

# U.S. Navy Doubles UAS Command And Control Capacity With Second MD-5C, Powered By Skunk Works® MDCX™

## *MDCX in the U.S. Navy's Unmanned Air Warfare Center*

PALMDALE, Calif., Sept. 30, 2026 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- The U.S. Navy has doubled its fleet capacity to operate the MQ-25A Stingray™ unmanned aircraft system (UAS) over a five-month period, standing up a second operational MD-5C Ground Control Station (GCS) powered by Lockheed Martin Skunk Works® (NYSE: LMT) MDCX™ autonomy platform.

Skunk Works engineers MDCX for the U.S. Navy's MD-5C that is installed in the Unmanned Air Warfare Center (UAWC), the dedicated onboard command center for unmanned carrier aviation.

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) received the first operational MD-5C in March 2026, followed by USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in August 2026.

### **Why it matters**

The MD-5C is a highly complex system-of-systems, which includes the government Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence network, Lockheed Martin's MDCX™ software and hardware, and additional government-produced ancillary equipment. Within the GCS, MDCX is the mission planning and execution software that enables Navy operators to command and control the MQ-25A Stingray, extending carrier air wing reach and freeing manned aircraft for higher-priority missions.

### **What Our Partners are Saying**

"These two operational unmanned air warfare centers aboard CVN 71 and CVN 76 bring us closer to integrating unmanned carrier aviation into the fleet," said Capt. Daniel Fucito, PMA-268 program manager. "Thanks to the incredible work from our joint Navy and Lockheed Martin team, these carriers are ready to fly the MQ-25A. By pairing our unmanned systems with our manned aircraft, we are building a more resilient, adaptable force that is better prepared to win the fight."

### **A Ready-Now Capability**

"MDCX is delivering on the promise of a ready-now, open-architecture command and control platform for the fleet," said Ben Tongue, MDCX Program Manager. "In five months, we've doubled the number of U.S. Navy carriers ready to fly the MQ-25A Stingray. Our team, in close coordination with the Navy, is establishing the command and control backbone for the Carrier Air Wing of the Future."

This install continues a series of MDCX milestones spanning ship, shore and flight test - evidence of proven platform autonomy, multi-platform control and scalable operation footprints built on operationally proven systems and Skunk Works integration expertise.

For additional information, visit our website: [MDCX™ command and control platform](#)

### **About Lockheed Martin**

Lockheed Martin is a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery. Our all-domain mission solutions and 21st Century Security® vision accelerate the delivery of transformative technologies to ensure those we serve always stay ahead of ready. More information at [Lockheedmartin.com](#).

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