



AIR COMBAT COMMAND

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SNIPER POD

Current as of February 1, 2023



MISSION

Sniper Pods provide improved long-range target detection/identification and continuous stabilized surveillance for all missions.

The Sniper Pod enables aircrew to detect and identify a multitude of targets ranging from maritime vessels, buildings, and vehicles, to potential enemy personnel on the ground while outside jet noise ranges. Superior imagery, a video datalink, and J-series-weapons-quality coordinates provided by the Sniper Pod enable rapid target decisions and keep aircrew out of threat ranges.

High resolution imagery for non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (NTISR) enables the Sniper Pod to play a major role in Air Force operations in all theaters, providing top cover for ground forces, as well as increasing the safety of civilian populations.

The Sniper Pod is combat proven on U.S. Air Force and international F-15E, F-16 (all blocks), B-1, B-52, A-10C, Harrier GR7/9 and CF-18 aircraft. The pod's plug-and-play capability facilitates moving the pod across platforms without changing software.

FEATURES

Sniper Pods include a high definition mid-wave forward looking infrared (FLIR), dual-mode laser, HDTV, laser spot tracker, laser marker, video data link, and a digital data recorder. Advanced image processing algorithms, combined with rock steady stabilization techniques, provide cutting-edge performance.

The pod features automatic tracking and laser designation of tactical size targets via real-time imagery presented on cockpit displays. The Sniper Pod is fully compatible with the latest J-series munitions for precision weapons delivery against multiple moving and fixed targets.

Advanced Targeting Pod – Sensor Enhancement (ATP-SE) design upgrades include enhanced sensors, advanced processors, and automated NTISR modes.

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The Sniper Pod's architecture and modular design permits true two-level maintenance, eliminating costly intermediate-level support.

Automated built-in test permits flightline maintainers to isolate and replace an LRU in under 20 minutes. Spares are ordered through a user-friendly website offering in-transit visibility to parts shipment.

The Sniper Pod's modular design also offers an affordable road map for modernizing and enhancing precision targeting capabilities for U.S. Air Force and coalition partner aircraft.

BACKGROUND

Sniper was competitively selected to be the U.S. Air Force's Advanced Targeting Pod in August 2001. The contract provided for pods and associated equipment, spares, and support of the F-16 and F-15E aircraft for the total force, active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard.

The Sniper Pod first deployed overseas on F-15E aircraft in January 2005.

The Sniper Pod was originally required for use on U.S. Air Force F-16, F-15E, and A-10 aircraft. It deployed on the F-16 in 2006, on the B-1 in 2008 in response to an urgent operational need, and on the A-10C in 2010. It is also in the final stages of integration on the B-52.

On September 30, 2010, Lockheed Martin received the 60 percent majority contract to continue providing Sniper Pods in support of the US Air Force's Advanced Targeting Pod – Sensor Enhancement program.

Characteristics

Primary Function: Positive identification, automatic tracking and laser designation, NTISR

Prime Contractor: Lockheed Martin

Length: 98.2 inches (252 centimeters)

Diameter: 11.9 inches (30 centimeters)

Weight: 446 pounds (202 kilograms)

Aircraft: F-15E, F-16 Block 30/40/50, A-10, B-1

Sensors: High resolution FLIR and HDTV, dual mode laser designator, laser spot tracker and laser marker

Date Deployed: January 2005

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