

## Naval Aviation Leaders Discuss 2012 Enterprise Approach

By Naval Aviation Enterprise Public Affairs

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PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS) – Top Navy and Marine Corps aviation leaders met as an executive committee recently to engage in dialogue about the 2012 strategy for the Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE). This annual gathering provides an opportunity to discuss the challenges facing Naval Aviation, including current operations, an unpredictable future and the impact of limited resources and budgets.

Founded to improve Naval Aviation readiness and reduce cost growth, the NAE is a partnership across Navy and Marine aviation commands and leadership that is committed to working together in a transparent, collaborative manner in order to make the best possible decisions to support readiness.

The Enterprise is currently led by Vice Adm. Al Myers, Commander, Naval Air Forces and Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific; Marine Lt. Gen. Terry Robling, Deputy Commandant for Aviation; and, by Vice Adm. David Architzel, Commander, Naval Air Systems Command.

“The purpose of this gathering,” opened NAE co-lead Vice Adm. Al Myers, “is to look at today’s environment and understand where we need to focus looking ahead, all in the context of a strategic plan for the next two years.”

Discussions centered on key focus areas including the NAE’s strategy and execution baseline, budget updates, strategic vectors, the challenges to Naval Aviation and finalizing an updated NAE Strategic Plan for the next two years.

In addition to maintaining NAE strategic objectives aimed at current readiness, future readiness and the people that make up the total force of Naval Aviation, the NAE executive committee formally reintroduced a total-costs focused Strategic Cost Management objective.

This new strategic objective is intended to provide Naval Aviation decision-makers with a deeper awareness of cost relationships across the Enterprise in a time of increased fiscal constraints. NAE leadership recognizes the need for additional attention to operations and sustainment costs across platforms, as well as developing the means for more focused consideration of Total Ownership Costs (TOC) earlier in the acquisition process.

"Looking back, we see that changing naval aviation maintenance from a three-level model into a two-level model was a game-changer. The Fleet Readiness Centers give us great efficiency benefits," said co-lead Vice Adm. David Architzel. "As an Enterprise, we need to find the next game-changer that will produce similar benefits for the future of naval aviation."

Beyond the strategic objectives, leaders discussed ways in which the NAE could improve communication and better address barriers to advancing and sustaining warfighting capabilities while continuing to control costs.

“In the coming year we will be advancing ‘ownership’ of the Enterprise down to the lowest levels, creating an understanding of Enterprise objectives across the stakeholder continuum and working hard on integration opportunities,” noted co-lead Lt. Gen. Terry Robling.

The two-day meeting wrapped up with great optimism for the near-term and future outlook of Naval Aviation.

“One of our goals going into this meeting was to stimulate collaboration and transparency,” said Robling. “The dialog and openness among the stakeholders present was outstanding. I think we’ve set the tone for that up and down the Enterprise.”

Vice Adm. Myers went on to add, “The Enterprise has done great work over the years, and we look forward to the same level of effort and success on the tremendous amount of work still left to do.”

Naval Aviation today includes more than 190,000 Sailors, Marines, civilians and contractors, more than 3,700 aircraft, 11 aircraft carriers and executes a budget in excess of \$40 billion annually.

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<http://www.public.navy.mil/airfor/nae/Pages/Home.aspx>

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