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COVER: Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD-2) simulates a strait transit in the Pacific Ocean on 24 October as part of Exercise Dawn Blitz 1918. The scenario-driven exercise is designed to train and integrate Navy and Marine Corps units by providing a robust training environment where forces plan and execute an amphibious landing, engage in live-fire events, and establish expeditionary bases in a land and maritime threat environment to improve naval amphibious core competencies. (USN/Irwin Sampaga)

THIS PAGE: F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Stingers of VFA-113 overflies the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) in the Pacific Ocean on 26 October. (USN/Aaron Hicks)

