

# AVIATION WEEK

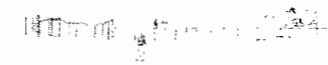
## & SPACE TECHNOLOGY

# 24

*It's tough decision time in Washington as Defense Secretary Robert Gates puts the ailing F-35B short-takeoff-and-vertical-landing aircraft on life support and proposes another delay to Joint Strike Fighter testing, but pushes forward a broad saving agenda that will boost several major programs.*



**42** *The U.S. Marine Corps' new AH-1Z "Viper" flies at Camp Pendleton in California. The attack helicopter will provide a substantial performance improvement over today's AH-1W Super Cobra, including additional weapons stations and a nose-mounted targeting sight system. The new aircraft, dubbed the Zulu, is set to deploy at sea late this year. Bell Helicopter photo by Kalee Appelton.*



**26** *Pentagon officials say they were surprised by the accelerated flight-test schedule of China's new J-20 stealth fighter, the operational readiness of the DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile as well as the emergence of an advanced high-performance aircraft engine design and new air-to-air and cruise missile designs. The new fighter appeared in late December and started pre-flight, high-speed taxi trials.*

LOCKHEED MARTIN

- 8** Feedback
  - 10** Who's Where
  - 16-17** The World
  - 18** The Inside Track
  - 20** Airline Intel
  - 21** In Orbit
  - 22** Washington Outlook
  - 41** A European Perspective
  - 54** Inside Business Aviation
  - 55** Classified
  - 56** Contact Us
  - 57** Aerospace Calendar
- 15** **Fuel prices could** cast a shadow over the airline industry's rather robust rebound
  - 16** **United Arab Emirates** indicates its ready to restart negotiations for Rafales
  - 17** **Australia's disaster managers** use satellite imagery to mitigate effects of severe flooding there

**24** **F-35 faces another** slip, while UAS, bomber, EELV and Super Hornet get a boost

**26** **China's swiftness** on development of J-20 fighter caught many U.S. intel officials off guard

**28** **American Airlines leads** the battle to change how flights are sold, but resistance is intense

**30** **Both Boeing and Airbus** benefit from pre-recession order boom that boosted their backlogs

**31** **Transpacific competition** set to heat up with Asiana Airlines' opting for six Airbus A380s

**32** **Accident rate increases** in 2010, but airline industry is adamant that safety is improving

**32** **Some Russian Tu-154s** are grounded after type suffers second hull loss within a month

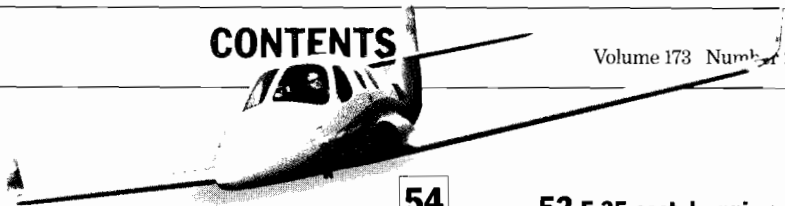
**34** **Southwest Airlines** revamps loyalty program in its quest for more business travelers

**35** **China readies an** advanced propulsion technology for new Long March launchers

**36** **China, other Asian** nations help reinforce global ocean altimetry, weather forecasting

**37** **Arianespace buoyed** by pledges of fresh capital, though shareholding picture still murky

**38** **NASA rolls out** five-year plan to study access for unmanned air systems into U.S. airspace



54

## DEFENSE

**39 OH-58 upgrades** eyed as way for U.S. Army to sidestep Armed Aerial Scout competition

**40 Italy's air force** readies for new trainer, combat options, following a series of new contracts



28

## ROTORCRAFT

**42 USMC AH-1Z** attack helicopter being readied for its first shipboard deployment

**44 'New Bell' emerging** with sharpened focus on delivering on its promise, after years of complaints

## LAUREATES 2011

**46 Aviation Week to honor** individuals and teams for achievements in ops and technological advancements

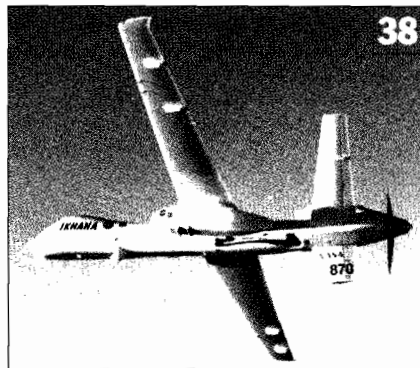
## JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

**51 Recent contract** reflects progress toward a price decrease, but slow pace of testing frustrates buyers

**52 F-35 cost dropping** with added orders, but Pentagon's top pro-exec says more steps are needed

## EDITORIAL

**58 Ever vigilant** is the watchword when it comes to China and its ascendancy



38