

# U.S. Navy Plans to Test Biofuels for Super Hornet

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(PhysOrg.com) -- The U.S. Navy is getting ready to run flight tests using an assortment of biofuels. The tests will be run using an F/A-18 Super Hornet. The tests are scheduled to begin taking place at Patuxent River, Md. by spring or summer 2010. The idea is to create a drop-in system so that those in the field won't know the difference.

The biofuels being tested are camelina, jatropha and algae. [Navy.mil](http://Navy.mil) reports on the process expected to be used:

*For the upcoming static and flight tests, the biofuels will be mixed in a 50-50 blend with conventional petroleum-derived [jet fuel](#) to provide the necessary specification properties. Biofuels are not as dense as conventional jet fuel, have less lubricating ability and contain no aromatic compounds, a group of chemical compounds able to penetrate the*

*rubberlike materials that make up gaskets and seals.*

The Navy hopes to test properties and chemistry, seeing how the fuels react in the environments associated with high-speed military plans. The tests should be able to determine whether or not it is feasible to use biofuels as part of the [fuel](#) source for jet planes. The hope is that the most promising candidates will be available by 2013.

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