

## INFORMATION PAPER

### ON

## TACTICAL DATA LINK

**1. Background.** A tactical data link provides cockpit information on the location of friendly forces, greatly reducing the possibility of fratricide while building pilot situational awareness. Although the A-10 Precision Engagement (PE) Program includes a data link, delays in a DoD-approved solution will cause initial PE fielding without a tactical data link. Although a JTRS datalink is the long term solution, ANG advocates an interim, but immediate fielding of the Enhanced Position Location Radio System/ Situation Awareness Data Link (EPLRS/SADL). This position requires an ASD/NII waiver for non-compliance with the tactical data link roadmap. The EPLRS/SADL data link is currently fielded on F-16 Block 30 aircraft, it is compatible with Army data links, and is less costly as an interim solution. Combatant Commanders have increasingly demanded data link-equipped aircraft to minimize fratricide of ground troops. This was the number one priority from the 2004 ARC Weapons and Tactics Conference.

**2. Requirement.** CAF Operational Requirements Document (ORD) CAF 401-91-I/II/III-D for A/OA-10A AIRCRAFT dated 19 Oct 1999.

**3. Impacts If Not Funded.** A-10 will not possess the capability to receive friendly force location information nor digital close air support requests. Achieving digital interoperability with other services will greatly mitigate the possibility of fratricide.

**4. Units Impacted.**

103 FW Bradley, CT	104 FW Barnes, MA	110 FW Battle Creek, MI
111 FW Willow Grove, PA	124 WG Boise, ID	175 WG Baltimore, MD

**5. Contractor.** Raytheon Company, Fullerton, CA.

**6. Cost.**

Units Required	Unit Cost	Program Cost
102	\$50K	\$5.6M*
Tech Orders		\$2.0
Total		\$7.6M

\*Cost includes 10% spares