

AIR & SPACE

Smithsonian



ON THE COVER Son of a Predator: A Royal Air Force MQ-9 Reaper, loaded with bombs and four Hellfire missiles, is the Taliban's worst nightmare. Its sweeter-natured drone daddy was born in a California garage. Story, p. 28. Photo: UK Ministry of Defence.

Features

22 Beyond the Moon

At a point in space 280,000 miles from Earth, four astronauts may find the gateway to the next era of U.S. space exploration.

BY GUY GUGLIOTTA

28 The Drone Started Here

How a lover of model airplanes put together radio control, light weight, and reliability and came up with the Predator.

BY RICHARD WHITTLE

34 **CANCELLED** Britain's High-Mach Ground-Hugging Heartbreak

Aeronautical genius foiled by political foolishness.

BY DAVID NOLAND

38 **HOW THINGS WORK** Missile Defense

Is Israel's Iron Dome overrated?

BY ROGER A. MOLA | ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BRETSCHEIDER

40 Earth's Mirror

Landsat's tales of loss and renewal.

BY LINDA SHINER

48 The Galileo Project

Europe to the U.S.: We have our own GPS, thank you.

BY CRAIG MELLOW

54 **RESTORATION** Lindbergh's Trainer: Brunner-Winkle Bird

A life of flying capped by a labor of love.

BY PAUL GLENSHAW

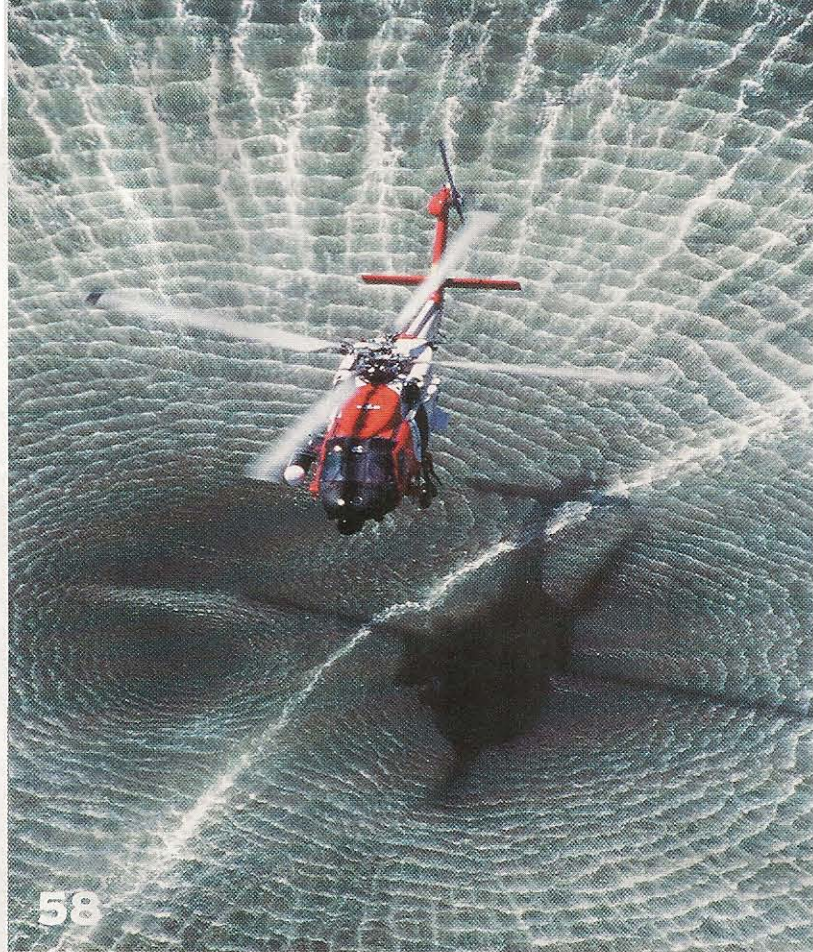


54

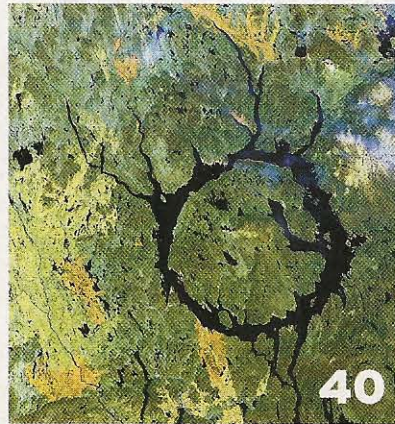
58 Rescued

Five daring helicopter crews on five very bad days.

BY PRESTON LERNER



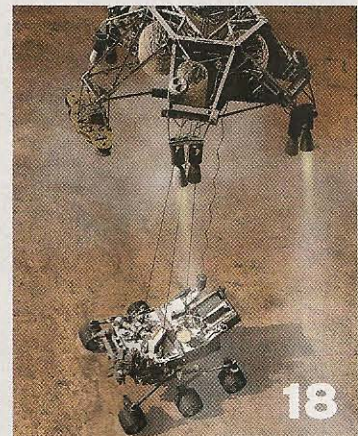
58



40

Departments

- 2 Viewport
- 4 Letters
- 8 What's Up
- 10 Soundings
- 13 Above & Beyond
- 16 Flights & Fancy
- 18 In the Museum >>
- 64 Sightings
- 66 Reviews & Previews
- 77 Credits
- 79 Forecast
- 80 Moments & Milestones



18