AVIATION WEEK SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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The View Ahead

PAGE 62

AVIATION In Oct participant of the count another 21 The Middle largest exporters (support of the largest exporter) (support of the largest exporter) (support of the largest exporter) (support of the largest exp



HEADLINE NEWS

Navy study tackles 21st century threats

Unmanned recon and strike aircraft would be launched from helicopter decks of small warships 32

Navy weighs radical weaponry, aircraft

Miniaturized weapons and aircraft that fly in surface effect are among ideas evaluated

Defense policy bill hostage to repair flap

Delayed bill addresses multitude of security matters, among them military operations and training

Moldovan MiG-29s to fly for USAF

Biggest reason for obtaining front-line CIS aircraft is for tactics and training use 37

Pentagon OKs two EELVs

Cites phenomenal growth in commercial demand for launches for picking two instead of just one

Ariane orbit shortfall, booster loss assessed

On-board computer shut down cryogenic engine earlier than planned

S-37 testbed evaluates new fighter concepts

New Sukhoi prototype configured with three surfaces: forward-swept wing, canards, conventional tail

X-33 design gets go-ahead Moves one step closer to first flight in July 1999

Aerospike engine makes first flight

SR-71 carried rocket engine piggyback to test it under different flight conditions

http://www.awgnet.com

Aviation Week's Web site offers selected articles from the current issue, as well as daily news updates, the Safety Resource Center, a gallery of photos and features from special issues. It's also a great jumping off spot for surfing to other aerospace sites. We're available on CompuServe, too; just GO AWG.

About the Cover

In October, Egyptian F-16s
participated in ceremonies to
commemorate the 65th anniversary
of the country's air force, which has
another 21 Fighting Falcons on order.
The Middle East is set to continue as
the largest regional market for arms
exporters (see p. 62). Lockheed Martin
photo by Nick Alvarado.



AIR TRANSPORT

747 production resumes, but delays mount

Some fear assignment of engineers to production line support could slow developmental programs

Boeing to drop MD-80/-90 line

42

Will continue to build MD-11 trijet; defers decision on continued manufacturing of MD-95

US Airways, ALPA reach labor accord

Guarantees pilots pay parity with competitors, clears way for acquisition of up to 400 Airbus aircraft 55

Continental Airlines, pilots settle salary dispute

Would raise pay to industry standards, but big issues remain before final pact can be reached 56

FAA seeks changes in ICAO safety efforts

Wants deadlines for inspection reports on members and for plans to correct problems 58

Virgin A340 in emergency
Successful landing after left-hand

Successful landing after left-hand main landing gear fails to deploy 59









British Airways to unify French subsidiaries

To help streamline operations, sustain plan to restore profits

Trouble-free service entry for enhanced GPWS

Installed on about 110 aircraft, in place on more than 10,000 flights

FOCUS ON MIDDLE EAST

Gulf economies stretched by weapons purchases

Region continues as top arms importer, but many purchases have been delayed; fewer are in offing 62

Allies seen split on Middle East policy

Joint strategic policy urged if allies are to protect interests there

Regionals slow to start, while majors struggle

Continue to face political obstacles, hostility of national flag carriers 69

BUSINESS AVIATION

Fractional ownership apt to validate BBJ market

Size of shares tends to increase as aircraft size goes up 71

GAMA reports record billings for first three quarters

Fueled by strong demand for new aircraft and flight training 72

Citation Excel nears FAA certification

60

First deliveries expected in second quarter of 1998

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Israeli tool proves useful in part tolerance transfers

'Softgauge process' ensures fidelity of parts to computer design 77

AlliedSignal exploits software to improve parts forecasting

To keep inventory at minimum and ensure orders are filled promptly 78

Unisys' automated boarding streamlines Air China ops

Flight delays down 40% with system to improve passenger processing 78

Rockwell Collins to buy Hughes Avicom International

Intends to apply its avionics expertise to produce reliable entertainment systems



75

Aviation Week & Space Technology editors will discuss emerging trends this Friday on the new "Fox on Technology" program. The discus-

sion will center on issues to be featured in future editions of the magazine. The Fox show airs live at 1:40 p.m. EST. Consult your local listings for the time and cable channel in your area.

DEPARTMENTS

DEPARIMENTS	
Correspondence	6, 8
Who's Where	10
Market Focus	21
ndustry Outlook	23
Airline Outlook	25
n Orbit	27
News Breaks	29
Washington Outlook	31
Filter Center	79
Classified	80
Contact Us	84
Aerospace Calendar	85

VIEWPOINT

Aviation safety, politics DO mix......86

79