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GRAPHIC

No pilot, no problem

The experimental X-47B pilotless plane in development for the Navy will fly from aircraft carrier manned systems can be integrated with traditional carrier operations. How the plane will land:

X-47B features

The Navy and contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. : a pilotless plane to land on an aircraft carrier underw



Speed:
High subsonic

Altitude:
More than 40,000 feet

Range:
More than 2,400 miles

Endurance:
More than 6 hours without refueling

Published: Jan. 26, 2012

Sources: Northrup Grumman Corp.

Credits: Graphics reporting by Tom Reinken / Graphic by Doug Stevens / Interactive by [Anthony Pesce](#).

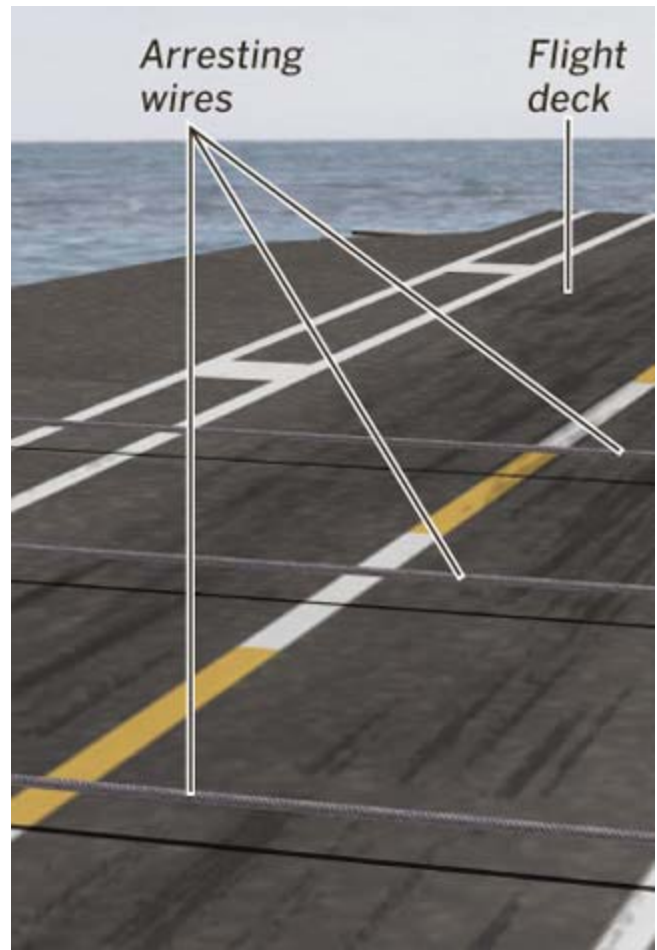
On approach

About five miles from landing, the plane begins to pr
than 100 times a second and continues to do so dur



Just before touchdown

A landing signals officer monitors the approach and
plane makes another approach.



Hooking an arrestor wire

Plane lands within a foot of deck's center line; if it misses, it reenters the landing pattern.



After landing

After the landing, an aircraft handler directs the plane to taxi it out of the landing area.



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Just before touchdown

Los Angeles Times

Hooking an arrestor wire

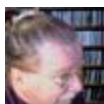
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After landing

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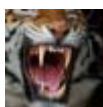
17 comments

[Add a comment](#)**Jim Bishop** · Works at Retirement Management

It makes my patriotic heart go pitter patter to realize what our tax dollars, filtered through the liver and gut of the 0.01%, can produce. Now, we can bomb the life out of anybody, including ourselves (Oh yes, fellow citizen, this gadget is coming to the sunny skies of California.), and nobody who is white will get hurt, at first.

[Reply](#) · [11](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 1:36am**Steve Puckett** · Retired!!! at Orange County Fire

Obama man I see

[Reply](#) · [4](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 7:51am**Tim Blake** · Christchurch, New Zealand

Steve Puckett Left wing do gooders. Perhaps he doesn't realise how many live it could save.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 12 hours ago**Ken Shepherd** · Victoria, British Columbia

Just keep an eye out for a large, naked, muscular man with an obsession for girls named Sarah.

[Reply](#) · [5](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 10:47am**Jalal Balayev** · Works at Skype

Can you say "Skynet":-)

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 4:22pm**Jay Scott**

We need to stay ahead of the curve...there are a lot of not so nice people out there...better we have it first than them. Unfortunately, we have found that weapons like this do not act as a deterrent to the medieval mindset of the Islamists...so we have to keep building more and more lethal weapons until Islam joins the world of the rule of law.

[Reply](#) · [2](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 4:40am**Richard Morgan** · Canterbury Christ Church University

SEMPER FI...There is no "rule of law" in America anymore...so, if I were YOU...I would be looking for this thing heading towards YOU....

Marine Corps jet fighter pilot [see: picture]...SEMPER FI.

[Reply](#) · [1](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 4:33pm**Piers Johnstone** · Manchester, United Kingdom

If the West didn't rob the middle east of it's resources, the Islamists (Who incidentally are no more insane or dangerous than a fundamentalist orthodox Jew or a Christian fundamentalist) would have no grudge with the West at all. How simple to be so oblivious to the obvious. An illegal war in Iraq is hardly the rule of law is it now?

[Reply](#) · [3](#) · [Like](#) · Thursday at 4:39pm**Mattan Ingram** · Top Commenter · Creative Director at Mashwork

Weapons don't act as a deterrent, so we should build more? You realize what a failure of logic that is right?

Furthermore calling them Islamists is rather ignorant. As ignorant as my calling the murderer in Norway a Christianist.