

Navy's Next Tomahawk Missile: Block 5



A Tomahawk cruise missile launches from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Shoup during a live-fire exercise. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class William Collins III

ARLINGTON,

Va.— Raytheon Missile Co. will build a new block upgrade of the Tomahawk cruise missile for the U.S. Navy even as the company takes older missiles into a recertification program to return them to service.

“Tomahawk has returned to production [after a one-year gap],” said Chris Daily, Raytheon’s Tomahawk program manager, speaking to reporters May 7 at the Sea-Air-Space Expo in National Harbor, Md. “All production beginning in fiscal ’20 will be Block 5.”

“Tomahawk will be in the fleet until the 2050s.”

Chris Daily,

Tomahawk program manager at RAYTHEON

He said the fiscal 2020-2021 production – 90 missiles per year – will emerge as Block 5 versions.

The Block 5 version is an upgrade of the Block 4 Tomahawk, with upgrades such as navigation and communications improvements.

A subversion,
Block 5A, will be the Maritime Strike Tomahawk (MST), equipped
with a multimode
seeker that retains a land-attack capability.

“The MST is
going to be a great addition to the fleet,” Daily said.

Another, the
Block 5B, will be a Block V armed with the Joint Multiple
Effects Warhead and
will be fielded in 2024-2025.

Daily said
the Block 4 Tomahawks being recertified after 15 years in
service also will
emerge as Block 5 versions. The first deliveries will occur in
2020.

“Tomahawk will be in the
fleet until the 2050s,” Daily said.