

Robot strike fighter flies from carrier

The U.S. Navy has made aviation history by launching an X-47B prototype drone off an aircraft carrier for the first time. The autonomous combat aircraft can choose and fire upon targets with no human intervention

USS George H.W. Bush

X-47B:
Developed by
Northrop
Grumman
at cost of
\$1.4 billion

Powerplant: Pratt & Whitney
F100-220U turbofan

Wingspan:
18.92m extended,
9.41m folded

Empty weight: 6,350kg

Max. takeoff weight:
20,215 kg

Max. speed: High subsonic

Range: 2,100 nautical miles
(3,890km)

Service ceiling: 12,190m

Armament:

Prototype carries
no weapons.
Production model
will carry 2,000kg
of missiles in
twin weapons
bays

Official name: Unmanned
Carrier Launched Airborne
Surveillance and Strike
System, or UCLASS