



2018 ANTELOPE VALLEY BOARD OF TRADE

US Navy MQ-4C Triton

Much of the Navy's maritime surveillance fleet is reaching the end of service life. Given the critical importance of maritime surveillance to our national security and economy, we cannot afford a gap in this critical capability. The Navy is recapitalizing the maritime surveillance mission with advanced technologies that will provide significantly increased capability and capacity while lowering total ownership costs. Among these technologies is the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system. The Navy has called Triton's persistent dwell and networked sensors a key component of the maritime strategy.

Northrop Grumman builds and tests Triton aircraft in Palmdale, CA, and several hundred California suppliers contribute to the production effort, including many in the Antelope Valley. In all, over 50% of the program's development and production activities are in California. In addition, the Navy has established a Triton base at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura County, where they will operate Triton aircraft and provide training for forward-deployed maintainers.

The first Triton aircraft are scheduled to be operational in 2018, providing unprecedented maritime surveillance capabilities in hot spots around the globe. Timely, accurate information is critical to supporting military and humanitarian operations and informing strategic decisions. This need is especially pronounced in the maritime environment, where vast expanses present a tremendous challenge. Triton will provide situational awareness capabilities far beyond the aging systems it replaces.

We urge the California Delegation to support the Navy MQ-4C Triton program by ensuring sufficient funding is available in the FY18 budget to complete development activities and continue production and modernization efforts.