DEFENCE

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USAF tests

shale fuel
EDWARDS AFB

Shale-derived JP4 fuel has
been flight-tested on a
General Dynamic F-16 as a
part of the US Air Force
programme to find alternative
fuel sources for the future.

Flight tests on the F-16
were carried out from
Edwards AFB, California, and
lasted for about 15hr. Further
tests are scheduled to begin
shortly at McClellan AFB to
check the fuel in an F-lll.

Extensive ground tests had
previously monitored engine
performance using the
synthetic jet fuel. The F-16's
Pratt & Whitney F100 engine
was run for l,000hr and the
F-lll' s P&W TF30 engine for
500hr.

Operational validation of
H>g^he fuel over a two-to-four-
"year period will begin in mid-
1984 at Mountain Home AFB,
Idaho, and Hill AFB, Utah.
Under a four-year contract
the USAF will be supplied
with 77 million gallons of
shale JP4 a year. The USA
has enormous reserves of
shale, with estimates of recov-
erable quantities put at over
600 billion barrels at 42
gal/barrel.

Casualties

0 Afghan guerrillas claim
three "MiGs" and a helicopter
shot down near Chanzi
between January 1 and 3.

• A United States Air Force
McDonnell Douglas RF-4C
Phantom of the 363rd TRW
crashed in the Great Smokey
Mountains on January 4. The
RF-4C was returning to Shaw
AFB, South Carolina, from a
night training sortie. Both
crewmembers were killed.

• A British Army Air Corps
Westland Lynx AH.l crashed
into the sea off West Falkland
on January 4. The crew, Capt
John Bolt and Sgt Roger
Jones, was killed.

• A West German Air Force
Panavia Tornado of JBG.38
crashed into the sea off the
Dutch island of Vlieland on
January 5. The crew of two
made no attempt to eject and
were killed. The Luftwaffe,
after inspecting the flight-

FLIGHT International, 17 March 1984

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Above Third of the Royal Navy's Invincibte-class light aircraft carriers, HMS Ark Royal, is now being fitted o in the Tyne. The ship will commission next year. Below Contender Bezant is currently being converted for Royal Navy as an aviation training ship with an aft flightdeck. She will replace RFA Engadine and operate to six Sea Kings or ferry 12 Sea Harriers

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data recorder, cites "human
factors" as the most likely
cause.

A West German Navy
Panavia Tornado of MFG.l
crashed off the Danish coast
on January 9. The aircraft
had bounced a section of
Tornadoes and its pilot lost
control at low speed in the
following air combat. Both
crewmen ejected and were
rescued by a Danish Sea King.
The backseater was slightly
injured.

A Sepecat Jaguar T.2 from
the Empire Test Pilots
School, Boscombe Down,
crashed near Porton Down
Chemical Defence Establish-
ment on January 17. The pilot
ejected safely.

A Royal Air Force British
Aerospace Hawk of 2 Tacti-
cal Weapons Unit, RAF

Chivenor, overran the runway
after a precautionary landing
at Swansea Airport on Feb-
ruary 7. The pilot ejected
safely as the aircraft was
about to hit woodland.

• A Coltishall-based Royal
Air Force Sepecat Jaguar
GR.l crashed 100 n.m. north-
west of Nellis AFB, Nevada,
on February 7 on a Red Flag
exercise. The pilot, Fg Off
Joseph Jackson, was killed.

• A Royal Air Force Panavia
Tornado GR.l of XV Sqn,
RAF Laarbruch, crashed 20
n.m. south-west of Jever,
northern Germany, on Feb-
ruary 13. The aircraft was one
of a four-ship training flight
which encountered an elec-
trical storm. Three of the
tornadoes were hit by light-
ning. One aircraft's fuel tanks
caught fire and the crew ejec-
ted safely, and the other

two aircraft diverted to
Wittmundhaven. The fourth
aircraft was not affected.

• A United States Air Force
Lockheed C-130 Hercules of
the 453rd Tactical Airlift
Wing, Rhein-Main AB,
crashed 35 n.m. north of
Zaragoza, Spain, on February
28. All 18 on board were
killed. Shortly before the acci-
dent the Spanish base at
Ablitas picked up a distress
call in which the Hercules
captain said he was
attempting an emergency
landing. The mountainous
crash site was 10 n.m. short of
the Hercules' parachute drop
zone. The accident occurred
at night, in snow.

• A US Air Force McDonnell
Douglas F-4E Phantom
crashed on landing at Spang-
dahlem AB, West Germany,
on March 1. The crew ejected.

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