

# Why the U.S. Marines are sold on the Harrier.

With the Hawker Siddeley Harrier now on the USMC inventory and entering service, it's well worth taking a look at what persuaded the Marines to go for it.

With its Rolls-Royce Pegasus vectored thrust engine, the Harrier is the world's first fixed-wing operational V/STOL fighter. It's got the unique advantage of being independent of prepared runways. And it can operate from small clearings or any ship with a helicopter landing platform.

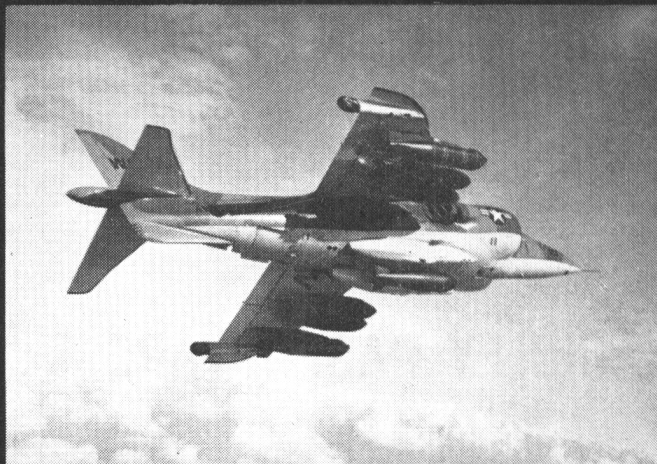
So the Marines now have a fighter ideally suited to their amphibious assault role. With its flexibility, the Harrier can provide the close air support and air defence during landing operations that proves very handy indeed. Its ability to operate from rough and difficult sites means it can be used ashore much earlier than conventional jet fighters.

By employing it closer to the battle area, the battle commander can get fuller support for his strategies. Reduce reaction time. And use it to deliver more punch, more often, because of the short flying distances.

And the Harrier's punch is pretty impressive. It can deliver 8,000 lb. at over 600 knots, striking at a first pass. Thanks to Ferranti FE 541 Navigation and Attack System.

This is the kind of impressive line up that prompted the Marines to take a closer look. And with all the good things the Harrier's got going for it, the next step didn't take too long.

They reached for their requisition pads. And ordered.



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*In summing up his life and work, the view is put forward that he was the greatest Chief Designer of his period, and in view of his long experience and service, probably the greatest and most successful military designer in the period covered by his lifetime.*

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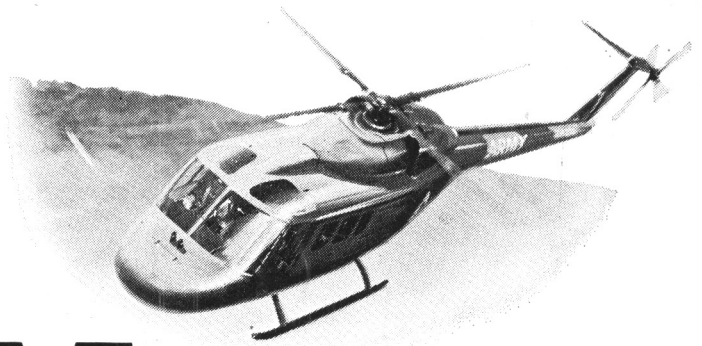
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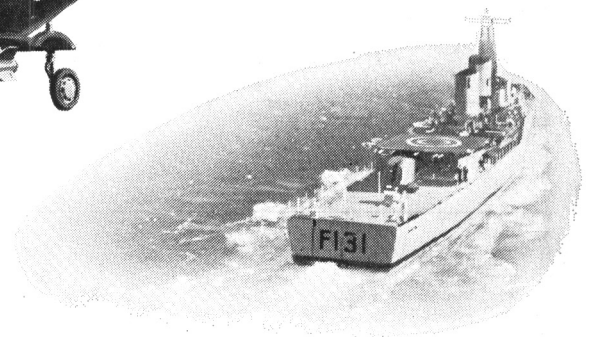
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