

# FACT SHEET

**Northrop Grumman Corporation**  
Public Information  
1840 Century Park East  
Los Angeles, California 90067-2199  
Telephone 310-553-6262  
Fax 310-556-4561

***NORTHROP GRUMMAN***

**Contact:** Jim Stratford  
(321) 726-7526  
[jim.stratford@ngc.com](mailto:jim.stratford@ngc.com)

## **E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS)**

For the United States and her allies, Northrop Grumman provides the "Eye in the Sky" military commanders depend on in hostile situations. The E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS) is an airborne battle management, command and control system that provides commanders with a clear picture of the battlefield, day or night, in all weather conditions.



The E-8C is a modified Boeing 707-300 series aircraft, which has been extensively refurbished in the company's Lake Charles, La. facility. After being upgraded to current airworthiness standards, the aircraft are sent to Melbourne, Fla. where computer workstations, communications, and radar surveillance equipment is installed before being delivered to the Air Force. The 116<sup>th</sup> Air Control Wing at Robins AFB, Ga. is the home of the Joint STARS fleet.

Joint STARS can provide ground and air commanders with Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance information on ground based enemy activities from hundreds of miles away.

With the ability to see vehicle movement around the clock and in any weather conditions, the system provides invaluable information to ground and air commanders that allow friendly forces to delay, disrupt and destroy their enemy.

Joint STARS uses a sophisticated radar system that can scan an entire region and then send the data to a computer which analyzes movement and alerts reconnaissance specialists of any suspicious activity in near-real time.

This joint US Air Force and Army program provides the information to Air Force Air Operations Centers and Army and Marine Corps mobile ground stations through secure data links. It provides this airborne picture from a safe standoff range and is capable of determining the direction, speed and patterns of military activity of ground vehicles.

When the enemy moves, Joint STARS targeting data is relayed to fighter and bomber aircraft that employ their weapons and destroy the targets. The enemy learns quickly that if they hide, they can't fight and if they move, the "Eye in the Sky" sees them.

### **Joint STARS Program Status**

Since production started in 1992, Northrop Grumman has delivered 16 E-8C aircraft to the Air Force. In June 1997, the Air Force awarded Northrop Grumman Corporation two Computer

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Replacement Program (CRP) contracts worth \$132 million for Joint STARS to take advantage of the latest commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) technology and reduce costs. Beginning with the 11<sup>th</sup> production aircraft, the E-8Cs were delivered in the Block 20 CRP configuration and earlier deliveries were scheduled for retrofit during regularly scheduled maintenance. By March 2005, the full production program of 17 aircraft will be delivered and the entire fleet will be in the Block 20 configuration.

In April 1999, the company received an indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity (ID/IQ) contract with a potential value of \$1.2 billion for upgrade work on Joint STARS. The contract extends until March 2005. This ID/IQ contract allows the Air Force to initiate engineering and manufacturing development work with Northrop Grumman for planned upgrades to Joint STARS and streamline the formal contract process. The first project under the ID/IQ contract was the development of an integrated satellite communications system for Joint STARS, valued at approximately \$40 million.

In 2001, the Air Force awarded the company a contract for the Total System Support Responsibility (TSSR) for the E-8C Joint STARS fleet. The TSSR has a six-year initial period of performance valued at more than \$500 million with options that could extend Northrop Grumman's participation on this program for more than two decades. Through this future support contract, the Air Force expects to reduce the cost of supporting the E-8C fleet by having the prime contractor, Northrop Grumman, partner with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. By streamlining the support process, repair cycle times have been cut by 18 percent.

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