

INFORMATION PAPER

ON

AN/AAQ-24 LARGE AIRCRAFT INFRARED COUNTERMEASURES (LAIRCM) SELF-PROTECTIVE SUITE FOR HC-130/MC-130 RESCUE AIRCRAFT

1. Background. To rescue downed airmen during contingency and wartime operations, the HC-130/MC-130 Rescue Aircraft are tasked to refuel penetrating helicopters in a low to medium threat environment. One of the primary threats encountered is a widely proliferated array of shoulder fired infrared missiles. Currently fielded defensive systems may not adequately protect the aircraft from current and future IR threats. The AN/AAQ-24(V) LAIRCM system uses a laser beam to defeat the missile, and does not rely on hazardous and politically sensitive expendables which highlight the aircraft to additional threat. The ANG has already funded two of three Rescue Wing HC/MC-130 squadrons.

2. Requirement. LAIRCM ORD 314-92, Aug 98. AFSOC Statement of Need, 001-91, Infrared Countermeasures Improvements.

3. Impact If Not Funded. ANG rescue aircraft are tasked to operate in an environment of increasing threat complexity and lethality, while being defended by the less than state of the art ALE-47 aircraft defensive system. We will also not be able to eliminate the logistics tail and mobility footprint associated with supporting ALE-47 infrared countermeasures expendables.

4. Units Impacted.

129 RQW, Moffett Federal Airfield, CA

5. Contractor. Northrop Grumman Electronics Systems, Rolling Meadows, IL

6. Cost.

Product Type	Units Required	Unit Cost	Program Cost
Group A Kits	4	\$600K	\$2.40M
Group B Kits	2	\$3.68M	\$7.36M*
NRE			\$5.74M
			\$15.50M

* Includes required spares, support equipment, technical orders, and non-recurring engineering.