



DEFENCE WEEK

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Will P-8A Poseidon match AP-3C's enhanced capabilities?

Tom Muir

AIR 5276 has been around for a long time. It started life as the P-3C Refurbishment project which, following an initial project definition study, saw the 18-strong fleet of maritime patrol aircraft then undergo a major upgrade, including new avionics and sensor suites, emerging (somewhat tardily) as the AP-3C weapon system. Further phases, now completed, included the acquisition of a new full flight simulator with remarkable capabilities, and an EW self-protection suite.

And as we know, another enhancement, the ESM upgrade, languished as a project of concern due to an estimated delay of 26 months to its in-service date. Software deficiencies have involved considerable rework and testing and we now learn that Defence expects delivery of the first upgraded aircraft by late 2013 and supporting ground systems and simulators by mid-2014.

And then there was the \$1 billion AP-3C Capability Assurance Program. Approved in July 2008, the first phase, CAP1, included upgrading the Electro-Optic system originally installed in those aircraft deployed for service in the MEAO, to the fleet wide fitment of a fully integrated version of the **FLIR Systems Star Safire III EO/IR system**. Installed in a retractable chin turret under the nose radar it provides real time high resolution colour TV and infrared imaging for surveillance duties, in keeping with the Orion's increased overland intelligence gathering requirements.

The Safire III is one of the world's most popular gyro-stabilized EO/IR systems and is in wide use by US military, NATO and nations worldwide. To transmit the Safire III's very high fidelity colour video and infrared images all 18 aircraft were 'fitted for but not with' Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) capabilities while those fitted initially with the upgraded EO/IR system were also equipped





with TCDL systems supplied by **L-3 Communications** via **FMS**.

In line with the original concept of acquiring systems only for those aircraft to be operationally deployed a small number of systems were acquired initially, with the idea of shifting these between aircraft heading towards or returning from the Middle East. Now, under CAP1 all aircraft are being equipped with TCDL systems, and according to Defence's additional budget estimates for 2012-13 fleet installation of the first

tranche of capability upgrades has commenced and is expected to be completed by mid-2015.

So what remains for **CAP2**? In earlier iterations of the DCP, CAP2 was to see the upgrade or replacement of the Data Management System (DMS) for \$75-\$100 million. The DMS is the centre of the AP-3C mission system and upgrades are essential to ensure the continued availability of AP-3C's capabilities. It was suggested that an updated DMS would also ensure that follow-on systems sought under CAP 3 would have a robust and modern core to facilitate the task of integration and through-life support. But in the latest version the scope of CAP2 notes that the navigation and communication system, electronic support measures, airframe and ground support systems have been identified for treatment by CAP 2 to resolve identified obsolescence or supportability issues.

Rather than replacing the DMS as earlier envisaged, it seems that modernising the mission system and associated support facilities is simply part and parcel of the CAP1/CAP2 upgrade tasks and that this includes the Data Management System (DMS-2000), an open systems architecture processor subsystem with distributed high-end processing originally provided by **Unysis. Lockheed Martin** currently supports the DMS hardware and software.

With all this new investment, it has been suggested that a legitimate efficiency case can be mounted as to why such enhanced capability would be hurriedly retired in favour of the introduction of the P-8A, when cost-effective platform life extension options are prevalent in the global defence marketplace. While Defence has doubtless examined such options and decided against all the costly re-winging and anti-corrosion solutions, *Defence Week's* concern is that the highly capable AP-3C Orions, with both sea and land-based surveillance capabilities, are to be replaced by a lesser number of **P-8A Poseidons** without these enhancements, and a number of unknown maritime high altitude long endurance (HALE) UAVs.

In addition to maintaining and supporting the AP-3C fleet, CAP1 has endowed the aircraft with exceptional capabilities - will their replacement be able to match these? Perhaps this country's investment in the P-8A development will ensure that our current Orion fleet, enhanced and supported by the **AP-3C Alliance**, comprising **Australian Aerospace, BAE Systems Australia** and the **Defence Materiel Organisation**, will be more than matched by the as yet undetermined capabilities on the Australian P-8As.





Morrison's go ahead Army

Tom Muir

As recently reported in *ADM's Defence Week*, Army Chief LTGEN David Morrison, has declared in no uncertain

terms that the Army is in **great shape** but needs a return to what he termed "appropriate funding". Almost a year ago, addressing the Sydney Institute on the Army after Afghanistan*, he gave more breadth to where the Australian Army is headed, noting that he had assumed command of the Australian Army at a challenging time. He also took aim at the so-called 'peace dividend'.

"We are an Army with a real operational focus. The war in Afghanistan is now the longest ever waged by Australians. The men and women of the Australian Defence Force are in dire peril on a daily basis, engaged in combat operations against a determined, ruthless and tenacious enemy. All three services are performing splendidly but this war is demanding the greatest focus, commitment and, indeed, sacrifices from the Army.

"Nor should we forget that we continue to sustain significant deployments in Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands as well as a range of smaller operations all over the world," he added pointing out that those demands must not distract from the continuous process of modernisation and adaptation, essential to keeping the Army abreast of changes in technology and the character of war itself. He said force planners refer to these twin obligations in the convenient short hand of fighting 'the war' while developing forces capable of fighting 'the next war'.

In other words he said Australia must continue to deploy potent forces capable of prevailing on the contemporary battlefield, as exemplified by the war in Afghanistan, while continuing to modernise the Army in conformity with the strategic guidance from the Government of Australia contained in the White Paper of 2009.

"Over the past decade we, the Army, have also substantially enhanced our firepower, combat mobility and levels of protection. This has reversed what I believe was a long term, albeit gradual, decline in the fighting power of the Army, which took place in the period from the end of the Vietnam War until the strategic shock of the Timor crisis of 1999. The goal that I have set myself as the current Chief is to lay the foundations for the Army of the third decade of this Century. It is vital that we do not succumb to the sort of thinking that justified a serious reduction in the strength and capability of the Army that we experienced in the wake of withdrawal from Vietnam.

"I am well aware of the many competing demands on Government revenue that exist currently and in the timeframe that I am speaking about. It is on me to look at these matters objectively, to plan prudently, to be fiscally responsible and to use sound and logical arguments to put that case forward.

"And I have been very conscious of the great support from the Government in terms of changes to our force structure and to capability enhancement within my Service.

"Nonetheless, I believe that so called 'peace dividends' seldom, if ever accrue. It would be a serious error to conclude that in the wake of our drawdown in Afghanistan that the Army will never again need to deploy overseas. History has clearly demonstrated that 'peace dividends' invariably become 'peace liabilities' when the military must restore its capabilities when the next threat arrives."

**Army After Afghanistan, Australian Army Journal, Volume IX, No 2*





ITT Exelis to provide ESM for ANZAC and LHD

ITT Exelis has been awarded a contract valued at more than \$102 million to provide the Electronic Support Measures (ESM) suite for the RAN's Anzac frigates and the Canberra class LHD ships.

This is the company's second major contract in recent years to provide electronic warfare systems to the RAN; Exelis was previously awarded the contract for the ESM suite for the **AWD** program.

The work for these key contracts will be performed by the Exelis Electronic Systems, radar, reconnaissance and undersea systems business area from its Morgan Hill, California location.



Transfield Services gains new preferred contract for ADF

Transfield Services has secured an early services agreement with the ADF for the supply of land materiel maintenance (LMM) services.

The new contract is expected to be awarded before the end of June, valid for an initial six-year term, with possible one-year extension options for a further five years.

The LMM services contract combines and replaces three existing Defence contracts, one of which is currently held by Transfield Services.

Transfield Services supplies asset management services to the Defence estate and land equipment and specialised maintenance services to a range of sea-going vessels.

ADM Cyber Security Conference

Date: 12-13 June 2013, Hotel Realm, Canberra

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Email: Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au





Spanish Combat Support Ship arrives in South Australia

Spanish Armada ship *ESPS Cantabria* has berthed at Techport in Adelaide for an Easter port visit.

ESPS Cantabria is currently operating with the Royal Australian Navy whilst on deployment to Australia in 2013. *Cantabria's* deployment to Australia is enhancing interoperability between the Spanish Armada and the Royal Australian Navy, demonstrating the capabilities of *Cantabria* to provide combat logistic support to Naval Task Groups and providing training to Royal Australian Navy personnel. Most recently *Cantabria* has been exercising with units from the Australian and NZ Navies.

Many of *Cantabria's* systems are the same as the Royal Australian Navy's new Canberra Class **Landing Helicopter Dock** ships and the Hobart Class **Air Warfare Destroyers**. Her deployment is providing Australian personnel an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the new systems before they crew the new ships.

Cantabria's homeport whilst in Australia is Garden Island, Sydney which she will call home until November. Her deployment will culminate with the **Australian International Fleet Review** in October 2013.

ADM comment: The chance for RAN personnel to have a good look around their future platform perhaps?

New appointments at Lockheed Martin Australia

Lockheed Martin has appointed three new members to its Lockheed Martin Australia board of directors.

The new board members include **Gary North**, vice president for customer requirements, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics; **Dale P. Bennett**, executive vice president, Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training (MST); and **Sondra Barbour**, executive vice president, Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions (IS&GS).

North joins the board from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics where his primary responsibility is ensuring Lockheed Martin fulfils US government and international F-35 program customer requirements. He is also responsible for ensuring that all needs and requirements are met for F-35 industrial partners around the world.

Bennett joins the board from MST where he oversees the execution of programs for the US Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy. In addition, Bennett also oversees Lockheed Martin's military and commercial training systems offerings, including those being developed for the F-35 Lightning II.

Barbour joins the board from IS&GS, where she leads a team that provides integrated information technology solutions, systems and services to support civil, defence, intelligence and other government customers.



Soldiers wounded in Helmand province

Two Australian Special Forces soldiers were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated during a dismounted clearance patrol in Helmand province, Sunday 31 March 2013.

A Coalition soldier and two Afghan National Security Force personnel were also wounded in the blast. The wounded soldiers received immediate first aid at the site.

One Australian was aero medically evacuated with the Coalition member to a nearby coalition medical facility for further treatment.

The three remaining casualties returned with the force elements and are receiving medical treatment at the Multi National Base - **Tarin Kot** medical facility.

The patrol uncovered three additional improvised explosive devices within a compound of interest.

The commander on the ground cordoned off the compound to ensure no civilians entered the area.



ADM Online: Weekly Summary

A summary of the latest news and views in the defence industry, locally and overseas. Check out our webpage for daily news updates on the *ADM* home page and make sure you bookmark/RSS this for a regular visit.

Making headlines this week, the 22 metre-high mast for the first **Air Warfare Destroyer** (AWD) was delivered to the Alliance in Adelaide.

Australia became a party to the **Convention on Cluster Munitions** with legislation commencing April 1, 2013 making it an offence in Australia to develop, keep or transfer land mines or cluster munitions.

And the RAN, supported by the **RAAF** conducted a maritime exercise with the Royal Thai Navy, demonstrating yet again how well the two nations can operate effectively together.

International



Germany reduces NH90 and Tiger deliveries

The German Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Eurocopter March 15 to reduce its orders of utility and combat helicopters, in line with the on-going reform of the German armed forces (Bundeswehr).

Under the agreement, deliveries of the **NHIndustries NH90** troop transport helicopter for the German army will be reduced from 122 to 82 and deliveries



of Eurocopter **EC 665 Tiger Unterstützungshubschrauber** (UHT) combat helicopters from 80 to 57.

Shrinking German defence orders have been a source of tension between **EADS** and the Berlin government, which recently blocked EADS' efforts to merge with **BAE Systems**.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement it had agreed with Eurocopter to reduce its order of NH-90 transport helicopters and Tiger military helicopters.

"Through the restructuring of the contract, the German military will also receive 18 navy helicopters," the ministry said.

India tests sub-launched BrahMos missile



India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired a submarine-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile March 20.

The missile was launched vertically from a submerged platform in the Bay of Bengal and flew its complete range of over 290 kilometres.

Ship- and ground-launched versions of BrahMos have been put into service with the Indian army and navy.

The BrahMos missile has a range of 290 kilometres (180 miles) and can carry a conventional warhead of up to 300 kilograms (660 pounds). It can effectively engage targets from an altitude as low as 10 meters (30 feet) and has a top speed of Mach 2.8, which is about three times faster than the US-made subsonic **Tomahawk cruise missile**.



US Army restructures AMPV program

The US Army is moving forward with a restructured Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) program that will downselect to one contractor sooner, according to a new draft request for proposals (RfP).



The army intends to conduct a full competition and then select one vendor for an **Engineering and Manufacturing Development** (EMD) phase. In an earlier draft RfP, released in November 2012, the government said it expected to award "up to two contracts for EMD".

Instead, a 'cost-plus-incentive fee' contract for EMD, with three years of fixed-price incentive-fee low-rate initial production (LRIP) options, is to be awarded to one contractor, according to the new RfP released March 21.

The document said the EMD phase would run from Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) through FY17, and around USD388 million in research and development funding is expected to be available for this. -Janes



Airbus Military and PTDI sign development plan for NC212i

Airbus Military and PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PT DI) have signed an agreement covering the development plan for the NC212i light utility transport aircraft.

The agreement, signed by PT DI CEO **Budi Santoso** and Airbus Military CEO **Domingo Ureña-Raso** details the joint development, manufacturing, commercialisation and support work-packages for the new NC212i launched in November 2012.

Under the terms of the agreement, the companies will be long-term, risk-sharing partners with engineering and manufacturing being led by PT DI, supported by Airbus Military, and certification being an Airbus Military responsibility.

The aircraft will be delivered from Bandung, in Indonesia and will be promoted and supported by PT DI and Airbus Military teams worldwide.

The NC212i is a development of the Airbus Military **C212-400** as a highly competitive and versatile transport for both civil and military customers with new digital avionics and autopilot systems, and a new civil interior for 28 passengers rather than the current 25. It will be EASA and FAA FAR 25 certified.



ILS Proton to launch two missions for Intelsat

International Launch Services (ILS) and Intelsat SA have signed a contract for two firm ILS Proton launch missions.

"Intelsat enjoyed another steady year in 2012, which included five successful satellite launches and the completion



of the world's first global broadband mobility platform, which will enable increased bandwidth to support our customers' growth plans. We look forward to building on our momentum, as we select ILS for two future satellite launches, enabling us to reach even further into developing regions to meet the growing demand for highly efficient and reliable connectivity," said Intelsat EVP and chief technology officer **Thierry Guillemin**.

Shareholders approve EADS governance changes

EADS has received approval from shareholders at its Extraordinary General Meeting

(EGM) in Amsterdam for a far-reaching overhaul of the company's corporate governance structure, including the election of new directors.

Shareholders approved all 15 resolutions that are required to authorise the Completion of the Multiparty Agreement announced December 5, 2012 that will normalise and simplify the governance of EADS. The completion occurred on 2 April 2013.

Also, the board of directors received authorisation from shareholders to plan a repurchase of up to 15 per cent of EADS' outstanding share capital at a maximum price of €50 per share and to cancel shares purchased through the buyback.

Shareholders approved the appointment of the following directors to the future EADS Board of Directors: **Manfred Bischoff; Ralph D. Crosby; Tom Enders** (executive member); **Hans-Peter Keitel; Hermann-Josef Lamberti; Anne Lauvergeon; Lakshmi N. Mittal; Sir John Parker; Michel Pébureau; Josep Piqué i Camps; Denis Ranque;** and **Jean-Claude Trichet**.

The members of the new Board of directors will meet informally after the EGM to prepare the election of the chairman of the board, the nomination of the board committees, and adoption of its new rules.



New defence sector director for BMT Group

BMT Group has appointed David Bright, sector director for defence following the retirement of David Rainford.

Bright has been with BMT since 2001, as director of operations at BMT Sigma since 2003 and as managing director of **BMT Hi-Q Sigma** since 2010.

During his time with BMT David has played a key role in driving business improvement and supporting the delivery of high value, complex programs for the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD).

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of defence and industry events, head to **ADM's** online events page at www.australiandefence.com.au

SEWG

DATE: 17 April 2013, Russell Offices, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: Lori Catelli, Ph: 02 6265 7108; Email: lori.catelli@defence.gov.au

The sixth meeting of the SEWG will take place from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Respond by email by Thursday 28 March with the names and email addresses of those attending the SEWG meeting.

International Maritime Security Conference

DATE: 14-16 May 2013, Changi, Singapore

ENQUIRIES: More details to be released closer to the date.

IMDEX Asia Web: <http://www.imdexasia.com/index.aspx>

IMSC 2013 will bring together Navy Chiefs, Coast Guard Directors-General and academia around the world to discuss threats to maritime security and safety, as well as develop frameworks and solutions to deal with the security challenges that threaten and disrupt sea lines of communication.

ADM Cyber Security Conference

DATE: 12-13 June, 2013, Hotel Realm, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;

Email: Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au **Web:** www.admevents.com.au

ADM's 3rd Cyber Security Summit will see stakeholders from Australia's Defence and National Security agencies address the current and emerging cyber threats to Australia's security. More details to be released closer to the date.

DSEI

DATE: 10-13 September, 2013, ExCel, London

ENQUIRIES: Web: www.dsei.co.uk

DSEI is the largest fully integrated defence and security show in the world, featuring Air, Naval, Land and Security show content. Based in ExCeL, London every two years, the event provides unrivalled access to key markets across the globe.

SimTecT

DATE: 16 Sep - 19 Sep, 2013, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland

ENQUIRIES: Web: www.simtect.com.au

SimTecT is the annual Simulation Technology and Training Conference held by Simulation Australia. Since its inception in 1996, SimTecT has grown to become Australasia's premier simulation conference for industry, government and academia.