



The collage shows a few past and current configurations of military aircraft. Although incomplete, it conveys the breadth of naval aviation missions throughout history. The World War II Corsair in the upper left corner is an example of a historical benchmark for current and future military aircraft. The P3 aircraft (left center) represents land-based patrol and undersea warfare mission capability, whereas the F/A-18 aircraft (bottom) represents current fighter and attack carrier-based power projection performance. The Cobra helicopter adds yet another dimension, namely, rotary wing performance. (Illustration by Kenneth R. Moscati.)