

Air Force Long-Range Radar Program Proceeding with Revised Acquisition Strategy

66TH AIR BASE GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS (APRIL 6, 2012)

Patty Welsh

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass.—The Air Force program to provide a new ground-based, long-range radar system is moving forward with a revised acquisition strategy. The program office recently held an industry day here to explain the changes and its latest draft request for proposal.

The Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long-Range Radar, or 3DELRR, will be the principal U.S. Air Force long-range, ground-based sensor for detecting, identifying, tracking, and reporting aircraft and missiles in support of theater commanders. It will replace the current Air Force radar, the TPS-75.

“A combination of several factors, including a somewhat atypical acquisition strategy and the U.S. budget crisis, led to the change,” said Lt. Col. Brian McDonald, 3DELRR program manager.

A September 2007 memorandum from John Young, then acting undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, encouraged competitive prototyping up to Milestone B. Originally, the 3DELRR program had been planning to award to a single contractor prior to Milestone B.

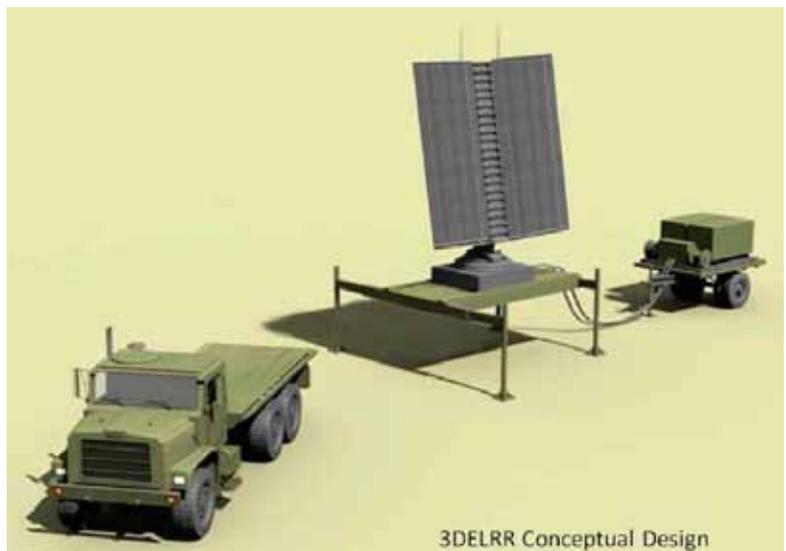
“We modified the strategy to further leverage competition to look at needed capability, different approaches to delivering that capability, and doing so in the most affordable manner,” McDonald said.

During the industry day briefing, he also showed how the program budget had been reduced in the Fiscal Year 2013 President’s Budget by approximately \$80 million over the next five years compared to the 2012 budget.

McDonald cited industry offerings as a third factor.

During his presentation in the base theater, McDonald walked through a graphical depiction of the revised acquisition strategy and the changes that have been made.

Now, up to three contracts may be awarded as an outcome of the upcoming full and open competition to complete the Technology Development Phase, referred to as the Pre-Engineering and Manufacturing Development (Pre-EMD) period. The 3DELRR source selection will use the lowest



Shown here is a conceptual design of the Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long-Range Radar. The program is moving forward with a revised acquisition strategy.

Courtesy graphic

price technically acceptable approach, which is also a significant change.

“Competitive offerors must be at the same maturity level as the government has attained on this program,” said McDonald. “We do not want to turn back the clock. We want to move forward from the government investment to date.”

In addition, fixed price contracts, including Firm Fixed-Price and/or Fixed-Price Incentive Firm, are planned for the Pre-EMD, EMD, and low rate initial production phases from what was once a cost plus incentive fee approach.

The revised strategy includes a minimum of three full and open competitions to reach full operational capability. McDonald pointed to the third competition that will award scope beyond Milestone B to a single contractor.

“There will be much activity, in parallel, leading up to Milestone B,” explained McDonald. “We will need a strong, crisp effort by industry on these contracts while the program office simultaneously conducts the next source selection and prepares for Milestone B.”

One change that McDonald strongly emphasized was the early examination of cost versus capability trade-offs. While there has been no change in the 3DELRR requirements since

Technical Requirement Documents Revision D was posted in October 2011, McDonald explained the plan to issue a new revision, during the period of performance, against which successful bidders would produce their preliminary designs.

"We need to look closely at cost versus capability," he said. "The first contractual activity is to complete detailed analyses of top cost drivers to see how cost varies as capability is incremented. Are there relatively large cost savings to be gained by relatively small reductions in capability and, if so, what's the risk?"

McDonald discussed how the acquisition community and operational community will then come together to set 3DELRR requirements.

The 3DELRR program has also been selected as a "designated system" to participate in the Defense Exportability Features Pilot Program, to potentially increase sales and lower production costs.

"I'm excited to be a pilot for the Defense Exportability Features Program because it's forward thinking, it's good for the U.S. government, and it's good for U.S. industry," McDonald said. Addressing the audience of mostly company representatives, he added, "I hope you're excited too."

The 3DELRR Program Office is planning for a Defense Acquisition Board in late April and, if approved, anticipates release of the final Request for Proposal in May. Currently, the program office expects to award the contracts, totaling approximately \$108 million dollars, by late August.

"No one is immune from the budget crisis," said McDonald. "This acquisition strategy is our response. Now, we need strong industry performance to offer the most affordable solution that provides this needed capability to our warfighters."

More information on the 3DELRR program, as well as solicitation details, can be found on the FedBizOpps website at <https://www.fbo.gov>.

Air Force Accepts Final F-22 Raptor
94TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MAY 3, 2012)
Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Gaston

MARIETTA, Ga.—Senior Air Force officials attended a ceremony here May 2 commemorating the delivery of the final F-22 Raptor to the Service.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz was joined by Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia and other industry, Air Force, and civilian leaders as they were welcomed to Dobbins Air



A crowd that included Air Force leadership, senators and congressional representatives, and executives and plant personnel from the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Corporation attended a ceremony dedicating the delivery of the final F-22 Raptor in Marietta, Ga., May 2, 2012.

U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek

Reserve Base and the Lockheed Martin Marietta plant for the event.

The final delivery completes the Air Force's fleet of 195 F-22s. The Raptor is a key component of the Global Strike Task Force and is unmatched by any fighter aircraft due to its speed, stealth, and maneuverability, according to Air Force officials.

During his remarks at the ceremony, Schwartz said the delivery represents an important element in the Air Force's overall modernization effort.

"Thank you to all of the partners in industry and government that made this occasion a reality," the general said. "I especially want to pay tribute to the line workers and engineers whose technical expertise, attention to detail, and commitment to our nation's defense transformed an innovative notion into America's first 5th generation fighter aircraft."

When it was time to unveil the final F-22, the hangar doors rose, and cheers from the assembled guests and workers erupted.

Robert Stevens, Lockheed Martin chairman and chief executive officer, said the very existence of the F-22 has altered the strategic landscape forever.

"It is also fair to say that, along the way the F-22 has had a fair number of challenges and a fair number of critics," Stevens said. "But let's not fail to take note today of the number of nations, who rank among either competitors or adversaries, who are frantically trying to replicate what you have done."

The final F-22, tail number 4195, will be flown to its new unit at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska.

Army Materiel Command Brings 'Last MRAP' to Port
ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND STAFF REPORT (MAY 7, 2012)

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—The last U.S. Army mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle to depart from Iraq arrived at the Port of Beaumont, Texas, May 6, on its way to the 1st Cavalry Brigade Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas, for preservation and display.

Much media attention focused on the mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, known as an MRAP, when it crossed from Iraq into Kuwait, Dec. 18, 2011. Once the vehicle crossed into Kuwait, it fell under the control of AMC's Responsible



The last mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle to depart Iraq sits parked next to the Ocean Crescent at the Port of Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait, March 23, 2012. This Caiman was shipped with its Overhead Wire Mitigation kit still intact.

U.S. Army photo

Reset Task Force, charged with the retrograde of 3.9 million pieces of equipment, including 30,000 wheeled vehicles.

AMC provides a forward presence in Kuwait to move equipment either stateside or to Afghanistan. The MRAP left Kuwait March 24, on the freighter Ocean Crescent, shipped by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, one of AMC's major subordinate commands.

The arrival of the last MRAP marks the conclusion of one of the largest and quickest withdrawal efforts in Army history.

Designated the Lead Materiel Integrator on behalf of the Army, AMC is responsible for ensuring soldiers have the equipment they need at the right time and place.

"It's important that we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars by saving every piece of equipment we can," said Lt. Gen. Dennis L. Via, deputy commanding general of AMC during the fall Association of the United States Army symposium. "This mission would not have been possible without the relationships that were developed and invested in with our strategic materiel stakeholders," Via said.

"Our successes were enabled with coordination and relationships between Department of Defense and Army agencies, as well as industry partners," Via continued.

AMC faces multiple challenges in the coming year with the Afghanistan R2TF mission, removing millions of pieces of equipment from the land-locked and geographically constrained environment.

Officials Emphasize Commitment to Joint Strike Fighter

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (MAY 9, 2012)

Amaani Lyle

WASHINGTON—Senior leaders from the Air Force and Navy affirmed yesterday that the F-35 joint strike fighter remains the centerpiece of the tactical aircraft program and will play a large part in the Services' ongoing modernization plans.

Navy Vice Adm. David J. Venlet, F-35 Lightning II program executive officer, told the Senate Armed Services Committee's airland subcommittee that the F-35's basic engine designs were deemed sound and deliverable after a battery of tests and observations over the past year.

"While there is still risk in the program, it is risk-balanced," Venlet said. "I have confidence in the resilience of the plan to absorb further learning discovery and stay on track."

Still, Venlet said, the program will "not execute itself," and will require resources, tools, and processes to enable disciplined decisions on development and incremental capability delivery.

Technical and cost issues exist, the admiral acknowledged, but he added that the joint strike fighter's enhanced capability can be the backbone of fifth-generation fighters. Carrier test pilots conducting approaches at Patuxent River, Md., have lauded the handling characteristics of the F-35's aircraft carrier variant, he said, and short takeoff and vertical landing results have demonstrated solid performance.

"It is a testimony to the very effective and impressive marriage of engine and airframe," Venlet said, adding that measures will stay in place to ensure the program's long-term effectiveness. "Rigorous management control by the joint program office, supported by the Service system commands, will be applied with a ... focus on production and affordable delivery capability —our only meaningful external result."

Navy Vice Adm. W. Mark Skinner, principal military deputy in the office of the assistant secretary of the Navy for re-

search, development and acquisition, said affordability will be a key focus in delivering capabilities.

"During these austere times, we must persist in modernizing and recapitalizing our naval aviation forces and increase our capability through force multipliers, such as the Navy Integrated Fire Control Counter-Air and using 'should-cost/will-cost' processes to bring more affordable systems to our warfighters," Skinner said.

Lt. Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, told the panel the fiscal 2013 budget aligns with the Air Force's tactical aviation program as the Service shifts its national security strategy to counter modern-day threats.

"Our rapidly aging aircraft fleet drives the urgent need to balance procurement of new inventory with sustainment of our current fleet," Wolfenbarger said.

Odierno: Army to Create Leaner, More Agile Force

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (MAY 16, 2012)

Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON—The Army wants to create a leaner and more agile force over the next seven years. But sequestration, the threatened across the board spending cuts required by law, would derail that plan, the Service's top uniformed leader said today.

The Army's current budget proposal is strategy-driven, and it allows the Service to apply the lessons of more than 10 years of continuous combat, Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno told a Pentagon news conference.

"We will be leaner," Odierno said. "We'll be a more agile Army that is an adaptive, innovative, versatile, and ready component of the joint force."

The Army will be "the best-manned, best-equipped, best-trained, and best-led land force in the world, to be decisive for a broad range of missions," the general said.

The new strategy, he said, calls for the Army to perform many different missions, from humanitarian through full-scale combined operations, as well as being more responsive.

"We will have the opportunity to adapt this process to be more wide-ranging, especially as we rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region," Odierno said. "As such, we will implement a progressive readiness model for both the active and reserve components to be more responsive to all of our combatant commanders."

Next year, the Army will begin a regionally aligned force concept to better meet some theater requirements, the general said. The intent is to focus unit or headquarters training cycles “on specific mission profiles and unique environmental characteristics that make them available to the combatant commander for employment in their area of responsibility.” For enduring commitments in some of the theaters, the Army plans to employ rotational units, Odierno said. “Europe comes to mind as we reduce two forward-station brigade combat teams over the next two years,” he added. “We’ll leverage pre-positioned equipment, sets, and multilateral training exercises to allow us to promote regional security and enhance capacity and interoperability, and sustain our relationships with our NATO and other allies in Europe.”

The Army’s end strength will drop, he said, but the changes will make it more capable even as this happens.

“Besides 10 years of hard-earned combat experience in our ranks, we continue to increase our special operations force capacity,” the general said. “We have significantly increased our ability to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. We’ve increased our aviation assets to support worldwide missions and responsiveness around the world. We continue to increase our cyber capability as we move forward. And we continue to look at other capabilities in order to move forward.”

Odierno said all of this change is in jeopardy if sequestration comes into play.

“As I have testified over the last several months, it’s important for the Army to execute the fiscal year [20]13 budget as planned,” he said. “It reflects the highest priorities of the Army in support of the new defense strategic guidance and allows the Army to meet contingency requirements, take care of soldiers and families, and achieve balance between end strength, readiness, and modernization.”

But if sequestration occurs, it will force the Army to cut an additional 80,000 to 100,000 soldiers, Odierno said. This reduction, he said, would come from a combination of active duty and reserve component personnel.

By law, across the board spending cuts associated with sequestration would occur if Congress and the White House fail to reach an agreement to reduce the federal deficit in the coming months. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has said the hundreds of billions of dollars in additional cuts required from the Pentagon budget would be ‘devastating’.

“But what even makes sequestration worse is we have no say in where the cuts come,” the general said. “It is directed across every element of our budget, and it’s a certain percentage.”

This, he said, would create a hollow force.

“It would probably cause us to breach many contracts that we already have in place because we would not meet the current requirements that we have on our developmental contracts,” Odierno said. “And fundamentally, I think all the Joint Chiefs have come to the conclusion that we’d fundamentally have to relook our whole strategy if it occurs. And those are the concerns that we have.”

Army Assesses Current Vehicles as Part of Ground Combat Vehicle Development Process

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (MAY 21, 2012)

Ashley Piper

FORT BLISS, Texas— Last week, the U.S. Army began operational assessments of existing combat vehicles to validate capabilities against requirements for a new Infantry Fighting Vehicle. The effort, known as the Non-Developmental Vehicle (NDV) Assessments, will take place on the border of Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The assessments are being conducted on domestic vehicles—the M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M1126 Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle Double V-Hull, and a Turretless Bradley—as well as the Israeli Namer and Swedish CV-9035, both international vehicles. The NDVs included in the assessments feature a wide range of unique capabilities and attributes, which will allow the Army to conduct a comprehensive analysis of multiple configurations and families of vehicles to better understand requirements achievability.

Operational assessments are being conducted on each vehicle with focus on individual key characteristics. Each NDV encompasses unique technologies specific to individual country requirements, enabling the Army’s Project Manager for Ground Combat Vehicle to balance these requirements against mobility, survivability, growth, and lethality capability gaps.

“We have a very good mix of vehicles with unique attributes and capabilities,” said Col. Andrew DiMarco, the Army’s project manager for Ground Combat Vehicle, or GCV. “Information gained from these operational assessments will contribute to the body of analysis the Army uses to validate existing capabilities against the requirements for a new GCV Infantry Fighting Vehicle, IFV, as well as further inform potential design trade-offs.”

The NDV Assessment effort, directed in the Milestone A Acquisition Decision Memorandum on Aug. 17, 2011, is one part of the GCV program's three-pronged approach to the GCV IFV Technology Development, known as the TD phase, which is focused on reducing cost and schedule risk prior to Milestone B. The other two prongs in the approach use contractor-developed, best-value design and a continued effort to analyze and model operational attributes and capabilities against cost, schedule, and performance risks.

Conducting the NDV Assessments at Fort Bliss allows the Army to utilize an operationally relevant environment. These operational assessments will focus on field observations, Soldier surveys and interviews, and static exercises in varying conditions.

"Successfully developing, building, and fielding a capable Infantry Fighting Vehicle that meets affordability and schedule demands depends on aggressive exploration of the capabilities trade-space and the full range of alternatives prior to finalizing requirements," said DiMarco.

Soldier-based operational insights gleaned from the NDV Assessment will be used to refine requirements in the GCV Capability Development Document and inform Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense decision makers at the program's upcoming Milestone B. The NDV Assessments will continue through May 25th.

Piper is with Project Management Office, Ground Combat Vehicle.

Carter: DoD Puts Strategy Before Budget for Future Force

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (MAY 30, 2012)
Cheryl Pellerin

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department has placed strategy before budget in facing present and anticipated threats while building its joint force for the future, Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said here today.

Carter discussed DoD's budget priorities for the 21st century at the American Enterprise Institute's Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies, as President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act makes its way through Congress.



The Swedish CV-9035 is one of five vehicles being assessed during the Army's Ground Combat Vehicle Non-Developmental Vehicle Assessment effort at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

U.S. Army photo

"While we've been fighting [in Iraq and Afghanistan], the world has not stood still, our friends and enemies have not stood still, and technology has not stood still," the deputy defense secretary said.

"Now we must meet these changes and ... in some places, catch up with them," Carter added. "To do that, we must let go of the old and familiar and grab hold of the new to build what [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E.] Dempsey calls the Joint Force 2020, an agile and technologically advanced force of tomorrow."

The present time is one of great consequence for U.S. security because two forces are coming together simultaneously, Carter said.

"The first is obviously the Budget Control Act, but the deeper, more fundamental force is the force of strategic history," he said.

The 2011 Budget Control Act is a U.S. federal statute that seeks to reduce the national deficit. A "sequestration" mechanism in the law automatically takes more cuts out of federal spending, including another \$500 billion from the Defense Department, which would mean a total defense budget reduction of more than \$1 trillion over 10 years. The result

of the Budget Control Act and the new defense strategy, Carter said, was a balanced strategic package in three parts.

First was continued DoD discipline in spending taxpayer dollars, Carter said. Second, he added, was to retain taxpayer confidence that DoD was putting its money to good use. Third, Carter said, was what DoD called rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region.

“The Pacific region has enjoyed peace and stability for over 60 years, and in that climate, first Japan, then Korea, and even China have had an environment in which they could develop economically and politically without war or conflict, the deputy defense secretary said.

“That’s not a birthright,” he added. “That is something that was guaranteed [and] reinforced by the pivotal military power of the United States in that region.”

The Defense Department now is bolstering defense capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, Carter said. Meanwhile, the Air Force is continuing on with the new stealth bomber, the KC-46 tanker, and a host of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, or ISR, platforms, he said. Other capabilities going forward, he added, include a payload module for the Virginia-class submarines, conventional prompt strike, and a host of upgrades in radars, electronic protection, electronic warfare, new munitions of various kinds, and more.

Cyber security is another area where DoD will spend more in the future, Carter said, along with certain aspects of the defense science and technology base, special operations forces, unmanned aerial systems, space initiatives, and countering capabilities for terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, including bioterrorism.

In the time since DoD released its carefully balanced budget proposal, Carter said, Congress has marked up the document, adding and subtracting programs and equipment.

“We made decisions within the constraints of the Budget Control Act. We had to. And when additions are made to that package in one area, we of necessity have to take something out elsewhere,” he said.

Altering DoD’s proposed budget package “could lead to an unbalanced portfolio, for example, a hollowing of the force,”



Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter delivers remarks on budget priorities for defense in the 21st century at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., May 30, 2012.

DOD photo by Glenn Fawcett

Carter said, noting he wanted “to specifically call out a couple of important decisions in that regard.”

Congress, he said, is resisting several changes proposed for cost savings by DoD to the following programs:

- TRICARE, for which premiums would rise slightly for retirees;
- Aircraft retirements, for some aging single-purpose aircraft in favor of newer multi-role aircraft;
- Reductions in intra-theater strategic lift, for which modeling indicates is in excess of current need;
- Reductions in size for the Army and Marine Corps to accommodate a wider spectrum of future combat capability; and
- A somewhat larger and decidedly more capable Navy.

“In all our Services and in all of our activities in national security, we’re embarked on a strategic transition following the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Carter said.

“This is just the beginning,” he added. “This ship is making a very big turn, and we need to follow through on our plan and keep moving toward the future.”