The Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland, awarded Northrop Grumman Systems a \$248.2 million contract modification to procure two MQ-4Cs as an addition to Lot 5 low-rate initial production.

The contract modification follows two other contracts awarded in June to Northrop Grumman for the Triton program.

The Naval Air Systems Command awarded Northrop Grumman a \$15.1 million contract modification on June 14 to incorporate production engineering change proposals that modify MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system production UAVs to an integrated functional capability 4.0 multiple intelligence configuration for the Navy and the government of Australia.

Another contract issued June 16 awarded the company \$20.5 million to incorporate IFC-4 for MQ-4Cs construction numbers B13 through B15.

The MQ-4C's IFC-4 is designed to bring an enhanced multi-mission sensor capability as part of the Navy's Maritime Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Targeting transition plan. The Triton in the IFC-4 configuration is designed to complement the Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and eventually will enable the Navy to retire its EP-3E Orion electronic reconnaissance aircraft. The

initial operational capability for the Triton will be declared in 2023 when IFC-4-configured Tritons are deployed in enough quantity to field one complete orbit.

Work on the two additional UAVs is expected to be completed in February 2027.