



# News Release

Telephone: (732) 323-2620,  
Pager: 1-888-646-2851  
Fax: (732) 323-7676

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[www.lakehurst.navy](http://www.lakehurst.navy)

Contact: Thomas Worsdale, Public Affairs Officer  
Lawrence Lyford, Deputy Public Affairs Officer

## At NAVAIR Lakehurst

### Navy to test latest aircraft carrier landing system

When the USS Ronald Reagan (the Navy's newest Aircraft Carrier) sets out to sea next year it will be equipped with a new state-of-the-art recovery system that is being tested right here at NAVAIR Lakehurst this week.

The Mark 7 Mod 4 Shipboard Arresting Gear utilizes a stronger cable system and is designed to require less maintenance and manpower than existing landing systems on current Carriers. The tests this week are designed to establish the maximum speeds that an F/A-18 can hit the cable without overloading the aircraft or exceed the arresting gear loading limits.

The testing at NAVAIR Lakehurst will be conducted with the latest version of the F/A-18 fighter aircraft (the E and F models) at landing speeds between 125-150 knots. A series of 60 aircraft landings are planned, and they will generate data that simulate shipboard conditions in order to demonstrate compatibility with the fleet aircraft, while evaluating the performance of the new landing system.

NAVAIR Lakehurst is the only Navy facility designed to prototype, manufacture and test the systems necessary for the launch and recovery of all aircraft from Aircraft Carriers and sea based platforms. This mission is critical to the continued success of the Navy as it supports Operation Enduring Freedom.

The media is invited to witness these tests planned for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at the base's test runway. Media must be in place at the test site by 9:30 a.m. Those interested may contact the Public Affairs Office at 732-323-1079. *Contact day of event for latest test schedule.*